

CHRYSOMELA newsletter

Dedicated to information about the Chrysomelidae

Report No. 48

June 2007

49th Meeting of German Coleopterists



Leaf beetle workers from seven European countries (six in this photo) met in Beutelsbach (from left): sitting Frank Fritzlar (Jena, Germany), Wolfgang Bäse (Reinsdorf, Germany), Ron Beenen (Nieuwegein, The Netherlands). (Standing, from left): Andrzej Warchalowski (Wroclaw, Poland), Michel and Barbara Bergéal (Versailles, France), Matthias Schöller (Berlin, Germany), Eva Sprecher-Uebersax (Basel, Switzerland), Thomas Wagner (Koblenz, Germany), Mauro Daccordi (Torino, Italy), Theo Michael Schmitt (Bonn, Germany), Horst Kippenberg (Herzogenaurach, Germany).

(See Story page 3)

Research Activities and Interests

Robert Barney (Frankfort, KY) is currently working on a series of publications on the leaf beetles of Kentucky. All the major collections in Kentucky have been reviewed and re-identified and a major effort to collect in state nature preserves is under way. The first manuscript on the Cassidinae has been completed with co-authors Shawn

Clark and Ed Riley and 13 new state records are reported. He would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone with specimens from Kentucky or knowledge of people who may have such specimens. He is also interested in borrowing/exchanging *Pachybrachis* spp., especially from the eastern USA, and *P. m-nigrum*.

Continued on page 2

Inside This Issue

- 1- Research activities and interests
- 2- Contents, Editor's page
- 3- 49th meeting of German Coleopterists
- 3- Entomological Society of America, annual meetings
- 4- Travel tips for ICE congress
- 5- Chrysomelid hunting in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- 6- Mermithid parasites of *Timarcha*
- 7- Brazilian rain forest chrysomelids
- 8- Chrysomelid reunion in Bavaria, Germany
- 8- USNM visitors
- 8- International meetings
- 9- Al Samuelson's retirement
- 10- New books and Announcements
- 11- Opinion: the waltz of species
- 12- *Pachnephorus* claw morphology
- 13- New chrysomelid literature
- 16- Members' emails
- 18- Questionnaire, Submission guidelines

The Editor's Page

Caroline S. Chaboo (USA)

Greetings Colleagues!

There is much interesting news in this volume. First, please note updates on the ICE meetings. I encourage you to attend our Olympics of Entomology!

There are two major changes regarding *CHRYSOMELA*. First, Brian Farell and Ed Riley are leaving the editorial board to make way for new members. Thanks to both for years of service!! Michael Schmitt (Germany) and Vivian Flinte (Brazil) have volunteered to fill these vacancies. Second, please note that *CHRYSOMELA* has a new home. This is due to my new position as Assistant Professor/Curator in the Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and in the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, USA. I look forward to building a chrysomelid research lab and to further collaborations with you.

I thank all contributors to this volume for their updates, articles, and images. Without you, there would be no *CHRYSOMELA*!

Best wishes, and happy hunting for chrysos!

- CSC

Research Activities and Interests

Boris Beuche (Germany) has established a website on beetles of Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, as an aid to students from SE Asia who lack facilities for an easy initial approach to identification. See his site at www.beetle-diversity.com.

Christian Bontems (Palaiseau, France) is willing to identify, borrow, and obtain literature on the genus *Oreina*.

Armando Burgos-Solorio (Morelos, Mexico) is willing to identify, borrow, and obtain literature on Chrysomelinae.

Dan Funk (Nashville, TN) studies host specialization, speciation, phylogenetics, and asexual evolution in *Neochlamisus* and *Calligrapha*. He would appreciate any help obtaining *Neochlamisus*, other Chlamisini, and *Calligrapha* material, especially if ethanol-preserved or frozen.

Ali Gök (Isparta, Turkey) is currently working on the biodiversity of leaf beetles of the Kasnak Oak Nature Protection area in Isparta, and is also interested in the taxonomy of aquatic leaf beetles of southwest Turkey.

Eugene W. Hall (Boulder, CO) is interested in chrysomelid higher-level classification and morphology of the spermatheca, hind-wing and pterothorax in Chrysomelidae.

Frantisek Kantner (Dubne, Czech Republic) continues work on the taxonomy of Old World Clytrinae. He is finishing the results of a 2005 Indian expedition and is willing to determine Clytrinae of the Old World.

Gaël Kergoat (Montferrier-sur-Lez, France) has a research theme - the evolution of the interactions between phytophagous insects and their host-plants. He is using seed-beetles (Bruchinae) as a model to study their systematics, ecology and evolution with various approaches (e.g., molecular phylogenetics, morphometrics). He is interested in seed-beetle specimens (EtOH-preserved specimens, if possible). He is especially interested in Australian species and by members of *Bruchidius*. He can share literature on Bruchinae.

Chi-Feng Lee (Tainan, Taiwan) is an assistant professor of National Cheng Kung University who works on systematics of Coleoptera. He is interested in the taxonomy of Taiwanese Chrysomelidae and would like help identifying these. He would also like to borrow or exchange chrysomelids from the Palaearctic and Oriental regions.

