



CHRYSMELA

newsletter

Dedicated to information about the Chrysomelidae

Report No. 42

June 2003

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Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge May 16-18, 2003 The Mid-Atlantic States Collecting Trip



Sunday, May 18, 2003, following two days of collecting

from left to right—Charlie Staines, Susan Staines, Dave Furth, Lijie Zhang, Eric Smith, Barbara Bergel, Alexander Konstantinov, Kira Zhaurova, Michel Bergal, Catherine Duckett, and Warren Steiner (photographs: Charlie Campbell)

(see story page 6)

Research Activities and Interests

Wolfgang Baese (Wittenberg) currently working the faunistics and biology of the middle-European species of the subfamily Donaciinae.

Judith X. Becerra (Tucson) is working on plant-insect interactions (ecology and evolution), and insect phylogeny reconstruction.

Ron Beenen (Nieuwegen) working on the faunistics and taxonomy of Palearctic and African Galerucinae. Currently working on *Galeruca*, *Eupachytoma*, and *Nirina*. The faunistic work concentrates on the compilation of a galerucine catalogue, both for the *Fauna Europa* database and for the *Catalogue*

of the Palearctic Coleoptera (Eds.: I. Löbl & A. Smetana). Also, continuing to work on the *Chrysomelid Fauna of Central Europe* (Th. M. Schmitt, Administrator).

Jan Bezdek (Brno) is working on the Asiatic species of the gelerucine genus *Apophylia*.

Andrzej Bienkowski (Moscow) mainly working on the systematics of *Chrysolina*. Recently published a checklist of the *Chrysolina* (worldwide). Plans to revise the subgenera *Arctolina*, *Ovosoma*, *Lithopterooides* and others. Continues to work on the subgeneric structure of *Chrysolina*.

Jiri Brokes (Litomysl) is working on the Donaciinae of Central Europe; also, continuing work on Orsodacninae, Criocerinae, Clytrinae, Cryptocephalinae, and Chrysomelinae of the Palearctic region.

Petr Cizek (Zamberk) continues to work on the Alticinae of Europe.

Daniel Dobrosak (Hoppers Crossing) is interested in the biology and taxonomy of *Peltoschema* and non-eucalypt feeding paropsines.

José Luis Fernández-Carrillo (Ciudad Real) Currently working on the systematics of Spanish bruchids.

(continued page 10)

EDITOR'S PAGE

Terry N. Seeno, Sacramento



Out With the Old —

Being editor of CHYSOMELA has been one of the most pleasant tasks associated

with my career in Entomology. But, as the saying goes, "all good things must come to an end."

As stated in the very first issue of CHYSOMELA (August, 1979), the purpose of the newsletter was devotion "... to the dissemination and information about the Chrysomelidae and the students of this group" (the key word in that statement is **students**). It was born in a time when communication between workers interested in beetles was relatively weak. There was no easy way for interested students to know who specialized in which groups and who to contact.

The leaf beetle community, even though it was active, was not fully developed. The internet was unavailable and communications between leaf beetle workers on a worldwide basis were relatively poor. CHYSOMELA, I

hope, helped develop and strengthen this community by opening the lines of communication and providing an outlet for all members.

In With the New —

It is with great pleasure that I announce Caroline Chaboo as the next editor of CHYSOMELA.

Caroline grew up in Trinidad where she discovered entomology. She has been associated with the American Museum of Natural History in New York for more than 13 years. After completing her MS at Kansas, she returned to AMNH to work with Dave Grimaldi on amber insects. She will soon graduate with a Ph.D. in entomology from Cornell University where she was funded on an AMNH fellowship.

Next January, she will start a post-doc position with Kip Will at UC-Berkeley working on chrysomelid molecular systematics and behavior.

Caroline's editorship is effective immediately. Send all email (subject, "Chrysomela") to her at:

<chrysomela@coleopsoc.org>

<chaboo@amnh.org>

or to her postal address listed on the last page of this newsletter.



Chrysomelid Collection at NMNH, Smithsonian

Since midyear 2000, Alexander Konstantinov (Washington) is officially the curator of the collection of Chrysomelidae at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. The collection is actively growing due to recent acquisitions and collecting activity in the USA, Nepal, China, Russia, Turkey, and other areas.

Through the efforts of Steve Lin-gafelter (1996-1998) more than half of the collection is now databased, and the effort to complete the project is still in progress.

All loan requests and visits are welcome and greatly encouraged. For loans information regarding visits, please contact A. Konstantinov by email at: <akonstan@sel.barc.usda.gov>.

CHYSOMELA Leaf Beetle References

Approximately 2,700 chrysomelid literature citations have been cited in CHYSOMELA since the first issue. The entire list is available in PDF format on the *Beetle Newsletters* page of the Coleopterists Society website at: <<http://www.coleopsoc.org/nwsltrs.shtml>>

Historical Photo

The First ICS ICE 17, Hamburg August, 20-25, 1984



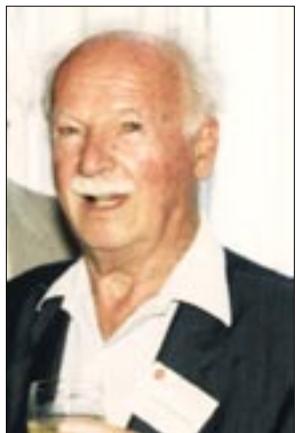
Photo of participants at the First International Chrysomelid Symposium, held in conjunction with the 17th International Congress of Entomology, Hamburg. Co-organizers of this first ICS were Dave Furth and Horst Kippenberg (both in dark jackets). This picture and names of the participants was printed in CHYSOMELA number 12 issued in January, 1985. T.N.S.—May 25, 2003

