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The Newsletter of the Department of Entomology

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Jeya Kathirithamby



Shelah Morita



CJ Geraci



Jerry Louton, Lorenza Beati & Dave Furth

Front Page: Jeya Kathirithamby (see visitors); Shelah Morita, ESW speaker; C. J. Geraci, post-doctorate appointee; Lorenza Beati (see visitors). Photo credits/G. Hevel, except group shot/Desmond Smith. Formatting of front page/K. Darrow.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The 1111th meeting of the **Entomological Society of Washington** convened on October 04 at 7:00 pm in the Cathy Kerby Seminar Room at the National Museum of Natural History. **Shelah Morita** from North Carolina State University presented the topic “The evolution of blood-sucking pollinators (Diptera: Tabanidae).”

Congratulations to **Terry Erwin**, who was appointed Chair of the Department of Entomology on October 01. He replaces Ted Schultz, who has been Chair for the last three plus years.

To recognize and commemorate the successful leadership of **Ted Shultz** as Chair during the past few years, an official farewell gathering will be held in the Rose Room on November 14, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. This event will be coordinated by Mary Jo Molineaux, who notes that monetary donations are welcome.

The Department of Entomology is resurrecting the **Entomology Seminar Series**, starting on October 24 at 1:00 pm in the Rose Seminar Room (NHB 339). The speaker will be **Wendy Moore**, a Schlinger Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Systematic Entomology at the California Academy of Sciences, who will present the topic “Evolution of adult and larval structure, DNA sequences, chemicals, and behavior of Paussine beetles (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Paussinae).

A **postdoctoral research position** is available in the Department of Biology, West Virginia University (<http://www.as.wvu.edu/biology/>).

The successful candidate will conduct molecular systematic studies of arthropods. Other duties will include the preparation of research proposals and manuscripts, and the supervision and mentoring of junior members of the research team. Start date negotiable in accord with project and candidate fit, as early as November 2007 and preferably no later than March 2008. Qualifications: Ph.D. by start date, with research experience in animal molecular systematic laboratory methods and phylogenetic analysis. Evidence of strong English language scientific writing and speaking skills is also required. Initial appointment will be for one year, with annual renewal up to 3 years dependent on performance. Salary \$38K/year. To apply, submit electronic copies of a curriculum vitae, a cover letter addressing the specified job qualifications, and the names and contact information for 3 referees to: Jeffrey D. Wells, Chair, Department of Biology, West Virginia University. jdwells@mail.wvu.edu. Inquiries are welcome. Review of applications will begin November 1, 2007, and will continue until the position is filled.

GENERAL NEWS:

In the item regarding the death of Rose Ella Warner-Spilman in the July-August issue of **EntNews**, the editor neglected to acknowledge and thank **Raymond J. Gagne**, who contributed the majority of the text.

Gary Hevel represented the Department of Entomology at the annual Rock Creek Park Day on Saturday, September 29, presenting many drawers of specimens from his Backyard Insect Survey.

John Brown and **Michael Pogue** of the USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory attended the 15th European Congress of Lepidopterology in Berlin, Germany, 8-12 September, presenting papers on their current research. The conference provided a unique

opportunity to meet and interact with colleagues not only from Europe but from Asia as well. Following the meeting, John Brown visited The Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw to borrow type specimens for research in progress by Alma Solis (USDA, SEL) and the Polish Academy of Sciences in Krakow to meet and consult with colleague Jozef Razowski.

PUBLICATIONS:

Research papers by colleagues no longer members of the combined entomological staff, mostly retired members, will be listed, and those will be preceded by a double asterisk.

Marshall, S. A., Buck, M., & **Lonsdale, O.** 2007. *Lepidosina*, a new genus of New World Limosiniinae (Diptera: Sphaeroceridae). *Eur. J. Entomol.* 104: 573-599.