Continued on page 9

The Newsletter CHRYMOMELA-Founded 1979-is published semiannually, usually in June and December. It is hosted by the Division of Entomology, 1501 Crestline Drive, Suite 140, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, USA, 66049-2811. E-mail: cschaboo@ku.edu. This newsletter is sent to students of Chrysomelidae to encourage the exchange of ideas and to disseminate information on these insects. **Editor:** Caroline S. Chaboo, Kansas. **Advisors:** David Furth, Washington; Vivian Flinte, Rio de Janeiro; R. Wills Flowers, Tallahassee; Elizabeth Grobbelaar, Pretoria; Pierre Jolivet, Paris; Alex Konstantinov, Washington; Chris Reid, Sydney; Al Samuelson, Honolulu; Michael Schmitt, Bonn; and Terry N. Seeno, Sacramento.

49th Meeting of German Coleopterists

Michael Schmitt (Germany)

As it happens every year, German-speaking coleopterists met at the convention centre “Landgut Burg” (close to Beutelsbach near Stuttgart in Southern Germany) on the weekend of October 28/29. Among them were also colleagues working on leaf beetles (Front page, this page). Some of them are cooperating on a faunistics project on Central European Chrysomelidae. This project was introduced before to readers in *CHRYSOMELA* no. 19-23: 17 (1990) by Walter Steinhausen; reports on subsequent meetings have been made by Ron Beenen (*CHRYSOMELA* no. 35: 5, 1998) and Frank Fritzlär (40/41: 4, 2001).



Manfred Doeberl (Abensberg, Germany) and Elisabeth Geiser (Salzburg, Austria) enjoying the meeting.

by him, and Michael Schmitt presented a talk on the life and work of Carl Linnaeus – in anticipation of the Linnaeus-year in 2007.

The faunistics working group had an informal meeting where the participants agreed to put preliminary results on the internet. Some initial distribution maps have been produced by means of DMAP (by Alan Morton, www.dmap.co.uk) and can be seen on our museum’s homepage (<http://www.zfmk.de/web/Forschung/Abteilungen/Entomologie/Coleoptera/Projekte/chryfaun/index.de.html>). The

This year, no lecture on leaf beetles was presented, but two leaf beetle workers gave talks on other topics. Thomas Wagner introduced a new book series “Coleoptera of Europe”, to be published with Apollo Books and edited

computer programme we use (CHRYFAUN), previously mentioned by Frank Fritzlär, will completely be reshaped. I shall report on the progress in a future *CHRYSOMELA* issue.

Entomological Society of America, Annual meetings 2005-2006

The annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America is always a traditional opportunity for informal gatherings of chrysomelid researchers, particularly those working in the United States. In recent years, Shawn Clark has become our “leader” in organizing informal luncheon meetings, to catch up with each other, welcome new researchers, hear about research and fieldwork, and exchange reprints and specimens. The programs of past meetings can be accessed at the ESA’s internet site: http://www.entsoc.org/annual_meeting/Past_meetings/index.htm

In 2005, the meeting was held in December in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The program as usual contained many formal talks and posters that dealt with chrysomelids in some way or other. Chrysomelid enthusiasts met twice over lunch (Fig. 1) and at other ESA events (Fig. 2).

In December 2006, the ESA annual meeting occurred in Indianapolis and there were many formal talks and posters dealing with chrysomelids. The 2006 lunch was attended by 15 researchers, a mix of established researchers and new students. Congratulations to Duane McKenna who was awarded first place in the student competition for his presentation, ‘Tropical forests are both evolutionary cradles and museums of leaf beetle diversity’.



Figure 1. (Back row, from left): Alexey Tischekin, Shawn Clark, Alex Konstantinov, Jonathan Osbourne. (Front row, from left): Janet Ciegler, Caroline Chaboo, Lourdes Chamorro-Lacayo, Mark Goodman) (photo: Eric Smith).



Figure 2. T.C. Baker, Penn State University (left) and David Furth (right) at the Cornell University mixer. (photo: CSC)

- CS Chaboo

Travel tips in conjunction with the ICE Meeting

Caroline S. Chaboo (USA)

Southern Africa has long been a dream destination for me, and I finally created an interesting research project that allowed fieldwork and vacations in South Africa and Botswana. In 2005, my fieldwork explored North West and Limpopo Provinces, and later my husband and I vacationed in Kruger National Park. In 2006, my fieldwork was in Kwa-Zulu Natal (see pg 5), including Durban's beach front. The tips below are based on my budget experience. Please contribute other recommendations to CHRYSEMELA 49.

Within each park are smaller gated areas, small "villages" with petrol stations, shops, laundry, and a mix of accommodations that include ultra luxurious private game reserves (over \$1000+ per night), lodges, cottages, chalets, rondavels (round, thatched roof houses), and safari tents and huts (appealing, affordable luxury). Lodgings have bedding and ablutions, and may have kitchen with fridge, stove and dishes (even cork screws for wine bottles!), and open-air braai (barbecue) facilities. [Lock up personal items as baboons do invade and steal things]. Park shops supply essentials: food (including biltong (jerky) of certain game animals), liquor, souvenirs, batteries, film, and fuel. You can bring in food purchased outside of Kruger, or buy basic groceries in camp stores, or eat in camp restaurants within Kruger. We brought in our breakfast and lunch supplies, and found Kruger restaurant dinners of uneven quality (we plan to braai more next time). Although South Africa has one of the best drinking water qualities in the world, we also brought in our water (and some terrific South African wines, quality box wines, and unusual grape varieties like pinotage).

A **very important fact** to remember as you plan your day-to-day activities is that each lodging area has gates, and you can only drive in and out within fixed opening times (e.g., 5 am to 6 pm), to avoid being caught in the open park overnight (and being eaten by a lion). The park maps (as glossy color booklets in park shops or as downloads from their website), with all the campsites, gate times, and distances marked, are **enormously helpful** in planning daily schedules. Many park roads are paved and very well marked, and gasoline is sold in lodging areas. [Generally, driving in the South African countryside is similar to that in Australia or Arizona - wide open spaces]. Inside parks, it is prohibited to get out of your car, except in designated areas. These designated sites, usually with spectacular views over a river or waterhole, are must-sees as they are reliable for viewing many animals.