The Newsletter CHYSOMELA—Founded 1979— is published semiannually, usually in April and October by the California Department of Food & Agriculture, Plant Pest Diagnostics Center, 3294 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA 95832-1448. E-mail: terryseeno@coleopsoc.org; telephone (916) 262-1160; FAX (916) 262-1190. This newsletter is sent to students of the Chrysomelidae to encourage the exchange of ideas and to disseminate information on these insects. **Editor:** Terry N. Seeno, Sacramento. **Editor-Select:** Caroline Chaboo, New York. **Advisors:** Catherine N. Duckett, New Brunswick; Brian D. Farrell, Cambridge; R. Wills Flowers, Tallahassee; Elizabeth Grobelaar, Pretoria; Pierre Jolivet, Paris; Alex Konstantinov, Washington; Chris Reid, Sydney; Ed Riley, College Station; Al Samuelson, Honolulu; Eric H. Smith, Lynchburg; Charlie L. Staines, Edgewater.

In Memoriam The Passing of More Old Friends

Guido Nonveiller—

A specialist of Mutilidae (Hymenoptera) from Africa and the Palearctic region, he published a monograph on the biology and taxonomy of the Alticinae. He spoke more than seven languages including German, French, Serbo-Croat, Russian, Czech, English, Spanish, and Italian.



Guido worked several years for the FAO in Western Africa (Gabon) and wrote a book on Insects of agricultural importance in Tropical Africa (*Catalogue des*

Insectes du Cameroun d'intérêt agricole). His last book was *The Pioneers of Research on the Insects of Dalmatia*. He also worked in Paris Museum during the recent Yugoslavian war.

He was an excellent colleague and we will all miss him.

P.H.A.J.—April 11, 2003

Bohumila "Mila" Springlova de Bechyné—

Died in Maracay, Venezuela on April 27, 2003, nearly 30 years to the day after her late husband Jan Bechyné (Jan died, May 7, 1973 at age 53).



Affectionately known to her friends as 'Mila,' Bohumila had an early interest in the Eumolpinae. She later worked on the alticinae with her husband Jan, with whom she collaborated and they coauthored more than 25 papers on the subject. Mila was an excellent scientific illustrator as can be

seen in these papers.

She was known for her robust sense of humor and ability to tell a good story. She also had a *soupçon* of vanity, which is the reason we do not know her exact age.

Her friends will miss her.

C.N.D. & T.N.S.—May 25, 2003

Up-Front Notes

Maternal Care in the Cassidines

Jean-Michel Maes (Léon)



A female specimen of *Acromis sparsa* (Boheman, 1854) (Cassidinae: Stolaini) guarding her larvae. The photograph was taken in Volcan Mombacho, near of Granada in southwestern Nicaragua (1,150m) by Laurence Huez (Paris) on July 2002. The host plant is probably *Ipomoea* sp.

Information on this species can be found in Windsor (1987) and Chaboo (2001 & 2002).

Chaboo, C. S. 2002. First report of immatures, genitalia and Maternal Care in *Eugenysa columbiana* (Boheman) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae: Eugenysini). Coleop. Bull. 56(1):50-67, 17 figs., 1 tab.

Chaboo, C. S. 2001. Revision and phylogenetic analysis of *Acromis* Chrvalat (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae: Stolaini). Coleop. Bull. 55(1):75-102, 35 figs., 1 tab.

Windsor, D. M. 1987. Natural history of a subsocial tortoise beetle, *Acromis sparsa* Boheman (Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae) in Panama. Psyche 94(1-2):127-150.

The Carlos Bordon Collection Transferred to Turino

Mauro Daccordi (Turino)

Once, one of the largest private collections in South America, the Bordon collection has been transferred from Maracay to the Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali in Turin.

This 250,000 specimens collection of insects (primarily Coleoptera) has heavy concentrations of weevils (Bordon's specialty), chrysomelids, tenebrionids and scarabs. Our beloved leaf beetles are well represented, and the collection contains many Bechyné types.

Sincere Thanks for a Job Well Done

Our thanks to **David Furth** (Washington) for 20 years of faithful service in organizing the informal meetings of chrysomelists at the ESA meetings. As Dave announced at the 20th Informal Conference anyone interested in continuing this tradition should contact the ESA Program Committee Chair. Dave will be happy to offer any helpful hints from his experience working with ESA.

T.N.S.—May 25, 2003

New Light on the Cassidine *Hybosinota nodulosa* (Bohemian)

Hugh D.C. Heron (Escombe)

The genus *Hybosinota* Spaeth, 1909, unique to southern and eastern Africa, contains two species viz. *H. nodulosa* (Bohemian, 1854) and *H. turrigera* (Bohemian, 1862). They are moderately large (circa 7-8mm) oval, parallel-sided, beetles with characteristic, prominent, elytral tubercles. A key to both the species, as well as full taxonomic descriptions, appears in Borowiec (1994): 121-129.

Hybosinota nodulosa, designated the type species for the genus by Hincks (1952), was initially described in the genus *Cassida* (Bohemian, 1854) and later published in *Aspidomorpha* (Gemminger & Harold, 1876), in *Asphalesia* (Weise, 1899), and, finally, in *Hybosinota* (Spaeth, 1909) [see Borowiec, 1999:215-216].

In December 1999, the writer encountered *Laccoptera*-like cassidine larvae on an *Ipomoea* creeper in the Shongweni Resources Reserve, near Hillcrest, in the Umlaas valley, Natal, South Africa, which, when raised to maturity, proved to be *Hybosinota nodulosa*. Until then, nothing was known of the species' host plants or biology (Borowiec, 1994:125). Apart from the larval feeding patterns, all the biological observations reported here were made on captive specimens.

