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# *EntNews*

The Newsletter of the Department of Entomology

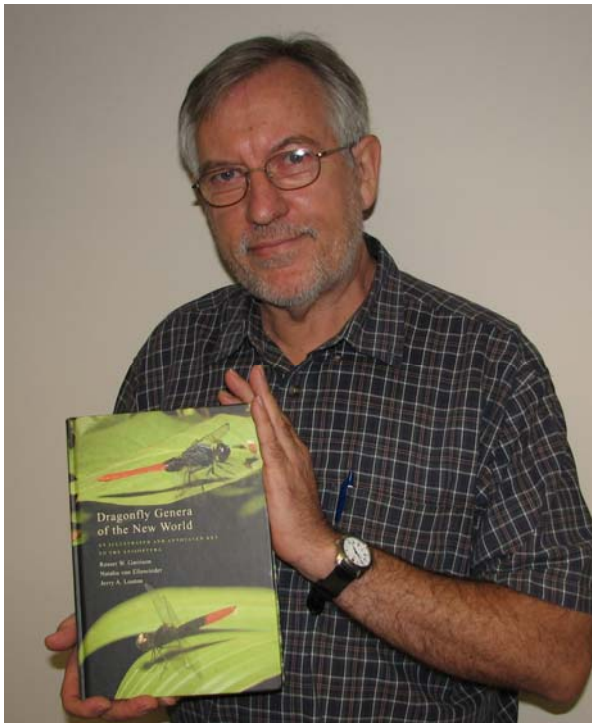
Vol. 21 No. 8 August, 2006



**E.O. Wilson, Ted Schultz**



**Donna Price**



**Jerry Louton**



**Jeff Chiu**

## Front Page:

--Congratulations to **Jerry Louton**, who has co-authored a book on dragonflies. See "Publications" section for details.

--Welcome to **Jeff Chiu**, who has been hired by the Systematic Entomology Laboratory as a Museum Technician, a position vacated by Cathy Apgar. Jeff was initially employed on a temporary basis by SEL between July 2004 and November 2005, whereupon he began contract work with Michael Gates.

--Thank you to **Donna Price**, who has been a volunteer with the Department of Entomology for some three years. Donna primarily has been preparing selected specimens from the "backlog," and assists in the direction of several other volunteers.

--A scene from the recent "International Social Insects Conference" held in Washington, D.C.

(Photo credits: Louton/G. Hevel; Price/L. Sims; Chiu/M. Buffington; Schultz & Wilson/unknown). Formatting of front page/ J. Louton.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A **free symposium on pollination**, "The Pollinator Partnership: Protecting Plant-Pollinator Interactions World Wide," is scheduled for October 18 from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon (continuing 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm), at the USDA Jefferson Auditorium at 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue SW. The event will be hosted by the USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), the Wallace Genetic Fund, and the Packard Foundation. **Gabriela Chavarria** will be featured in the program, as will May Berenbaum. **Jonathan Mawdsley**, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, will serve on a concluding panel that is scheduled for 2:50-3:30 pm. Pre-registration is required, closing October 12. Registration form and agenda are to be found online at [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org).

## GENERAL NEWS:

**Mary Jo Molineaux** was coordinator for a "specimen

sort" event on August 23, and sums up the session as follows: "I want to give everyone who worked on the sort today a great BIG Thank You. That includes the



techs who sorted and the curators who let them spend the time. We sorted through approximately 40 drawers of prepared material from all over the world that our dedicated volunteers, interns, and students



worked on in addition to some drawers from individual's offices. We all enjoyed the camaraderie and learned a bit from each other. We'll have to do it again sometime. Thanks again."

## PUBLICATIONS BY STAFF:

Research papers by retired members of the combined entomological staff will be listed, and those will be

preceded by a double asterisk.

Collins, M. M., J. A. Powell, **J. M. Burns**, and P. A. Opler. 2006. Remembering Don MacNeill [obituary]. *J. Lepid. Soc.* 60: 107-114.

Garrison, R. W., N. von Ellenrieder and **J. A. Louton**. 2006. Dragonfly genera of the New World: an annotated key to the Anisoptera. The Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, Baltimore, 368 pp.

**--summary**—This set of illustrated and annotated keys will allow identification of the 125 genera of the New World, about 30% of the world's total dragonfly fauna. The keys were generated from data sets via the DELTA (Description Language for Taxonomy) KEY application. It is the only comprehensive set of keys that cover this entire area. The book contains 1,595 diagnostic illustrations, 24 color photographs, distribution maps, tables of distribution by country, checklist of species, and notes on classification and habitat. A second volume on the Zygoptera (damselflies) will follow in 2008.

Gonzalez, G. and **N. J. Vandenberg**. 2006. Review of lady beetles in the *Cycloneda germainii* species complex (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae: Coccinellinae: Coccinellini) with descriptions of new and unusual species from Chile and surrounding countries. *Zootaxa* 1311: 13-50.

**--abstract**—A complex of lady beetle species including *Cycloneda germainii* (Crotch) is reviewed and seven valid species recognized, including *C. germainii*, *C. eryngii* (Mulsant), *C. sicardi* (Brethes), *C. boliviana* (Mulsant), and three new species, *C. lacrimosa* Gonzalez & Vandenberg, n. sp., *C. disconsolate* Vandenberg & Gonzalez, n. sp., and *C. patagonica* Gonzalez & Vandenberg, n. sp.

Novotny, V., P. Drozd, **S. E. Miller**, M. Kulfan, M. Janda, Y. Basset, and G. D. Weiblen. 2006. Why are there so many species of herbivorous insects in tropical rainforests? *Science* 313: 1115-1118.