From Durban, one can drive south along the "elephant coast" [www.elephantcoast.kzn.org.za], west to the Drakensberg mountains and Lesotho, or north to Mozambique. I found the Kwa-Zulu Natal Wildlife Authorities among the most responsive and best organized park officials. Each of the following parks were special to me:

Umfolozi/Hluhluwe Game Reserve:

www.kznwildlife.com/hluhluwe_dest.htm

Ndumo Game Reserve: www.kznwildlife.com/ndumo_dest.htm

Tembe Elephant Park: <http://www.tembe.co.za/>. They have elephants! As well as an excellent viewing tower at a water hole. This is owned and managed by the Tembe tribe.

Greater St. Lucia Wetlands: <http://www.stlucia.org.za/> This is a UNESCO world heritage site close to Durban.

Kruger National Park: www.kruger.park.co.za

Maps: www.krugerpark.co.za/Maps_of_Kruger_Park-travel/kruger-national-park-main-map.html

Accommodation: www.krugerpark.co.za/

Kruger National Park Lodging & Camping Guide-travel

Kruger must be on everyone's wish list. A visit and lodging are easy to arrange on the park's website. There are many entry gates into Kruger where you pay the entry fee; the nearest one from Durban is Malelane. We arranged to stay in rondavels in Skukuza, Satara, Pretoriuskop, and Letaba camps; this itinerary explores how the park ecology changes from south to north. Afternoon tea at Olifants camp, with its spectacular terrace overlooking the Olifants River, convinced us to stay there and explore the wilder northern part of Kruger in the future. One can also arrange optional guided game drives (at fixed times of day and night) and exhilarating bush walks on the park's website; I highly recommend arranging a mixed combination for each camp to experience Kruger with a knowledgeable guide, see far more animals than you would on your own, and get into areas that only guides access. However don't arrange too many per day since the early morning drives begin around 4am!

INSECT COLLECTIONS & COLLECTING

South African National Collection of Insects, Pretoria, www.arc.agric.za/home.asp?pid=898

I highly recommend the Brooklyn Guest House, 148 Murray St., Pretoria, www.brooklynguesthouses.co.za, where many university visitors stay. A comfortable, secure, intimate atmosphere, home-cooked meals overlooking their pool, a very friendly staff, and taxi service, all combine to make this my family home in Pretoria.

Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, www.nfi.co.zan/tmpage.html

Iziko South African Museum, Cape Town,

www.iziko.org.za/sam/

Insect Collecting Permits: These are required in South Africa. However ICE is occurring during mid-winter which is not the best time to collect. Permit information is available at www.ice2008.org.za/Insect_Collection.asp

Travel medicine: Centers for Disease Control, www.cdc.gov/

In-country low-cost air carriers: www.flymango.com;

www.ltime.aero; www.kulula.com

Other travel information: www.nytimes.com/travel

[insert "South Africa" for destination]

CHRYSEMELA 48, June 2007

Chrysomelid Research in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Elizabeth Grobbelaar (South Africa) and Caroline S. Chaboo (USA)

Pooling resources and expertise is certainly the way to go if you want to get things done. January 2006 saw Caroline Chaboo, currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Cullman Molecular Laboratory, American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), New York, and Beth Grobbelaar of the South African National Collection of Insects (SANC), Pretoria, embark on a highly successful and memorable field expedition. In this way resources and expertise from the AMNH and the SANC facilitated extensive and dedicated collecting in the following KwaZulu-Natal reserves: Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve, Charters Creek Game Reserve, Mkuzi Game Reserve, Kosi Bay Nature Reserve, Kosi Bay Mouth Nature Reserve, Tembe Elephant Park and Ndumo Game Reserve, so promoting research on southern African Chrysomelidae.

The expedition was hardly under way when we were joined and enthused by our till then 'correspondence colleague' Hugh Heron, who lives in Durban, not too far from the Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve - our first base camp (Fig. 1). Hugh has a wide knowledge of several fields,



Fig. 1 (from left): Vincent v.d. Merwe (field assistant), Beth Grobbelaar, Hugh Heron, and Caroline Chaboo.

including geology, and has already published six scientific articles on South African cassidine (his interests and publications are given in Heron, 2004). His boundless energy, deep knowledge of the local plants and chrysomelids, and great conversation set a high standard to follow for the rest of the trip. A visit to his friends at Bethel Farm, about 20 km W Port Shepstone, delivered some cassidine gems - the leaf-mining *Notosacantha*! Hugh's amazing observational skills had led to his discovery of some excellent collecting sites that we would otherwise not have had the privilege of visiting. One such unlikely site was Shelly Beach, about 5.5 km SSW Port Shepstone - a veritable 'goldmine' of cassidines and hispines, including *Basipta stolida* Boheman (Fig. 2-



Figs. 2-3. *Basipta stolida* (adults left, larva right) (Photo: EG).

3), whose larvae await description. Caroline's main focus was the Bushman Arrow Poison Beetles of the genera *Diamphidia* (Fig. 4) and *Polyclada* (Galerucinae). Her interest lies in the trophic relationships between these Leaf Beetle genera, their parasitoids, and their host plants of the genus *Commiphora* (Burseraceae).