Biological notes—The host plant was *Ipomoea obscura* (L.) Ker-Gawl. (Convolvulaceae): a small bindweed with plain pale yellow flowers. The *Hybosinota nodulosa* larvae very closely resembled the larvae of *Laccoptera spp.* They were solitary in habit, feeding from the upper leaf surface, and

carried large, roughly pyriform, compact faecal-exuvial masses in their supra-anal furcae. During the early instars, the lateral spines resembled those of *Laccoptera spp.* larvae but, in the final instar, they were very distinctive: short, thickset, and appearing tridentate. The color was translucent brown. The larvae were black (the dorsum area beneath the faecal shield appearing dark greenish-brown) and closely resembled a wad of mollusc faeces. The legs

were banded: blackish-brown and brownish-yellow. The final instar larvae were thick-bodied (to 3mm) and measured up to 8.5x4.4mm

(9.2x5.0mm including lateral spines and caudal furca). The faecal shield reached 7.8mm along the posterior edge and had a length of 6.0mm.



Fig. 2: Imaginal feeding pattern (intensive feeding phase following eclosion) produced in captivity. Feeding from lower surface of *Ipomoea obscura* leaf. Leaf specimen: 1745/3.



Fig. 1: Imaginal feeding pattern produced in captivity on a thin-bladed *Ipomoea obscura* leaf. Feeding from lower leaf surface. Leaf specimen: 1744/2.

In captivity, pupation took place on the upper leaf surface, head downwards. The faecal-exuvial shield was retained and held forward over the dorsum. Pupal size: 8.0x5.6mm. The pronotal disc was red-brown with suffused irregular blackish markings, and sparsely pubescent. The glabrous epipleuron was bordered anteriorly by eleven pairs of short spines and had both the same color and patterning as the pronotal disc. The abdominal segments were red-brown with a diffuse blackish longitudinal band located between the dorsum and the raised brownish-white spiracles. The leaf-like lateral projections were sparsely bordered by minute spinules reduced to rounded points. The pupal period lasted eight days.

Feeding patterns—The larvae, in common with *Laccoptera spp.*, fed from the upper leaf surface, producing moderately large oval to irregular holes (over 5mm) and irregular marginal indentations during instar 5 (Fig. 5). In captivity,



Fig. 4: Instar 4 larval feeding pattern. Large, highly irregular, marginal indentations in thin-bladed *Ipomoea obscura* leaf, produced in captivity. Feeding from upper leaf surface. Leaf specimen: 1743/1.



Fig. 3: Scrapings and holes, from upper leaf surface of *Ipomoea obscura* leaf, produced by a single larva from instar 1 to circa instar 4. Collected December 1, 1999, from Shongweni Resources Reserve. Leaf specimen: 1875/7.

very large irregular marginal indentations were produced in thin-bladed leaves. (Fig. 4) During the early instars, small rounded to oval scrapings, to 1mm, were produced in the upper leaf surface and, later, small holes were produced (Fig. 3). Marginal indentations were infrequently observed during early instar feeding under natural conditions.

Two additional cassid beetles were found making use of the host plant, *Ipomoea obscura*, at Shongweni, *Aspidimorpha submutata* and *Chiridopsis suffriani*. Because *C. suffriani*

imagines were commonly noted sharing the plants with the *Hybosinota* larvae, and no *Hybosinota* imagines were observed, descriptions of the latter species' imaginal feeding patterns have been based on the activities of captive specimens. Feeding was from the lower leaf surface and appeared to be, principally, marginal (fig. 2) during the intensive feeding phase (circa 10 to 14 days following eclosion). Rounded holes, not unlike those of fifth instar larvae, were also produced by mature imagines (Fig. 1).

Habits—The imagines were shy, dwelling on the underside of the host plant leaves during daylight hours, and readily dropping to the undergrowth when disturbed. Like *Laccoptera cicatricosa*, this species may prove to be crepuscular, or even nocturnal. During the dry season (circa May to September), the captive beetle retired to the leaf litter and remained dormant. One specimen raised in captivity lived for 16 months (from 19 December, 1999 to 28 May, 2001).

Conclusion—Future research will require the capture of a breeding pair in order that the entire life-cycle be studied in captivity and, later, compared with the species in the field. The identity of predators and parasitoids needs to be determined, and further host plants sought.

A dried fifth instar larva, a hatched pupal theca, and an imago, have been deposited in the small cassidine collection of the Durban Natural Science Museum, Durban, South Africa.

References:

- BOROWIEC, L. (1994). A Monograph of the Afro-tropical *Cassidinae* (*Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae*). Part 1. Introduction, key to the genera, and reviews of the tribes *Epistictinini*, *Basiprionotini* and *Aspidimorphini* (except the genus *Aspidimorpha*). *Genus* (suppl.). *Biologica Silesiae* : Wroclaw. 176pp.
- BOROWIEC, L. (1999). A World Catalogue of the *Cassidinae* (*Coleoptera : Chrysomelidae*). *Genus* (suppl.). *Biologica Silesiae* : Wroclaw. 476pp



Fig. 5: Instar 5 larval feeding pattern. Moderately large, irregular to oval holes, and irregular marginal indentations, in *Ipomoea obscura* leaf. Feeding from upper leaf surface. Leaf specimen: 1744/2, collected December 3, 1999, from Shongweni Resources Reserve.

Bergeal's Visit the Smithsonian

Alex Konstantinov (Washington)

Michel and Barbara Bergeal (Versailles, France) recently visited the US for two weeks. Their first day (May 16th) was spent examining the general leaf beetle and the Lopatin Collections of the National Museum of Natural History, here in Washington.