**--summary**—Despite recent progress in mechanisms of tree species coexistence in tropical forests, a simple explanation for the even more extensive diversity of insects feeding on these plants has been missing. We compared folivorous insects from temperate and tropical trees to test the hypothesis that herbivore

species coexistence in more diverse communities could reflect narrow host specificity relative to less diverse communities. Temperate and tropical tree species of comparable phylogenetic distribution supported similar numbers of folivorous insect species 29.0 + or – 2.2 and 23.5 + or – 1.8 per 100 square meters of foliage, respectively. Host specificity did not differ significantly between community samples, indicating that food resources are not more finely partitioned among folivorous insects in tropical than in temperate forests. These findings suggest that the latitudinal gradient in insect species richness could be a direct function of plant diversity, which increased sevenfold from our temperate to tropical study sites.

**\*\*Shaw, S. R., P. M. Marsh, and J. C. Fortier.** 2006. Revision of Nearctic *Aleiodes* Wesmael (Part 8): the *coxalis* (Spinola) species-group (Hymenoptera: Braconidae, Rogadinae). *Zootaxa* 1314: 1-30.

**--abstract**—The *Aleiodes coxalis* (Spinola) species-group is defined as including the following previously described species: *A. coxalis* (Spinola) 1808, *A. bicolor* (Spinola) 1808, *signatus* (Nees) 1812, *A. alternator* (Nees) 1834, *A. tristis* Wesmael 1838, *A. aciculatus* Cresson 1869, *A. sanctihyacinthi* (Provancher) 1880, *A. arcticus* (Thomson) 1891, *A. incertus* (Kokoujev) 1898, *A. jakolevi* (Kokoujev) 1898, *A. coxator* (Telenga) 1941, *A. incertoideus* (Telenga) 1941, *A. satanus* (Telenga) 1941, *A. nunbergi* (Noskiewicz) 1956, *A. negativus* (Tobias) 1961, *A. hellenicus* (Papp) 1985, *A. moldavicus* (Tobias) 1986, *A. itamevorus* Shaw and Marsh 2004, and *A. maritimus* Shaw and Marsh 2004. Nine new North American species are described in this paper: *A. aquilonius* NEW SPECIES, *A. brevis* NEW SPECIES, *A. cultrarius* NEW SPECIES, *A. dichromatus* NEW SPECIES, *A. floridensis* NEW SPECIES, *A. quadratus* NEW SPECIES, *A. shenefelti* NEW SPECIES, *A. whartoni* NEW SPECIES, and *A. wyomingensis* NEW SPECIES. The *A. coxalis* species group is regarded as monophyletic as distinguished by the rugose vertex and sculptured fourth metasomal tergum. An identification key, descriptions, illustrations, distribution and biological information are provided for thirteen North American species.

**Smith, D. R.** 2006. A new sawfly genus from India for the “forgotten” *Periclista bumasta* Konow, 1907 (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae). *Entom. News* 117(3):

261-264.

--abstract—*Malkiatius*, n. gen., subfamily Blennocampinae, is described for *Periclista bumasta* Konow, 1907, which becomes *Malkiatius bumastus* (Konow), n. comb. The species is redescribed. *Malkiatius* includes only the single species from Sikkim, India.

## VISITORS:

**Caroline Chaboo** from the American Museum of Natural History, New York, will be a visitor with Warren Steiner and the Carabidae Collection September 14-15, where she will capture data and photograph specimens of lebiine ground beetles.

**Jeff Cumming** from the Canadian National Collection, Ottawa visited Norm Woodley and the Diptera Collection August 21-25.

**Erin Hunter** from Science Illustration Program, University of California Extension, Santa Cruz, is an illustrator currently working in an internship program

with Alex Konstantinov, mid-September through October. Her visit has been facilitated by Marie Metz.

**Gerardo Lamas** will visit Robert Robbins and the Butterfly Collection September 11-14.

**Glenda Lee** from Science Illustration Program, University of California Extension, Santa Cruz, is an illustrator currently working in an internship program with Alex Konstantinov, mid-September through October. Her visit has been facilitated by Marie Metz.

**Antonio Macedo** from the Museu de Zoologia, Univ. Sao Paulo, Brazil visited David Smith and the Gasteruptiidae Collection on August 31.

**Christina Marent** from Science Illustration Program, University of California Extension, Santa Cruz, is an illustrator currently working in an internship program with Norm Woodley and Marie Metz, mid-September through October. Her visit has been facilitated by Marie Metz.

**Eugenio Nearn**s from the Florida State Collection of Arthropods at Gainesville will visit Steve Lingafelter and the Cerambycidae Collection September 12-21.

**Jens Prena** from the Berlin Museum in Germany will visit Steve Lingafelter and the Curculionidae Collection September 12-21.

**Anne Ray** from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Campaign will visit Steve Lingafelter and the Cerambycidae Collection September 12-21.

**Scott Solomon** from the University of Texas at Austin visited Ted Schultz and the Ant Collection for research on *Atta* species on August 23.

**Ian Swift** from the Department of Parks & Recreation, Los Angeles County will visit Steve Lingafelter and the Cerambycidae Collection September 12-21.

## TRAVEL BY STAFF:

**Terry Erwin** will travel to Duke University during the week of September 11, to consult with a student on canopy beetle projects. He will continue on to Edmonton, Canada the following week for a celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of George Ball.

**Alma Solis** will travel to an MSEF meeting at the end of September at the Zoological Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia.

**Charlie** and **Sue Staines** will travel to Idaho, Washington and Utah from September 05 to October 05 for chrysomelid fieldwork and museum visits.