Although some associations have previously been documented, Caroline and her international collaborators are developing hypotheses of historical relationships between the genera involved, using molecular data to elucidate the evolution of their specialized lifestyles and detect possible patterns of co-evolution. Our survey in the KwaZulu-Natal Province was a continuation of research she began in 2005, in North West and Limpopo provinces, in conjunction with Dr. Clarke Scholtz and his students at the University of Pretoria.

Although keeping an eye open for Bushman Arrow Poison beetles, Beth was collecting with a view to



Fig. 4. *Diamphidia nigroornata* (Photo: EG).

supplement the already extensive leaf beetle collection at the SANC, simultaneously gathering valuable host plant data. One of the main objectives of our combined fieldwork on this trip was to attempt to determine the most southerly distribution of the Bushman Arrow Poison beetles. General daytime collecting involved the use of beating sheets and visual inspection, both yielding much invaluable new data on a wide range of chrysomelid subfamilies. Numerous hitherto unknown immatures were collected, and their host plant associations documented, providing a rich source of new information for several manuscripts.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute is verifying our host plant samples. Light trapping also kept us busy, sometimes into the early morning hours; such traps always provide interesting collecting opportunities and this trip was no exception. Besides collecting numerous nocturnal beetle species with a light trap in the Kosi Bay Nature Reserve, a new species of Ant Lion (Neuroptera) was also collected.

Our expedition was highly successful in meeting objectives for biological study and specimen collections. Our first paper on the arrow-poison beetles (Chaboo, Grobbelaar and Larsen, in press) involved a third collaborator, Arne Larsen who worked in Namibia. Our second paper, (Grobbelaar and Chaboo, in press) records *Metrioepepla* in South Africa for the first time. We have several more manuscripts on the southern African leaf beetle fauna underway.

With jewels like this *Sagra* (*Tinosagra*) *bicolor* Lacordaire (Fig. 5) collected at



Fig. 5. *Sagra* (*Tinosagra*) *bicolor* (Photo: EG).

Mermithid parasites of *Timarcha*

George Poinar Jr. (USA), Stefano Zoia (Italy), and Pierre Jolivet (France)

Nematode parasites of Chrysomelidae are not common but do occur from time to time and include representatives of the Mermithidae, Allantonematidae, Heterorhabditidae and Steinernematidae (Poinar, 1988). No nematode parasites of members of the genus *Timarcha* have been reported, so it was of interest when a male specimen of *Timarcha* (*Timarchostoma*) *obsoleta* Laboissiere, 1937 was found to contain 3 mermithid nematodes (Figs. 1, 2). The parasitized *Timarcha* was collected by R. Sciaky from the Pyrenees Atl., Pic d'Orhy,

France, on July 15, 1995.

The three nematodes were intertwined and occupied the entire abdominal and thoracic cavities of the host beetle (Fig. 1). After soaking the specimens in glycerin for several days, it was possible to separate them (Fig. 2). Their lengths were 95, 125 and 110 mm. It is obvious that the beetle was sterilized by these parasites since very little of the reproductive system remained.



Aside from the sclerotized part of the aedeagus, only a few membranous structures remained in the abdominal cavity.

While it is not possible to identify the mermithids to genus since they were still in the juvenile parasitic stages and diagnostic sexual characters had not yet formed, they possessed some characters of the *Hexameris-Ovimeris* complex (cross fibers in the cuticle, tail

projection, 6 head papillae in one plane), which is a widespread group attacking a range of terrestrial insects and gastropods. Once mature, these nematodes would have entered the soil, molted to the adult stage, mated and oviposited. It is probable that the infective stage mermithids, leaving the eggs, entered the body cavity of the beetle larva and were carried through the pupal and into the adult stage. The mermithids probably attack a range of insects in the same environment and are not specific to members of the genus *Timarcha*. The rate of parasitism and the effect of these parasites on *T. obsoleta* populations is unknown.

Citations

Poinar, Jr., G.O. 1988. Nematode parasites of Chrysomelidae. In: Biology of Chrysomelidae, P. Jolivet, E. Petitpierre and T.H. Hsiao (eds.). Kluwer Acad. Pub. 433-448.

(Continued from page 5)

Chrysomelid Research KZN, South Africa

Kosi Bay Mouth Nature Reserve, we hope the international chrysomelid community will devote more time and energy to getting to know the southern African Fauna.

Citations

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Chaboo, C.S., E. Grobbelaar, and A. Larsen. In press. Fecal ecology in leaf beetles: novel records in the African arrow-poison beetles, *Diamphidia* Gerstaecker and *Polyclada* Chevrolat (Chrysomelidae: Galerucinae). Coleopterists Bulletin.

Heron, H.D.C. 2004. Whither South African cassidine research? Chrysomela Newsletter 43: 11-12.

- E. Grobbelaar & C.S. Chaboo

(Continued from page 15)

Chrysomelid Literature

Zoia, S. 2007. New data on African Eumolpinae from the collection of the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae). *Dtsch. Entomol. Z.* 54(1): 64-74.

Zvereva, E.L., & N.E. Rank. 2003. Host plant effects on parasitoid attack on the leaf beetle *Chrysomela lapponica*. *Oecologia* 135: 258-267.

Zvereva, E.L., & N.E. Rank. 2004. Fly parasitoid *Megaselia opacicornis* uses defensive secretions of the leaf beetle *Chrysomela lapponica* to locate its host. *Oecologia* 140: 516-522.

