



FLY TIMES



APRIL, 1996 - No. 16

In this issue of the Fly Times there are a variety of articles from those who responded to my pleas for more contributions. Many thanks to all who sent in articles, notes and comments! In a time when money and support for whole organism study is so tight and restrictive, it is doubly important that we keep communication channels open between those holding the fort. Perhaps in the future we will see a new awareness that systematics and an understanding of natural history are important for studies of biodiversity and the health of the planet. Perhaps there will be a rebirth of support to undertake what is so desperately needed in our own area of expertise: more information about all those species of flies!

As usual, the Fly Times accepts any and all submissions and encourages all of you to contribute to the next issue. It would be particularly valuable to hear about the research plans, new techniques or descriptions of collections.

Issue No. 17 of the Fly Times will appear next October and all contributions should be sent by September 30, 1996 to:

Dr. Art Borkent,
1171 Mallory Road,
R1-S20-C43,
Enderby, British Columbia,
VOE 1V0, Canada.

For those of you with short contributions you can phone in your message at (604) 833-0913. FAXes may be sent to (604) 832-2146.

I have recently joined the ranks of the technologically blessed and may be reached by e-mail at the following address:

"aborkent@jetstream.net"

NEWS

Next NADS Meeting and ESA Happenings - Brian Brown

The site for the next field meeting of the North American Dipterists' Society has not yet been decided. I have talked to a person in Honduras, who would like us to meet there; others have stated they would rather meet in North America. Anyone wishing to organize a North American meeting please contact me. Otherwise, I will proceed to plan for Honduras in 1997.

The ESA meeting in Las Vegas last December was dominated by discussion of the two new PEET grants and the Costa Rican All Taxon Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI). Apparently, the latter will be organized by Monty Wood and Jeff Cumming in Ottawa, and a preliminary meeting will take place in Costa Rica sometime this year. The two PEET grants were awarded by NSF to two groups of dipterists who will be training students in scientific monography. One went to Wayne Mathis, Norm Woodley and Darlene Judd at the USNM, who will train people using Periscolididae, Rhagionidae and Tanyderidae. The other group is led by Mike Irwin in Illinois and Brian Wiegmann in North Carolina and will train workers using Therevidae.

University of Guelph insect collection

From Steve Marshall

The University of Guelph insect collection, which includes around 2100 drawers of pinned Diptera, has had the benefit of some excellent curatorial support over the past few years, thanks to repeated grants from a federal government program (the NSERC infrastructure program). Although these grants have not been sufficient to support a full-time curator, we were very fortunate in being able to have Dr. Brad Sinclair working in the collection from August 1995 till April 1996. Brad has cut through uncurated parts of the Diptera collection like a hot knife through butter, paying special attention to the empidoids of course, but also upgrading the curatorial level of almost every other Diptera group. Unfortunately, the program under which the collection has been supported for the past few years has been terminated, and I have not been successful in obtaining alternative funding to pay a curator, or for any other aspect of running a collection. The University of Guelph collection has no operating budget or support from the University, and no endowment or other regular source of support, so this does not bode well for the continued maintenance and development of our Diptera collection!

The collection has been around for 133 years so far, and

only enjoyed funding for the past seven years, so this is not a new situation for us. We will survive, but bear with us as "service might be slow". Despite that, I would appreciate it if anyone doing revisions of New World dipteran groups would try and use our material. The more non-regional usage I can document, the more likely I am to find funding for curation of the collection.

Island flies

Last year I began what I hope will be a long-term inventory project on some groups of insects on Ontario's Bruce Peninsula and a group of federally protected islands off the tip of the peninsula. The islands, part of Fathom Five National Park, range in size from 1ha up to about 900ha. Habitats range from fen to alvar to softwood forest. Last summer's sampling was done using propylene glycol in pan traps on six islands and a couple of mainland sites. During 1996 I will be spending more time on the islands, and running Malaise and flight intercept traps as well. If anyone is interested in particular groups from that area please contact me.

Mounting techniques

I recently received a shipment of newly minuten-mounted sphaerocerids, and suggested to the sender that dipterists generally prefer specimens firmly glued to a point, or to the body of a pin. My statement that minuten-mounts are generally disliked by dipterists led to an interesting debate as to whether that really is the case. There certainly are problems with this technique; for example it is often difficult to remove the abdomen from a minuten-pinned specimen without damaging the specimen. I am curious, is there anyone out there who still prefers minuten pinned specimens? If so, I would like to see a short note in a future Fly Times on the merit of this approach.

An Idea

Does anyone out there have enough Internet expertise to compile a list of WWW sites of interest to Dipterists? If so, we could include the info in the next Fly Times and update it on a periodic basis.

News from Howard V. Weems, Jr.