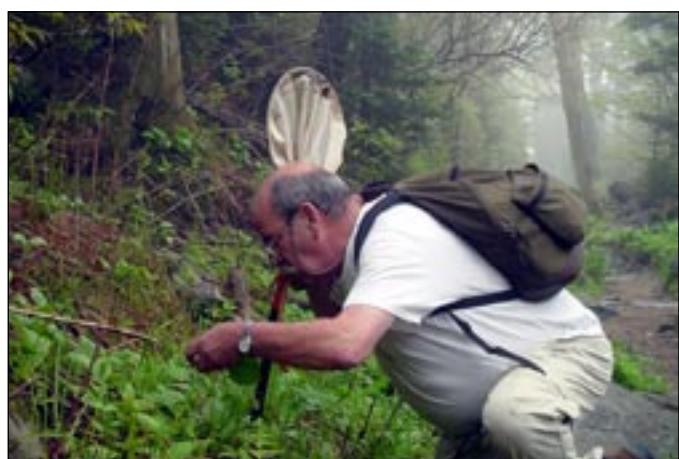


A. Konstantinov, M. Bergeal, B. Bergeal, C. Micheli, S. Lingafelter collecting in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

On May 17th and 18th, we traveled to the Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge and joined some of our leaf beetle colleagues for the annual Mid-Atlantic States chrysomelid collecting trip (see pages 1 and 6).

From May 18th to May 23rd, the Bergeal's, Steve Lingafelter, Charyn Micheli (a University of Maryland student working on cerambycids), and I collected beetles in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The park is located at the southern end of the Appalachian's on the border between Tennessee and North Carolina. We collected some uncommon flea beetles (*Longitarsus* and *Glyptina*) in the forest areas. Except for two days of rain, beetle collecting was quite interesting.

Michel and Barbara plan to visit relatives and do some additional flea beetle collecting in Stamford Connecticut before returning home to Versailles.



Michel collecting in the Great Smoky Mountains, Clingman's Dome (2,000m) the second highest point in the Appalachian's

Mystery Object What is It?

Chris Reid (Sydney) & Rich Leschen (Auckland)



We have embarked (perhaps unwisely) on an analysis of morphological variation in the tribe *Phyllocharitini* of the *Chrysomelinae*. One outcome might be a phylogeny of the group. Another is the chance to describe some of the weird

(cont. on pg. 10)

14th Congress of ESSA Pretoria, July 6-9, 2003

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
14th ENTOMOLOGICAL CONGRESS



6-9 JULY 2003
PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

The 14th Congress of the Entomological Society of Southern Africa is to be held on the main campus of the University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa from 6th - 9th July 2003.

Emphasis will be on the advancement of entomology on the African continent in general. The congress is aimed at providing a forum for the dynamic exchange of new information and ideas relevant to entomologists of all persuasions. Website: <http://journals.sabinet.co.za/essa>.

Please direct all correspondence and inquiries to the congress coordinator: Dr. Gerhard Prinsloo, ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute, Private Bag X 134, Queenswood 0121, Pretoria, South Africa. Tel.: 27 (0)12 3238540; Fax: 27 (0)12 3256998; e-mail: vrehglp@plant5.agric.za.

Back to Back at the Same Venue, to provide delegates with an excellent opportunity to attend both events, the 4th Congress of the Southern African Society for Systematic Biology (SASSB IV) is to be held at the University of Pretoria from 9th -11th July, 2003.

The intended scope of the congress is "Systematics and Biodiversity", with a strong component of phylogeography. A Phylogeography Workshop will follow the congress from 12th - 14th July. This is intended for students and researchers investigating geographic diversity within species, or among recently diverged species, using DNA sequence data. The workshop will cover all aspects of phylogeography from the construction and mapping of gene-trees to recent developments in statistical analyses, spatial modeling and cross-fauna comparisons.

Please direct all correspondence and inquiries to the congress coordinator: James du Guesclin Harrison, SASSB IV, Transvaal Museum, P. O. Box 413, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa. Website: <http://www.nfi.org.za/tmpage.html>; e-mail: sassb4@nfi.co.za. Fax: 27 (0)12322-7929.

B.G.—May 25, 2003



Mid-Atlantic States Field Trip Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge

Catherine N. Duckett (New Brunswick)



Charlie Staines, Alex Konstantinov, & Eric Smith in front of the field station at Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, Kent Co., MD

We trickled in, one by one, for the Mid-Atlantic States field trip at the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. Charlie and Suzy Staines organized the trip, and are doing an inventory of some focal beetle taxa at the refuge.

The refuge occupies an entire island, about 23 acres in size, in the Chesapeake bay. It is home to four Bald eagle nests in addition to some excellent chrysomelid collecting habitat. It is a bit farther than we estimated, which is why many arrived late. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate. We had permits to collect and black light on May 16th and 17th, however, on the 16th it rained hard, and the 17th was cold and overcast. However, because Chrysomelid workers from far and wide had committed to attend, we all converged and had a good time beating the bushes and enjoying each other's company.

Some collecting highlights included, *Mantura* and *Phyllobotreta* for the flea beetle folks; for me there were large quantities of *Trirhabda baccarides* larvae to fatten my collection.