Chrysomelidae of a tropical rain forest, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Vivian Flinte (Brazil)

During my undergraduate years I studied the population ecology and behavior of chlamisine *Fulcidax monstrosa* and my master's project extended the focus to other phytophagous insects associated to the same host plant, *Byrsonima sericea* (Malpighiaceae), in coastal sand dunes northeast in the State of Rio de Janeiro. In March 2005 I began my thesis project at the Ecology Graduation Program in the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, aiming to study the Chrysomelidae ecology and distribution in Serra dos Órgãos National Park, a tropical rain forest, which may be accessed through the city of Teresópolis, about 50 minutes from Rio de Janeiro. In this way, I continued at the Insect Ecology Laboratory, having Margarete de Macedo and Ricardo Monteiro as advisors, but changed my study area, hoping to learn more on tropical Chrysomelidae.

Serra dos Órgãos National Park has a wide altitudinal range, going from about 300m above sea level to 2,263m at



Serra dos Orgaos National Park

its highest point, making it a very interesting area to study chrysomelids (and Coleoptera, in general) distribution along an altitudinal gradient. Research on this subject in Brazil has been limited but include Carneiro et al. (1995)

and Ribeiro et al. (1993). We are using yellow adhesive traps, hung about 1.5 to 2m height, to collect insects on six different altitudes, and sampling takes place once every two months, until February 2008. In addition, we are surveying monthly four different host plant species along this gradient, making notes on the abundance of their associated chrysomelids and on plant phenology, size and leaf numbers. The surveys should last until January 2008 and the changes in number of individuals of each species will be analyzed in time and altitude and correlated with plant features, such as leaf size and number, phenology and height, and, if possible, also with abiotic characteristics (temperature, precipitation and radiation).

One major interest has been the biology and population ecology of Cassidinae and Chrysomelinae. Finding the host plant, rearing species in the laboratory, and surveying the hosts in the field has been our approach to accessing important data on these two subfamilies. We have already recorded about 50 Cassidinae (at least three new species!) and 25 Chrysomelinae species in the study area, but I am sure that many more are still to be found. Dr. Donald Windsor (Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute,

Panama) and Dr. Lech Borowiec (University of Wroclaw, Poland) are helping us with the identification of the tortoise beetles, and Dr. Charles Staines (National Museum of



Some chrysomelid found in the park.

Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.), with hispine beetles. At the invitation of Don Windsor, I spent two weeks at STRI, Panama, in December 2006, and thanks to this wonderful collaboration we could run molecular analyses and make

tests for *Wolbachia* on brazilian Cassidinae. Based on these results, we should be able, for example, to compare the phylogeny of the *Plagiometriona* species in Serra dos Órgãos National Park with the one of their solanaceous host plants which are being analyzed by Dr. Todd Barkman

(Western Michigan University, Michigan) and his lab team. We are extremely thankful for all these collaborations, which are so important for the success of our research. Field support, provided by



Vivian on the peaks in Serra dos Orgaos National Park.

Cecilia Cronenberger de Faria and Ernesto Bastos Viveiros de Castro (IBAMA, Parque Nacional Serra dos Órgãos) has also been crucial for our work. We have already written a manuscript on the Cassidinae of the park, which is expected to be published in the new *Research on Chrysomelidae*, edited by Pierre Jolivet, Jorge Santiago-Blay, and Michael Schmitt.



Vivian and Don Windsor at the STRI Christmas party.

Reunion in Germany November 2006



(from right): Horst Kippenberg, Andrzej Warchalowski, Siqin Ge, and Mauro Daccardi.

A few chrysomelid researchers (in photo) met in Herzogenaurach (Bavaria), Germany, in November 2006, to discuss several faunistic and taxonomic problems and questions in their current projects regarding Chrysomelinae of the Eastern Palearctic and the Northern Oriental Region.

- Horst Kippenberg

International Date Book

- 2007 Hennig Meeting, New Orleans, USA; June 28-July 2, www.cladistics.org
- 2007 Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Mexico, July 15-19; www.atbio.org
- 2007 Animal Behavior Society, July 21-26, USA; www.animalbehavior.org
- 2007 Entomological Society of America, Dec 9-12 San Diego, CA, USA; www.entsoc.org
- Coleopterists Society, annual meeting
- Informal chrysomelid lunch - contact S. Clark
- 2008 International Congress in Entomology, Durban, South Africa, July 6-12; <http://www.ice2008.org.za/>
- 7th International Symposium on Chrysomelidae
- Informal Weekend Chrysomelid Meeting
- contact: Michael Schmitt
- 2008 Entomological Society of America, Nov 16-19, Reno, Nevada, USA; www.entsoc.org
- Coleopterists Society, annual meeting
- Informal chrysomelid lunch - contact S. Clark

US National Museum visit May 2007



Prof. Vilma Savini (left; Universidad Central de Venezuela, Maracay, Venezuela) visited David Furth (right; Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA) in April/May 2007 to study Alticinae especially from Costa Rica as well as some other Neotropical areas.

7th International Symposium on Chrysomelidae, 2008

The plans for the next International Symposium on the Chrysomelidae (7th ISC) have been approved by the organising committee of the 23rd International Congress of Entomology (ICE), July 6 – 12, 2008, in Durban, South Africa. It is scheduled in the Section ‘Special Issues’ on Friday, July 11. As in the previous years, we shall also have an informal meeting on Saturday July 12. At the moment, I am planning a field trip on Sunday July 13, but I cannot give further details at this time.

Since the congress organizers want to know the number of participants and have also asked for participants’ name, I would be grateful if any of you who are considering participating to please send me a note.