I retired officially nearly 5 years ago after nearly 40 years of work for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, but as I tell friends, I soon learned that I had not retired...I just went off the payroll! I continue to be active in our program as an Emeritus Curator of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods and share an office with Dr. Gary J. Steck. I still am a member of the Graduate Faculty of the University of Florida, and continue as a full Courtesy Professor of the Department of Entomology and Nematology of the University of Florida, and as a Courtesy Associate Professor of the faculty of Florida A. & M. University in Tallahassee. A Past President of the Center for Systematic Entomology, with headquarters in Gainesville, FL, I was recently reelected to another 3-year term on the Board of Directors.

I still make arthropod collecting expeditions to various parts of North, Central, and South America and the Antilles. Currently I am working on a manuscript on Syrphidae with Dr. F. Christian Thompson of the U. S. National Museum of Natural History and Dr. Mark A. Deyrup of Archbold Biological Station.

I now do a lot of my work at home...I live on Redwater Lake near Hawthorne, FL, about 30 miles from Gainesville, but I also get in to the Doyle Conner Building, headquarters of the Division of Plant Industry, FDACS, part of each week and receive some of my mail there. My home address, as shown on the top of this letter, is where I get most of my mail. However, for Fly Times and other entomological newsletters and journals, I can still use my Gainesville address as follows:

Dr. Howard V. Weems, Jr., Emeritus Curator
Florida State Collection of Arthropods
Bureau of Entomology, Nematology, and Plant
Pathology
Division of Plant Industry
Florida, Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services
P. O. Box 147100
Gainesville, FL 32614-7100, U.S.A.

My home phone is 904/481-5488. My business phone is 904/372-3505; FAX No. 372-2501.

I have a continuing special interest in Diptera: Syrphidae, Conopidae, Stratiomyidae, Asilidae, and Tephritidae.

More reprints Available!!!

Now that I am completely retired, I have no further use for my Diptera reprint collection. I am uncertain as to the best way to dispose of it. I welcome suggestions. The boxes weigh about 100 lbs. total. Acalpyprates predominate, but nearly all those on Drosophilidae were taken earlier by David Grimaldi. It is hard to let all my reprints go, but they deserve a better fate than storage in my garage!

Dr. Marshall R. Wheeler

1313 Ardenwood Road

Austin, TX 78722-1105, U.S.A.

Biting Fly Workshop - 1996

You never know, it might not be too late! The formal symposium is being held in New Orleans, May 13-14 and field explorations will be on May 14-15 in Chicot State Park. If you need more info, contact Dr. Jim Wedincamp at (504) 833-8211.

From Dan Hagan

Obituary - Guy Eaden Shewell (1913-1996)

by Ed Becker and Dick Vockeroth

Guy Shewell died of a stroke on 19 February 1996 at age 82. He was born on 16 July 1913 in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England. In 1931, at the age of 17, he was sent to Canada because there was no money in England for him to attend university there, and the Canadian government was willing to sponsor him to attend MacDonald College, McGill University, to study agriculture. During this period he made one trip to the prairies to participate in the wheat harvest, an experience to which he often referred. He also spent several summers studying apple pests at Abbotsford, Quebec, where his extensive collecting of Canadian insects began. After graduating with an M.Sc. in 1937, Guy joined the then Entomology Branch of the federal Department of Agriculture and remained there until his retirement in 1976. From then until his death, Guy was an Honourary Research Associate with Agriculture Canada (most recently in the Centre for Land and Biological Resources Research). Between 1939 and 1945, Guy's scientific career was interrupted by service in the Royal Canadian Artillery, 51st Anti-Tank Battalion. He rose to the rank of major and saw action in Italy. In 1949, when the expansion of systematic entomology began, Guy was the sole dipterist in the Branch. The staff increased rapidly in the next three years and included the addition of three young dipterists, Vockeroth, McAlpine and Chillcott. Guy made a major contribution to their knowledge of Diptera; he was never too busy to reply to the endless questions, Guy, what is this? These three, plus others who joined the staff later, owe Guy a great deal. At first, Guy's particular interests were in the lauxaniids, but later he shifted to the simuliids, sarcophagids and calliphorids. He was instrumental in building a major world collection in these groups. During World War II, Guy's collecting efforts in England and Italy formed the basis of a large European component in the Canadian National Collection of Insects (CNC). The European Diptera part of the CNC is the largest outside Europe. Guy's efforts contributed immensely in developing the CNC into one of the best research collections in North America. Guy participated in collecting trips throughout the world, including the Canadian Arctic, Ecuador, England and New Zealand. His last collecting trip was a brief one to the mountains of Morocco, at age 81. Guy wrote a number of scientific papers which laid the groundwork in a number of groups and provide an important basis for future analysis. His breadth of knowledge was especially expressed in the three chapters he wrote for the Manual of Nearctic Diptera.