Michel and Barbara Bergeal (France) were visiting the Smithsonian and were being hosted by Alex Konstantinov. Two young workers, Kira Zhaurova (USA) and Lijie Zhang (China) are being hosted by Dave Furth (Smithsonian), were also introduced to the rest of us more, . . . (ahem) "mature" workers, Eric Smith, Charlie and Suzy Staines, Warren Steiner and myself. Kira is working on a revision of *Nasigona* Jacoby with Dave and describing a new species from Costa Rica. Lijie Zhang is a student of Xing-ke Yang (Inst. Zool., Academia Sinica, Beijing) doing faunistics of Chinese luperines—basically faunistics. At the request of Yang, Dave agreed to be her official host/facilitator. In addition, Lijie is working on a morphology project with Alex.

Charlie and Suzy are making an inventory of the Coleoptera of vernal pools and all the tiger beetles of the island. The inventory is the primary purpose, but the secondary purpose is to train refuge professionals and volunteers about the presence and importance of invertebrates. Apparently, all National Wildlife refuges have been directed to take inventories in this the 100th year of the National Wildlife Refuge system.

We thank the refuge for providing us with a place to collect and to meet and catch up on the news with each other. The Eastern Neck is: <<http://notheast.fws.gov/md/esn.htm>>.

Chrysomelidae of Lord Howe Island

Chris Reid (Sydney)

Lord Howe Island is a small island 700km east of the central New South Wales coast, Australia. It is the rapidly eroding stump of a 7 million year old volcano, once 3000 metres high and 40 kilometres wide, but now a mere 875 metres high and roughly 15 square kilometres in area. It lies on a submarine ridge which connects New Zealand with New Caledonia.



A break in the rain on the summit of Mount Gower

left to right: Paul Flemons, Chris Reid, Ian Hutton. In the background the ferns *Blechnum* and *Cyathea*, hosts of *Manobia*, and the palm *Lepidorrhachis*, host of *Brontispa*.

Photograph: Ian Hutton.

Lord Howe Island was overlooked by Polynesians and first settled in the 1830s, mostly by whalers. It has never had a large human population and currently maintains 300 natives and beds for 300 guests.

The entire island is a World Heritage Area for its remarkable diversity of endemic flora and fauna and for the fringing coral reef, which is the southernmost worldwide.

I have been lucky enough to participate in a survey of terrestrial invertebrates on the island, run by the Australian Museum, Sydney. Before this started, in November 2000, 238 species of beetle were recorded from the island. Now we have at least 460, two-thirds of which appear to be endemic with 200 undescribed. The dominant family is Curculionidae, with 109 species, but Chrysomelidae are strongly represented by 24 species, only 11 of which are described. The flea-beetle fauna was partly revised by Al Samuelson (1973). The flora has recently been revised (Flora of Australia volume 49). The chrysomelids and their host plants include *Argopistes* (*Jasminum*), *Arsipoda* (*Ipomoea*), *Brontispa* (Arecaceae), *Dematochroma* (unknown), *Goweria* (ferns), *Longitarsus* (introduced species, probably *Plantago*), *Manobia* (ferns), *Menippus* (*Celtis*), *Oulema* (introduced species, grasses), *Psylliodes* (*Solanum*). *Goweria* has been recognised as a monotypic endemic genus, but appears to be a highly modified flightless *Manobia*. There is a montane flea-beetle I am unable to place.

The rapidly eroding southern mountains are surrounded on most sides by sheer cliffs and require ropes for access. I stayed at the top of Mount Gower for a week, with 2 colleagues, doing a systematic survey of the terrestrial arthropods of the summit. This was difficult as it coincided with a cyclone. The summit of Gower is a flat plateau, about 3 football fields in size (whatever code) and between 800 and 875 metres above sea-level, without a great deal of shelter. It is a wonderland of stunted forest, with two endemic palm species, 40 species of ferns and 6 species of *Manobia* feeding on them. Because so much is endemic to the summit alone, everything has to be carried back down to minimise disturbance. Everything. We enjoyed a quick dip in the lagoon before flying home to sort out the 18 drawers and 700 vials of beetles.

Thanks to my companions Paul Flemons (Australian Museum) and Ian Hutton (Lord Howe Island) on the summit trip and the many team members on other visits, including Gerry Cassis, team leader. Ian has kindly allowed use of his photographs.

Samuelson, G. A. (1973). Alticinae of Oceania (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae). *Pacific Insects Monographs* **30:** 1-165.



Resting after descending Mount Gower

In the background the palm genus *Howea*, host of *Brontispa*, and Mount Lidgbird, 777 metres

Photograph: Ian Hutton

Research . . .

(cont. from pg. 1)

Daniel J. Funk (Buttrick Hill) Ecology and evolution of *Neochlamisus* (Chlamisinae), especially host plant specialization and speciation.

Li-zhong Hua (Guangzhou) a checklist of the leaf beetles of the Guangdong Province and a list of insect specimens of Zhongshan (Sun Yat-sen) University.

Olga A. Khzuleva (Moscow) Zonal and landscape distribution of herpetobiotic arthropods in tundra (Wrangel Island, Taymyz Peninsula). Ecology and life history of the arctic leaf-eating insects (leaf beetles, weevils, moths). Adoptions and life cycle strategies of the arctic and subarctic leaf beetles.

Pascal Lays (Liege) Still working on the Donaciinae (systematics, faunistics, biology and ecology).

R. Wills Flowers (Tallahassee) is working on the taxonomy of Neotropical Eumolpinae and the host plants of Neotropical Chrysomelidae.

Ebru Gul Gilbiroglu (Isparta) is a Master's student and is preparing an ecofaunistic thesis on the Alticinae of Turkey; also, PhD thesis will be based on Alticinae (see Literature requests).