The proceedings of this symposium will be published in the new series “Research on the Chrysomelidae”, co-edited by Pierre Jolivet, Jorge Santiago-Blay and myself. I hope to see many of you in Durban in 2008.

- Michael Schmitt

Help Identify this Chlamisine!



A clue: this was collected in French Guiana. Please respond to M.C. Thomas, thomasm@doacs.state.fl.us

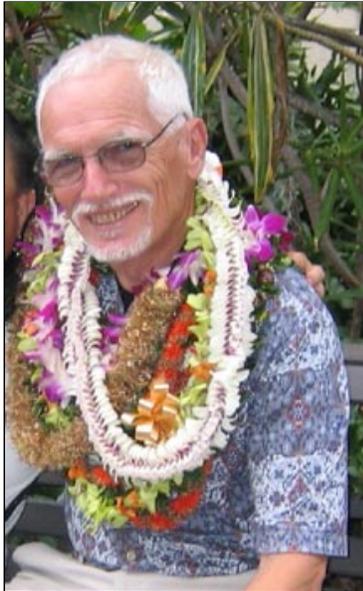
Insect Permits, ICE Congress

Essential details are available at the ICE 2008 website: http://www.ice2008.org.za/Insect_Collecting.htm

- Riaan Staals

Al Samuelson retirement

Al Samuelson's official retirement from active duty at Bishop Museum, which took place at the end of June 2006, does not mean "full retirement" for Al. Indeed, Al's office is still extant at the museum, where he will be concentrating on some stalled projects, some of which began during the late J. Linsley Gressitt period.



One area of special concern is that some years ago, the Australian alticine fauna was to be reviewed by Gerhard Scherer (Munich) and Samuelson but this intention was never fulfilled due to other pressing priorities in

each of their institutions. Soon, loans of this Australian material, still at Bishop Museum and partly studied, will be returned to the appropriate collections. It is our hope that the fauna will be studied in greater depth, genus by genus, and that the present material to be returned will figure importantly in such future studies.

Presently, Al has largely narrowed his scope to Pacific island leaf beetle faunas, including a study of the Fijian fauna with Chris Reid (Sydney), plus a general overview of Hawaiian Coleoptera.

The entomological collection management routines at Bishop Museum are now ably handled by Shepherd Myers (shepherd.myers@bishopmuseum.org), who continues also to streamline and improve curatorial procedures at the museum.

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From page 2 Research Activities and Interests

Konstantin Nadein (St. Petersburg, Russia) studies taxonomy, classification, phylogeny, morphology, paleontology and genetics of Alticini (Galerucinae), as well as classification and phylogeny of Galerucinae. He is currently involved in a taxonomic and faunistic study the Palearctic and Oriental Alticini. His works include a monograph "Revision of the genus *Psylliodes* Latr. of the Palearctic Region"; taxonomic reviews of species-group of *Psylliodes*; general morphology of *Psylliodes*; review of Oriental *Psylliodes*; taxonomic revisions of *Aeschrocnemis* and *Mniophila*; revision and taxonomic position of *Lipromorpha*; morphology, composition, and taxonomic position of the subtribe Diboliina; and morphology of the head, thorax and female genitalia of Alticini and Galerucini.

Kenji Nishida (San Jose, Costa Rica) has successfully completed his M.Sc. degree at the University of Costa Rica. He is continuing to work on chrysomelid articles and photography. Congratulations!!

Eduard Petitpierre (Palma, Spain) is a university professor at the Universitat de les Illes Balears. His wide interest in the genetics and biodiversity of Spanish Chrysomelidae is reflected in numerous publications and congress presentations. He has been working on the chrysomelid fauna of the Balears Islands and the chrysomelids and cerambycids of Sa Dragonera with an inventory of their host plants.

Nathan Rank (Sonoma, CA) is interested in the population biology and evolutionary ecology of *Chrysomela* species. He focuses on interactions with host plants and predators, responses to thermal stress and adaptation to climate change, and the adaptive significance of enzyme polymorphisms. He is also interested in information about, or specimens of, *Chrysomela* in the *interrupta* subgroup. At the moment, he is most interested in species from Western North America, but is happy to learn more about other parts of the world. He can share his knowledge of California species or provide specimens from California.

Michael Schmitt (Bonn, Germany) studies the functional morphology of genitalia in bruchids, cerambycids and chrysomelids; the functional role of the head sulci in Criocerinae and other Chrysomelidae; phylogenetic relationships of Criocerinae; and jumping behavior and mechanisms in Alticinae.

Teiji Sota (Kyoto, Japan) does research on phylogeny and phylogeography of the subfamily Donaciinae using molecular methods, and is very interested in obtaining Donaciinae specimens for DNA extraction.

Johann Stenberg (Umeå, Sweden) has launched a blog on the internet, www.insect-plant.com, that is intended to review recent papers dealing with insect-plant interactions.

Walter Steinhausen (Innsbruck, Austria) works on biology, ecology, morphology and systematics of immature stages.

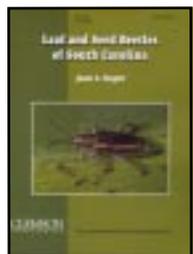
New Book on Chrysomelidae

Leaf and Seed Beetles of South Carolina (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae and Orsodacnidae). 2007. Biota of South Carolina, Volume 4: 246 pages, TB 1104 — \$40.00.
by **Janet C. Ciegler**

A faunal survey of the leaf and seed beetles (including Bruchinae) of South Carolina is presented. Keys, brief descriptions, photographs, and drawings are provided to aid in identifying the 498 species that have been found or are likely to occur in South Carolina. It was written because, until now, there was no single book that would permit identification of leaf beetles from the Southeast. The fourth in the “Biota of South Carolina” series, this book should make it possible for any serious collector, amateur or professional, to identify any leaf beetle found in the state or in nearby southeastern states.