Besides being a scientist, Guy was interested in the visual and performing arts. Over the years, he accumulated numerous paintings and books on art and poetry.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

"Slightly modified from a contribution from OISTROS"

Request for Material from Terry A. Wheeler

I am working on a revision of the genus Paraleucopis Malloch (generally placed in the Chamaemyiidae) and I am trying to scare up all available material of this relatively uncommon genus. Paraleucopis is known from the southwestern Nearctic (records from Washington to Baja California and east to Texas) and there are a few species in the southern Neotropical region (I have seen specimens from southern Chile and Argentina). If anyone has any specimens identified as Paraleucopis I would like to borrow them for examination. You can contact me for more information, sorting and recognition tips, etc. (although I am not prepared to handle all of your unsorted chamaemyiids in order to extract Paraleucopis, sorry).

Tied up with the above project are revisions of the related genera Gayomyia Malloch and Schizostomyia Malloch. Although it is very unlikely that they are lying around in your collections (they appear to be extremely uncommon), I am requesting all available material of these genera as well. They are currently unplaced to family and may be assigned in collections to a variety of acalyptrate groups (most likely chamaemyiids). Both genera are apparently restricted in the New World to southern Chile and Argentina (Gayomyia also gets into Australia where it is more common). Again, if you have any specimens of these genera I would be thrilled beyond belief (well, at least pretty happy) to see them. Please them to:

Terry A. Wheeler
 Department of Natural Resource Sciences
 McGill University, Macdonald Campus
 Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec H9X 3V9
 Canada.

Another chance to use your Global Search and Replace Software

The highest concentration of systematists in Canada have undergone another change to the name of their research institute. Formerly known as the "Centre for Land and Biological Resources Research" (in Ottawa), they are now called the "Plant Protection Program, Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre".

What thinks you?

The editors of the Fly Times are considering the possibility of setting up a FLY TIMES Web Site. Would this have appeal to the readership? Initially we would envision just having a duplicate of the hard copy on the Web. However, other condiments might be useful. Ideas of what you'd like to see will be gratefully received: send them on to Art Borkent.

From Curtis W. Sabrosky

The annotated catalog of family-group names is nearly completed. I am revising the New World Stenomicra with David Grimaldi. Next project: New World Hippelates flies (Hippelates, Liohippelates, etc.), with Celuta Paganelli of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Brits Have it Together

Wesley Nowell wrote to point out that the British have a "National Recording Schemes Program" which has provide a great deal of information on the distribution of Diptera in the British Isles. The results, first consolidated and published in the journal "Dipterists Digest" are now printed in the "Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum". The bulletin has developed into an interesting and informative publication for those of us who are interested in Diptera in general and the distribution of families in Britain. For those who want to subscribe, send \$20 US to Dr. Martin Drake, 22 Park Road, Deeping St. James, Lincolnshire, PE6 8ND, United Kingdom.

redacted Far Side, 4/30/1986

Reprints Available - Edward G. Riley

REPRINTS: Sets of reprints of H. J. Reinhard which deal mostly with the taxonomy of Tachinidae and other muscoid flies are available from the Texas A&M University Insect Collection by contacting E. G. Riley. The most complete sets include 70+ papers. Sets will be given away on a first come, first serve basis.

Edward G. Riley
 Department of Entomology
 Texas A&M University
 College Station, Texas 77843
 phone (409) 845-9711
 FAX (409) 845-6305
 e-mail egrchryso@tamu.edu

Shifting places - Greg Dahlem

Greg has a new address as follows:

Dr. G.A. Dahlem,
 Center for Insect Identification,
 P.O. Box 54666,
 Cincinnati, Ohio,
 45254-0666, U.S.A.

e-mail: gdahlem@tso.cin.ix.net

Phylogeny of the Diptera project

Many of the chapters dealing with the Nematocera have been received (covering about half the families) and are currently out for review. After the compilation and submission to the Thomas Say Publication outlet of the ESA, the next volume, dealing with higher Diptera, will be compiled and submitted.

Books and Publications

- Oosterbroek, P. and G. Courtney. 1995. Phylogeny of the nematocerous families of Diptera (Insecta). Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society 115:267-311.
- Shcherbakov, D.E., E.D. Lukashovich and V.A. Blagoderov. 1995. Triassic Diptera and initial radiation of the order. International Journal of Dipterological Research 6(2): 75-115.

For those who have not yet sent in a synopsis of their interests for the Directory of North American Dipterists, the following form is provided. Please restrict yourselves to no more than 20 words when listing the titles of your major projects and the animals you work with.

The completed form may be sent to Jeff Cumming at the following address:

Dr. J. M. Cumming,
Plant Protection Program,
Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre,
Agriculture Canada,
K.W. Neatby Building,
Ottawa, Ontario,
K1A 0C6, Canada.

Should any of you like to expand or modify your entries from the last list, use the form below to indicate the changes.

Full name: _____
Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

FAX Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Projects and taxa studied: _____