Alexander Konstantinov (Washington) working on several alticine projects involving both the Palearctic and Nearctic regions; general morphological and phylogenetic studies of Galerucinae *sensu lato*. Alpine flea beetles inhabiting moss and leaf litter around the world are of particular interest. Long term projects include revisionary studies of flea beetle genera of the Oriental region. Also, actively working on a world catalog of flea beetles.

Igor Lopatin (Minsk) continues working on the taxonomy of Cryptocephalinae and Chrysomelinae of the Palearctic region. A revision of the species of *Oreomela* is in preparation.

Yuri Mikhailov (Yekaterinburg) Chrysomelidae of the Urals and mountains of South Siberia (mostly alpine species). Faunistics and systematics of Cryptocephalinae and Chrysomelinae of the Palearctic region. Is willing to identify all Palearctic *Cryptocephalus* and *Chrysolina*, especially from the mountains.

Sandra Moya-Guzman (Ponce) working on the taxonomy and a key to the larvae of *Disonycha*.

Konstantin S. Nadein (Kharkov) is a fourth year student at Kharkov National University and a member of the Ukrainian Entomological Society; Interested in Systematics, faunogenesis, phylogeny, and zoogeography of Palaearctic Chrysomelidae (excluding Cassidinae); Currently collecting material and data on leaf beetles from Ukraine, Caucausus, Carpathians and adjacent territories. Especially interested in the montane chrysomelids (Crimea, Carpathians, Caucasus, Alps, etc.).

H. R. Pajni (Chandigarh) is working on bruchid polyphenism and egg parasitoids of bruchids associated with wild legumes.

George Poinar (Corvallis) is working on chrysomelid-plant associations.

Chris Reid (Sydney) continues to work on the Australian chrysomelids and chrysomelid systematics.

Vilma P. Savini (Maracay) interested in Neotropical alticine taxonomy.

(cont. on pg. 10)

Chrysomelid Collection, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia

C. L. & S. L. Staines (Edgewater)

We spent three days at the end of January 2002 working in the ANSP chrysomelid collection. ANSP is one of the oldest natural history museums in the U.S., but is not known for work on chrysomelids. We were pleasantly surprised at the size and diversity of the chrysomelid holdings. As with most U. S. museums, the best holdings were Nearctic but there was a strong representation of Neotropical, Oriental, Palearctic, and African material. The best find was a 16-drawer Neotropical synoptic collection which included Biologia Centrali-Americana syntypes. The main collection also has part of the syntypic series of many of Horn's species.

ANSP drawers are 11x16 inches, smaller than other museum drawers in the U. S., and glass covered. The collection is well curated, but the nomenclature is a bit dated.

The main collection consists of:

Sagrinae—1 drawer.

Donaciinae—4 drawers of worldwide material

Orsodacnæ—North American material; 5 species

of *Syneta*; 6 species of *Zeugophora*- in 1 drawer

Criocerinae—2 drawers of worldwide material

Megascelinae & Megalopodinae—1 drawer

Clytrinae—4 drawers of worldwide material

Cryptocephalinae—8 drawers of worldwide material

Chlamisinae (North American) & **Lamprosomatinae** (Japanese)—1 drawer

Eumolpinae—11 drawers of worldwide material

Chrysomelinae—10 drawers of worldwide material

Galerucinae—12 drawers of worldwide material

Alticinae—17 drawers of worldwide material

Hispaniae—8 drawers of worldwide material

Cassidinae—11 drawers of worldwide material

Primary types are housed in a separate collection in which were found *Epitrix paludicola* Champion, *Homalispal sulcicollis* Champion, *Glyptoscelis alternatus* Crotch, *Glyptoscelis illustris* Crotch, *Metachroma californicum* Crotch, *Odontota walshii* Crotch, *Chaetocnema costata* Fall, *Luperodes nigrovirescens* Fall, *Chaetocnema magnipunctata* Gentner, *Haltica nigra* Gentner, *Charistena bicolor* Smith, *Microrhopala uniformis* Smith, and *Odontota lateritia* Smith.

The museum staff are eager for visitors and to see the collection used. Working space is available. For those interested in a visit or to arrange a loan contact Jason Weintraub at 215-299-1189 or e-mail <jweintraub@acnatsci.org>.

Stalked Eggs in a Cryptocephaline Leaf Beetle

Matthias Schöller & Uwe Heinig (Berlin)

In March 1996, Uwe collected *Acolastus hebraeus* (J. Sahlberg, 1913) in the Judaic desert, Metzoke Dragot near Kibbuz Mizpe Shalem (western bank of the Dead Sea, 31.35N 35.23E) from *Zygophyllum dumosum* and brought back live specimens to Berlin. The beetles were provided with fresh leaves in rearing containers and they laid eggs. Surprisingly, the eggs



Fig. 1. Egg of *Acolastus hebraeus* (J. Sahlberg)

were stalked. Each egg bore a stalk which was attached individually to a leaf of the host plant (Fig. 1). The stalk was of light colour and as long as the width of the extrachorion.

Within the Cryptocephalinae, stalked eggs were described for different species in the Chlamisini and Clytrini. The Chlamisini attach their eggs with the short, transparent secretory stalk to the food plant

(LeSage 1982). In the Clytrini, stalked eggs were described for the genera *Coptocephala* (Rosenhauer, 1852), *Coscinoptera* (Riley, 1874) and *Labidostomis*.

