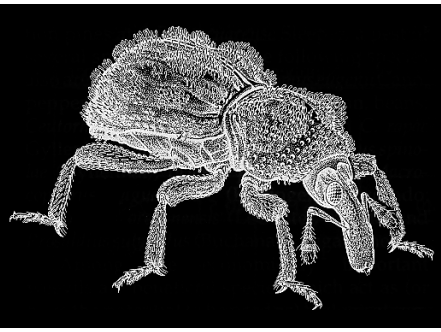

CURCULIO

An International Newsletter for Curculionoidea Research

Volume 47 September 2003

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Featured Researcher

Alessandra Sforzi

Museum of Zoology
"La Specola"
University of Florence, Italy

(Alessandra Sforzi in the field in Kenya, 1998, photo by L. Bartolozzi)

Academic Background

Biology Degree (*cum laude*), Faculty of Sciences, University of Florence, Italy - 1991
Researcher, Entomological Department, Zoological Museum, University of Florence, Italy - 1992 to present
Qualification as Professional Biologist, Enrollment in Italian List of Biologists - 1993

Research Interests

Taxonomy and systematics of Brentidae; geographical distribution of endangered and protected beetles in Italy.

Alessandra began studying Brentidae in 1992, immediately after receiving her Biological Sciences degree at the University of Florence. In 1991 she had submitted her thesis on the behavior of *Heterocerus fenestratus* (Coleoptera, Heteroceridae). She had been supervised during this project by Professor Alessandro Mascagni, a specialist of Heteroceridae who is also a Collaborator at the Zoological Museum where I (LB) work as Curator of the Entomology Department. Therefore it was rather normal that Alessandra started to come to the Entomology Department where she worked her first smaller jobs - i.e. specimen preparation, curation of material in the collection, and so on - like many other young biology doctors. I realized at this time that she was a very good biologist and a passionate worker, and so in 1992 I proposed to her to begin some research on the faunistics and taxonomy of Brentidae, partly because I was already working on them and we have here one of the most important brentid collections, including a lot of Senna's and Calabresi's types. I remember that she was so happy and excited to accept this offer and really fascinated by the sight of her first brentids (of course I was showing her the most strange and amazing ones!). So she received a contract as Researcher at the Museum and began studying brentids.

Alessandra first worked on the Senna collection, located in the Zoological Museum of the University of Florence. Senna was one of the most important brentid specialists and active during the period of 1889 to 1919. He assembled a very good and large collection that is particularly rich in types. Senna's

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Editorial Comments

Here it is - the new CURCULIO volume - with an update on research activities around the world. As always I hope it contains something entertaining and useful for everyone. Of special interest this time is the International Congress of Entomology (ICE) in Brisbane, Australia, scheduled for August 2004. Through CURCULIO we have the opportunity not only to inform about ongoing preparations for the Phytophaga symposium but also to achieve an overall stronger showing at the Congress. As you will see there has been progress towards identifying focal topics, yet many particularities and (in some instances) participants still need to be determined. Thus the ICE update is more than that. It is a call for everyone to consider contributing to the stated symposium objective. Our intention is to provide an overview of broad-scale evolutionary trends in weevils.

The preliminary character of the schedule is emphasized here on purpose. In our interconnected world a lot of scientific collaboration is possible without actually meeting face to face. This means that we can have more contributors than actual ICE attendees, and consequently more complete and authoritative presentations. A summary of the current state of affairs allows everyone to assess whether such a form of participation is indicated. It also answers the question who should be contacted in order to coordinate efforts on a focal topic. For those planning to attend the ICE in person there will be additional rewards. Meetings will be organized within and outside of the everyday proceedings to exchange results and ideas about weevils.

To most of us it is obvious that Curculionoidea are a major trend in evolutionary history - so much so that we sometimes oversee the importance of communicating this perspective to "outsiders". The ICE should be seen as a challenge and opportunity for weevil researchers to act as a community, and show that we can interact and compete with other communities on a variety of levels. This includes the ability to channel our resources towards a common goal without compromising scientific quality. CURCULIO can assist in the process, almost to any extent we consider appropriate.

On a not unrelated note, I am happy to report that CHRYSOMELA will be revitalized by its new editor Caroline Chaboo (American Museum of Natural History and Cornell University, USA). Terry Seeno has played this role with heart and skill for 25 years (see http://www.coleopsoc.org/nwslttrs.shtml). We have to make sure that our interests continue to be voiced in ways that acknowledge these efforts.

NMF

Alessandra Sforzi (continued)

collection also includes many types pertaining to the species described by the other Italian specialist of brentids - Enrica Calabresi. Alessandra rearranged the entire Senna collection according to modern systematic conceptions. Recently she conducted historical research on the life of this brentid specialist who died prematurely under tragic circumstances in 1944. Enrica Calabresi was Jewish and committed suicide in order to avoid persecution from the Nazi regime.