--**abstract**—The New World genus *Lepidosina* Marshall & Buck gen. n. is described including nine new and two previously described species: *L. angusticercus* Marshall & Buck sp. n. (Caribbean, Central and South America), *L. argentinensis* Marshall & Buck sp. n. (Argentina), *L. cubensis* Marshall & Buck sp. n. (Cuba), *L. evanescens* Marshall & Buck sp. n. (Central and south America), *L. gibba* (Spuler) comb. n. (Florida, Caribbean), *L. inaequalis* (Malloch) comb. n. (southern U.S.A., Central America, Venezuela), *L. multispinulosa* Marshall & Buck sp. n. (Ecuador, Peru), *L. platessa* Marshall & Buck sp. n. (Bolivia), *L. proximeura* Marshall & Buck sp. n. (Brazil), *L. quadrisquamosa* Marshall & Buck sp. n. (Venezuela), and *L. rutricauda* Marshall & Buck sp. n. (Colombia to Peru). Keys to males and females are provided, and the species level phylogeny is analyzed based on a matrix of 24 morphological characters. The sister group of this well-defined, highly apomorphic genus remains unknown. Most species are restricted to lowland habitats. Larvae and puparia of *Lepidosina* remain unknown.

Ramos, R. Y., **Kingsolver, J. M., & Napoles, J. R. 2007. Sobre el estatus taxonomico actual de los

bruquidos (Coleoptera: Bruchidae) en los Chrysomeloidea. *Dugesiana* 14(1): 1-21.

--**abstract**—Pulse weevils or seed beetles, scientifically known as bruchids, make up a monophyletic group which is well characterized from a morphological and biological point of view, and exhibit unique features that have made them deserve the taxonomical label of family. However, their taxonomical position in the phylogenetic Chrysomeloidea tree, which at the beginning of the entomological Taxonomy went through many changes until it stabilized as an independent family (Bruchidae), has been under a deep controversy, still unresolved, ever since the middle of the twentieth century. On one side, bruchids are said to make up a monophyletic group that separated from the other Chrysomeloidea, as the Cerambycidae did before, as hence their status as an independent family should be preserved (Bruchidae). On the other side, by contrast, they claim that these insects must be included inside the Chrysomelidae family, at the sub-family level (Bruchinae). In this article we will provide the arguments held by both sides, and at the same time we will add new elements which will lead us to hold, for the time being, the hypothesis of the family status for these Coleoptera.

Staines, C. L. 2007. A new species of *Platyauchenia* Sturm, 1843 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) from Brazil. *Insecta Mundi* 0012: 1-7.

--**abstract**—The genus *Platyauchenia* Sturm, 1843 is reviewed. *Platyauchenia quinquemaculata* Pic, 1921 is a synonym of *P. latreillei* (Castelnau 1840), new synonymy. *Platyauchenia ruficollis* new species is described from Brazil. Each species is illustrated and a key to the species is provided.

Vandenberg, N. J. & D. E. Perez-Gelabert. 2007. Redescription of the Hispaniolan ladybird genus *Bura* Mulsant (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) and justification for its transfer from Coccidulinae to Sticholotidinae. *Zootaxa* 1586: 39-46.

--**abstract**—The Hispaniolan genus *Bura* Mulsant is removed from Coccidulinae and placed in Sticholotidinae. The characteristics which

justify this transfer are discussed and an historical review of the classification of the Sticholotidinae is presented. *Bura* is diagnosed and redescribed, and its affinities to other Sticholotidini are discussed. Illustrations of key generic characters are provided.

VISITORS:

Danicla Andriamalala from George Washington University, D.C., will visit Chris Thompson and the Diptera Unit from October 01 through December 05 for systematic research and training.

Lorenza Beati from the National Tick Collection at Georgia Southern University visited Dave Furth and Jerry Louton

Ligia Benavides from George Washington University, D.C. will visit Chris Thompson and the Diptera Unit from October 01 through December 05 for systematic research and training.

Badrul Bhuiya from the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh, is visiting Michael Gates September 25 through October 25 to learn curatorial and molecular techniques.

Jane Bownes from the University of Maryland will visit Ted Schultz and the Formicidae Collection on November 02.

Laura Emerson from American University, D.C., will visit Ted Schultz and the Formicidae Collection on November 02.

Jeya Kathirithamby from Oxford University, England, visited Gary Hevel and the Strepsiptera Collection for three weeks in late August and early September. An extended period of her trip was at STRI (Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute) in Panama, where she conducted fieldwork with colleagues.

Brian Nettey from the University of Maryland will visit Ted Schultz and the Formicidae

Collection on November 02.

Ron Priest from Michigan State University will visit Don Davis and the Microlepidoptera Collection from October 04 through November 04.

Carrie Wells from Clemson University will visit Robert Robbins and the Butterfly Collection on October 12.

TRAVEL:

Terry Erwin will travel to Argentina for field research during the week starting October 15.

Jens Prena will travel to Costa Rica for field research, during the second and third week of October, returning on October 22.