This publication sells for \$40.00 (price includes all taxes, shipping and handling charges) and can be ordered either on the Internet, with credit card, at <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing> [search on “Biota”], or

by sending a check or money order payable to Clemson University:
Public Service Bulletin Room, 96 Poole Agricultural Center, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634–0129 - USA.



Pierre Jolivet's Memoires

Mémoires Entomologiques paramémoires d'un timarchophile. 2006. Pensoft, Sofia, 348 pp.
by **Pierre Jolivet**



Available at Pensoft for 22 Euros. Order online at www.pensoft.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Postdoctoral Opening

Vasily Grebennikov is looking to recruit a motivated postdoc to study systematics and biology of phytophagous beetles primarily from the North Asia Pacific Region and which pose a risk to Canadian plant resources. The successful candidate will be located in Vasily's lab at the Neatby Building in Ottawa with ready access to the Canadian National Collection of Insects and a comprehensive entomology library; both the largest of their types in Canada. Familiarity with DNA-based research, as well as some ability to speak Chinese/Russian, is helpful although not required. For additional information please contact Vasily at: grebennikovv@inspection.gc.ca.

Insecting Collecting trips. Nicaragua, June 2007 or November 2007. More information is available at www.bio-nica.info > field trips.

Coleoptera For Sale. Many families from Chile, Central Argentina and Paraguay, determined and undetermined, with complete collecting data. If you are interested in some groups, please contact me: Jorge Jensen, Santiago de Chile; e-mail- jjensen@terra.cl

From page 11

Opinion: waltz of species

and of the second *Gallia*, this is in short the only differential character between the two. These two taxa have remained unknown to entomologists for one and a half centuries.

Recently one of us, whom I shall not name, thought it would be a good idea to reinstate these two names in order to invalidate *Chrysomela caerulea* OLIVIER, 1790, a name which had been used consistently by numerous authors since its original description. This a typical example of a case that should have been submitted to the Commission in order to apply the rule, in as much as it was at all necessary to reinstate both forgotten names, especially when the first name already invalidates the second one.

Please, focus your attention on naming the numerous species that are being discovered in the framework of the revision works whenever possible. Take your time and be thorough rather than racing for vainglory. What is most important is the naming of new species after mature reflection! A word to the wise is enough.

Opinion: the waltz of the species

Jean-Claude Bourdonné (France)

Nomenclatural upheavals observed over several decades lead me to mention some rules which are advised by the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) edition 1999, stated below.

1 – The usage rule.

Preamble. Extract.

Priority of publication is a basic principle of zoological nomenclature; however, under conditions prescribed in the Code its application may be modified to conserve a long-accepted name in its accustomed meaning. When stability of nomenclature is threatened in an individual case, the strict application of the Code may be suspended under specified conditions by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

Article 23. Principle of Priority. Extract.

23.2. **Purpose.** In accordance with the objects of the Code (see Preamble), the Principle of Priority is to be used to promote stability and it is not intended to be used to upset a long-accepted name in its accustomed meaning by the production of a name that is its senior synonym or homonym (for certain such cases see Article 23.9), or through an action taken following the discovery of a prior and hitherto unrecognised nomenclatural act (such as a prior type fixation; for such cases see Article 70.2 and 75.6).

23.9. **Reversal of precedence.** In accordance with the purpose of the Principle of Priority [Art. 23.2], its application is moderated as follows:

23.9.1. prevailing usage must be maintained when the following conditions are both met:

23.9.1.1. the senior synonym or homonym has not been used as a valid name after 1899, and 23.9.1.2. the junior synonym or homonym has been used a particular taxon, as its presumed valid name, in at least 25 works, published by at least 10 authors in the immediately preceding 50 years and encompassing a span of not less than 10 years.

Article 24. Precedence between simultaneously published names, spelling or acts. Extract.

24-2. **Determination by the first Reviser.** Extract.

24.2.1. Statement of the Principle of the First Reviser.

When the precedence between names or nomenclatural acts cannot be objectively determined, the precedence is fixed by the action of the first author citing in a published work those names or acts and selecting from them: this author is termed the “First Reviser”.

Article 52. Principle of Homonymy. Extract.

52.3. **Principle of Priority applies.** The relative precedence of homonyms (including primary and secondary homonyms in the case of species-group names) is determined by

applying the relevant provisions of the Principles of Priority and the First Reviser [Art. 23, 24].

2 – The designation of neotypes.

Article 75. Extract.

75.2. **Circumstances excluded.** A neotype is not to be designated as an end in itself, or as a matter of curatorial routine, and any such neotype designation is invalid.

75.3. **Qualifying conditions.** Extract. A neotype is validly designated when there is an exceptional need and only when that need is stated expressly and when the designation is published with the following particulars:

75.3.5. evidence that the neotype is consistent with what is known of the former name-bearing type from the original description and from other sources; ...

75.3.6. evidence that the neotype came as nearly as practicable from the original type locality [Art. 76.1] ...

Recommendation 75B. Consultation with specialists.

Before designating a neotype, an author should be satisfied that the proposed designation does not arouse serious objection from other specialists in the group in question.