For the occurrence in Cryptocephalini, there is only one short note by Monros (1949). He illustrated the eggs of *Mylassa crassicornis* (Blanchard) (Fig. 2). The eggs are stalked, and the stalks of six to eight eggs emerge from a single point forming a group. The genus *Mylassa* Stål, 1857 was treated as a synonym of *Cryptocephalus* by Suffrian (1863), and this viewpoint was shared by numerous authors. Monros (1949), who gave a differential diagnosis comparing *Cryptocephalus* and *Mylassa*, discussed the position of *Mylassa* within the Cryptocephalinae and concluded that *Mylassa* is a valid genus. He suggested that *Mylassa* should be placed in the Cryptocephalini. On the contrary, Jacobson (1924) suggested to place *Mylassa* in the Pachybrachini. This was recently supported by

a study of Afrotropical Pachybrachini in the genus *Acolastus*, revealing that the koptresse, the rectal apparatus, of *Mylassa* is identical in the number and position of sclerites with that of *Acolastus* (Schöller, 2000).

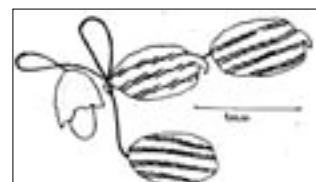


Fig. 1. Illustration of *Mylassa crassicornis* (Blanchard) eggs by Monros (1949)

The finding that stalked eggs were recorded within the Cryptocephalini so far only in *Acolastus* and *Mylassa* strongly supports the close relationship of these two genera.

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Cassida murraea L. Request for Information & Specimens

Horst Kippenberg (Herzogenaurach) & Bernard Bordy (Eloi)

Cassida murraea L. is a conspicuous Palearctic cassidine which normally feeds and develops on *Pulicaria* and *Inula* (Asteraceae), however, it is sometimes found on *Mentha* (Lamiaceae). In order to better understand its biology, we are asking our colleagues who have observed *Cassida murraea* on *Mentha* to please let us know the details, including locality, biotope, altitude, date, stage of development, and surface color of the adult (pale or red).

Also, feeding behavior is of particular interest for us. If at all possible, we would appreciate receiving living material of this insect and host.

For details, please contact: Horst Kippenberg, Langer Platz 21, D-91074 Herzogenaurach, GERMANY; e-mail <horst.kippenberg@web.de> or Bernard Bordy, F-70160 Le Val Saint Eloi, FRANCE.

Matthias Schöller (Berlin) is working on systematics and ecology of Cryptocephalinae. Current projects: catalogue of Palaearctic Cryptocephalinae; revision of *Acolastus*; revision of species-groups of *Pachybrachis*, *Cryptocephalus* and *Coenobius*.

William T. Schultz (Columbus) maintains an interest in the taxonomy of Eumolpinae of North America.

Duncan Sivell (York) is doing metapopulation studies on *Chrysolina graminis* in the UK.

James M. Sullivan (Hazelwood) continues to keep records of insect-plant relationships, especially for Missouri and Illinois species.

Ghate Hemant Vasant (Pune) working on Cassidinae of Western Ghats with possible plant sor Hispinae. Coworkers are Nilesh Rane and Sachin Ranade.

Thomas Wagner (Koblenz) taxonomy and phylogeny of afrotropical Galerucinae, *Monolepta*, and related groups, worldwide.

Krishna K. Verma (Durg) continues work on the taxonomy of leaf beetles of Central India.

Niilo Virkki (San Juan) Future plans include publication of cytological flea beetle data collected in the 1960s.

Request for Literature

Ebru Gul Gilbiroglu (Isparta) needs reprints on the fauna, distribution and ecology of Alticinae, particularly of the Palearctic region.

Pascal Lays (Liege) Willing to exchange - Jolivet, P. 1957 & 1959, Recherches sur l'aile des Chrysomeloidea (Coleoptera). Mémoires de l'Institut royal des Sciences Nat. Belg. Bruxelles, 180pp + 20 pls & 152pp + 20 pls, for - Jolivet, P. 1970, Coleopterorum Catalogus, Supplementa, Chrysomelidae: Donaciinae, pars 51(2):1-71.

Igor Lopatin (Minsk) would like reprints of literature on the Chrysomelidae.

Yuri Mikhailov (Yekaterinburg) has surplus recent publications on chrysomelidae.

Konstantin S. Nadein (Kharkov) needs all literature on the Chrysomelidae from the Ukraine, Balkans, Caucasus, Crimea, and Carpathians. Has available, old and modern Russian language literature.

H. R. Pajni (Chandigarh) Any information on egg parasitoids (*Uscana* spp.) of bruchids.

Chris Reid (Sydney) Reprints of the Spilopyrinae paper are available.

William T. Schultz (Columbus) has copies of The Liar Beetles of Ohio by John Wilcox (Ohio Biol. Survey) and will send to anyone interested.

Dieter Siede (Kasseburg) wants to purchase or exchange literature needed for determination of *Timarcha* species.

Duncan Sivell (York) would like any literature on *Chrysolina graminis*.

Request for Specimens

Wolfgang Baese (Wittenberg) has Donaciinae from middle Europe for exchange; needs specimens of this subfamily worldwide.

Jan Bezdek (Brno) would like to borrow Asiatic *Apophylia* spp. (Galerucinae).

Andrzej Bienkowski (Moscow) interested in borrowing or exchanging specimens of *Chrysolina* specimens, mainly from Africa and South Asia; has some species of Central Asia, Siberia, and the Far East for exchange.

Jiri Brokes (Litomysl) is willing to exchange specimens of Donaciinae, Orsodacninae, Criocerinae, Clytrinae, Cryptocephalinae, and Chrysomelinae. Please contact first.

Daniel J. Funk (Buttrick Hill) Would be interested in receiving any (especially live material) *Neochlamisus* material, host records, or other information.

Ebru Gul Gilbiroglu (Isparta) has just started the study of alticines of Turkey and needs to make contact with potential sources of flea beetle exchanges and specimen donations.