75.6. **Conservation of prevailing usage by a neotype.** When the author discovers that the existing name-bearing type of a nominal species-group taxon is not in taxonomic accord with the prevailing usage names and stability or universality is threatened thereby, he or she should maintain prevailing usage [Art. 82] and request the Commission to set aside under its plenary power [Art.81] the existing name-bearing type and designate a neotype.

3 – Code of Ethics.

Appendix A. Extract.

3. A zoologist should not publish a new replacement name (or nomen novum) or other substitute name for a junior homonym when the author of the latter is alive; that author should be informed of the homonymy and be allowed a reasonable time (at least a year) in which to establish a substitute name.

Then, dear colleagues, please refrain from needlessly disrupting the nomenclature by unearthing names that have been forgotten for over a century or never used, on the pretence (pretext) to create the opportunity to affix your name through association.

I shall cite one example only: VILLERS, native of Lyons (France), publishing “Caroli Linnaei Entomologia” in 1789 describes a first *Chrysomela caerulea* on page 146 and a second *Chrysomela caerulea* on page 158. The first *Chrysomela* can hop and the second one cannot, if we accept in point of fact that the host of the first is *Brassica*

Continued on page 10

CHRYSOMELA 48, June 2007

Some observations on *Pachnephorus* claws (Eumolpinae)

Stefano Zoia (Italy)

This concerns my morphological observations about the genus *Pachnephorus*, which may possibly interest other Chrysomelidae specialists. The following preliminary notes can be a hint for further discussions, without any assumptions about either evolution or phylogeny.

At present, there are only few comprehensive studies about *Pachnephorus*; they concern only some portions of the Palaearctic region and include some dichotomous keys, which are seemingly based on works by Fairmaire (1861), Lefèvre (1876) and on original descriptions, without the examination of type specimens. In my experience, based mainly on African species, original descriptions are incomplete and do not allow any correct identification; also, they often miss some important characters due to the lacking of a solid taxonomy of the group.

Two years ago I began a revision of Afrotropical *Pachnephorus*. I was soon astonished about the number of still undescribed species in comparison to the number named, whose types I have already examined. Eleven species were previously reported from the region (including Madagascar); yet only eight are still valid, because two belong to the genus *Mecistes*, that will be revised in the future, and one was possibly misidentified and erroneously reported. Moreover, I discovered that, except for original descriptions, taxa cited in bibliography were misidentified. So, the Afrotropical region is still an “unexplored continent” despite the richness of museum collections.

The subject of the present note is the variation in tarsal claws morphology that I saw in several species. The following observations concern Afrotropical taxa only, yet the same condition occurs in Palaearctic species too. In the literature, *Pachnephorus*' tarsal claws are usually described as “simple” or “appendiculate” even in keys to genera (Selman, 1965, 1972). Afrotropical females' claws are either simple or appendiculate depending on the species and the three pairs of legs are similar. A simple claw more or less gradually tapers off from base to apex; sometimes a ventral rounded step can be observed proximally, while the upper side is nearly regularly bent along its length. An appendiculate claw bears a ventral tooth on its basal third. That tooth seems to rise from a splitting of the lower margin and looks as a thin, short and flat process widely fused to the claw.

Males' claws are more complicated. Meso- and metatarsi look similar to those of conspecific females, but sometimes when claws are appendiculate, their processes seem somewhat more developed. On the other hand, males' protarsi show a greater variety of claws. Besides the previously described cases (simple and appendiculate), “bifid” claws too occur and are the most common condition. A bifid claw is double, with its “inner branch”

usually a little shorter than the outer one. The split of the claw starts usually near its midlength and its two apices are slightly diverging. So, this kind of claw is proximally strongly enlarged, being constituted by the bases of the two branches, which are more or less regularly bent along their entire length.

As claws of the same protarsus can be different morphologically, several combinations can be observed in different species. So far I have seen the following conditions:

- both claws simple (in this case all claws, both in male and female, are simple);
- both claws appendiculate (in this case all claws, both in male and female, are appendiculate);
- the inner claw bifid, the outer simple (till now observed in one species, whose female is unknown to me);
- the inner claw bifid, the outer appendiculate (yet females have appendiculate claws);
- both claws bifid (yet females have appendiculate claws).

The combination simple-appendiculate claws in male protarsi has not been found yet. I want to point out that, in the “mixed conditions”, the inner claw is always the more “complex” (bifid vs. simple, bifid vs. appendiculate) and meso- and metatarsi do not follow the same pattern. One could infer that the primitive condition is “simple claw”, from which the “appendiculate” and, successively, “bifid” ones would evolve. The first passage is only a mere hypothesis, while the second one is easier to recognize: I could see some different stages in the development of the inner branch in some species. In two males, out of hundreds of specimens examined, protarsi have two different, maybe teratological, conditions.

I am currently using male claws in the taxonomy of *Pachnephorus*, although they may be useless in phylogenetic analysis because different claws structure can be observed in species that I consider strictly related to one another for many other characters. However, taxonomically this, mostly overlooked, character may be important; it could involve taxa of lower (species) and higher (genus) ranks and some old classifications could be reconsidered. Possibly, what I observed in *Pachnephorus* is different from the deeply split claws of many Eumolpinae. For instance, in *Colasposoma* the division starts near the base of the claw, but even in this genus a great variability in claws' morphology can be seen.

In my opinion, *Pachnephorus* is undoubtedly a monophyletic genus, highly homogeneous both in external morphology and in male genitalia. Some useful characters in species identification are inconsistently associated with different parts of the body and, seemingly, no natural groups of species can be recognized at all. Claws seem to follow this trend too, showing different conditions also in apparently sibling species.

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