Igor Lopatin (Minsk) needs Cryptocephalinae and *Chrysolina* from North Africa, Iberian peninsula, Iran, and West China (possible exchange).

Yuri Mikhailov (Yekaterinburg) Needed: *Cryptocephalus* and *Chrysolina* species from the Mediterranean region (Europe, Asia Minor, Near East), Iran, China, and Japan. Offers: Chrysomelidae (excl. Alticinae) from Russia and former USSR, including endemic species from Altai, Tuva, etc.

Sandra Moya-Guzman (Ponce) needs specimens of *Disonycha* larvae, especially from the Caribbean area. Please email for details.

Konstantin S. Nadein (Kharkov) has available for exchange, specimens from Ukraine, Crimea, and Caucasus.

H. R. Pajni (Chandigarh) needs specimens of *Uscana* spp. (egg parasitoids of bruchids).

Matthias Schöller (Berlin) needs specimens of Afrotropical Cryptocephalinae: *Acolastus*, *Pachybrachis*, and *Coenobius*.

Dieter Siede (Kasseburg) wants determined specimens of *Timarcha*; possible exchange for Alticinae.

Thomas Wagner (Koblenz) identifying (exchange): afrotropical Galerucinae.

Mystery Object

(continued from pg. 5)



and wonderful larvae in this group. None more so than this month's mystery object, which is the larva of *Aphilon*, a chrysomeline genus of tiny species in New Zealand. More will be revealed later.

We thank Stephen Thorpe (Auckland) for the discovery of these larvae and Sue Lindsay (Australian Museum) for the SEM.

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Call for Papers

Evolutionary History of the Coleopteran Phytophaga, at ICE 2004, Brisbane

Rolf Oberprieler (Canberra) & Catherine N. Duckett (New Brunswick)

This is a call for papers for a symposium on the Evolutionary History of the Coleopteran Phytophaga at the International Congress of Entomology 2004 meetings in Brisbane.

Rolf Oberprieler (CSIRO) and Catherine N. Duckett (Smithsonian Institution) are organizing this symposium, and we hope to attract papers which focus on broader issues in systematics and evolution of the Phytophaga. We are planning a half-day symposium with half of the papers devoted to larger phylogenetic issues in Chrysomeloidea, Curculionoidea and the Phytophaga *in toto*.

The second half of the symposium would be devoted to such evolutionary issues as: the fossil record, host associations, evolution of chemical associations and evolution of Phytophaga before angiosperms. The precise distribution of topics in both halves of the symposium would depend on the papers submitted.

Additionally, we plan to schedule informal activities to encourage intellectual interactions including an evening poster session, field trip and probably an identification work shop. We encourage our colleagues to submit ideas and proposals as early as possible (certainly before 1 October 2003) and we will notify you of paper acceptance as soon possible. Please send one (or both) of us an email as soon as possible to let us know of your interest in participating:

Catherine N. Duckett <cduckett@rci.rutgers.edu>
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Papers on topics closely approximating the following questions will be given preference:

A. When did the Phytophaga originate, and in association with what plant group?

B. How did their evolution and diversification proceed in the early Cretaceous, i.e., before the advent of angiosperms?? How did the two lineages diverge, ecologically and morphologically, during that period?

C. What happened to the Phytophaga (both lineages) in the mid-Cretaceous when the angiosperms began to diversify? Which groups declined or became extinct, which radiated and how? The weevils indicate an early radiation on monocots—is this true also for chrysomeloids, what implications would this have for angiosperm evolution?

D. What happened to the Phytophaga at the K-T boundary when the (in)famous meteorite struck and annihilated the dinosaurs (most of them anyway)? Do our beetles show a similar extinction or at least a hiccup in diversification? Or was it their ticket for explosive radiation?

E. What happened in the Tertiary, when the angiosperms really took off, and why? Did our beetle have a major hand in this? Which dicot groups supported the greatest beetle radiations, is this similar or different in weevils and chrysomeloids (perhaps due to plant chemistry, and which other ecological specializations were the main drivers of their diversification? For example, has root-feeding led to similar diversification in both groups, why is sociality a major evolutionary innovation in weevils (bark beetles) but not in chrysomeloids, has specialization on leaf chemistry (inc. pharmacophagy) led to comparable radiations in chrysomeloids?)

WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR INPUT AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN BRISBANE!

CHYSOMELA Questionnaire

Send your news and updates (changes in your contact information or research interests) to:

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Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, NY 10024-5132

This newsletter is now issued in electronic format (PDF) and hard copies are no longer produced. Ease of availability on the internet coupled with increases in postage and printing prices make the electronic version the preferred method of distribution. If you know a colleague that is unable to access the internet, please make a copy and send it to them.

Those colleagues that keep current addresses and contact numbers with the Editor will be listed on the newsletter roster. Please use the following format and numbering when submitting information to the editor:

1. Today's Date;

2. Name (uppercase SURNAME);
3. Mailing Address, City, State, Zip code, and Country;
4. Phone Numbers to be listed: home, work, FAX;
5. E-mail address to be listed (only one please);
6. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS, general research interests, current projects, future projects, chrysomelid groups of interest, etc.;
7. LITERATURE wanted or surplus (be specific);
8. SPECIMENS to borrow, exchange, etc. (be specific);
9. NEWS, NOTES AND GENERAL INFORMATION of interest to your chrysomelid colleagues (photographs always welcome);
10. PUBLICATIONS ON THE CHYSOMELIDAE (please send your reprints).

The editor will decide on the suitability of all materials submitted for publication. Controversial chrysomelid related subjects can be debated in the 'Forum,' and advertisement of items for sale is not permitted.

Ed. nov.—June 10, 2003