Between 1994 and 2003 Alessandra participated in various scientific expeditions to Botswana, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Kenya (five times), Southern India, and Tanzania (two times). She is a member of the research team studying the entomofauna of the following Italian national parks: Parco Nazionale delle Foreste Casentinesi, Parco Nazionale dell'Arcipelago Toscano, and various Italian natural reserves. She was also a member of the organizing committee of the XX International Congress of Entomology in Florence, August 1996, and she attended the XXI International Congress of Entomology in Iguassu Falls, Brazil, in August 2000. Between 1998 and 2002, thanks to the European Union program "Large Scale Facilities for European Researchers", Alessandra was able to visit and work on the brentid collections of the following institutions: the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, the Natural History Museum in London, the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique

Gyalostoma elegans, female (left) and male (right), photo by S. Bambi

in Bruxelles, and the Zoological Museum of Amsterdam. She also visited the museums of Tervuren, Genova, Eberswalde, and Berlin.

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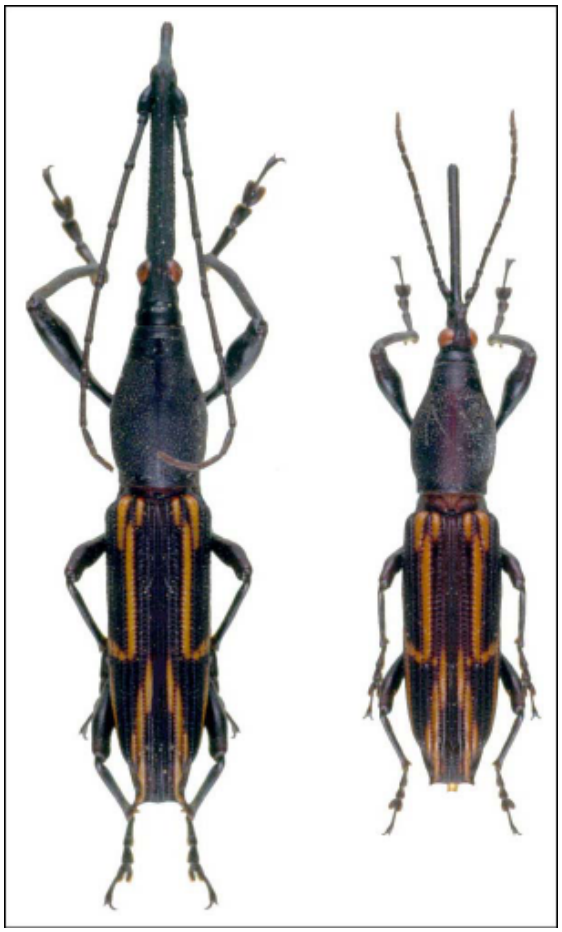
Alessandra Sforzi (end)

After publishing various contributions on the taxonomy and distribution of Brentidae, mainly on African species, in 1998 Alessandra initiated a draft of the "Checklist of the Brentidae of the World", in collaboration with her colleague Luca Bartolozzi. The last checklist for this family was the one published by the German specialist Richard Kleine in 1938 as part of the *Genera Insectorum* series. At that time Kleine listed 274 genera and 1356 species. Brentids were really in need of an updated checklist including all new taxa and all new systematic arrangements. The Checklist is now in press and will be published by the end of 2003. It is written in English and lists 293 genera and 1690 species of Brentinae, as well as 1 genus and 24 species of Cyladinae (by Miguel Alonso-Zarazaga), 3 genera and 67 species of Microcerini (by Schalk Louw), 2 genera and 7 species of Anthliarhininae (by Rolf Oberprieler), and 3 genera and 30 species of Eurhynchinae (also by Rolf Oberprieler). All synonymies are provided in the checklist, and the type depositories and geographical distributions are listed for each species. New combinations, new synonymies and lectotype designations are presented. The monograph includes chapters on the biology, ecology, ethology, morphology, geographical distribution, and a historical review of the brentids. More than 200 illustrations are provided, most of which are in color.



Nemorhinus myrmecophaga, female (left) and male (right), photo by S. Bambi

In November of 1999 the Italian edition of National Geographic Magazine dedicated an article to Alessandra's entomological research in the coastal forests of Arabuko Sokoke, Kenya.

Publications (only including studies on Brentidae)

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Contributed by Luca Bartolozzi
(Italy: luca.bartolozzi@unifi.it)

Phytophaga Symposium, ICE Brisbane 2004

A Progress Update and Call for Collaborators

By Rolf Oberprieler (Australia: rolf.oberprieler@csiro.au) **and Nico Franz** (USA: nmf2@cornell.edu)

Motivation

As most readers of CURCULIO already know, the next International Congress of Entomology (ICE) will be held in Brisbane, Australia, from August 15 to 21, 2004. The "Systematics and Phylogeny" section includes a symposium called **"Evolution's great success: the evolutionary history of the Coleoptera Phytophaga".** This will be the only session exclusively related to Coleoptera. To represent both chrysomeloids and curculionoids adequately the symposium is co-organized by Catherine Duckett and Rolf Oberprieler. We are now at the critical stage of identifying topics and teams to discuss predominant trends in weevil phylogeny and evolution within the six (out of 12 total) available 15-minute time slots.

There are several motivations for organizing the Phytophaga symposium in a collaborative and progressive way. First of all this is in line with the overall ICE theme for systematics - "Out of the museum and into the streets: blowing away the dust and mystery". It can also be viewed as an attempt to answer some of the outstanding questions identified at the previous ICE 2000 weevil symposium in Iguassu Falls, Brazil. Of special interest are studies addressing the relations and evolutionary innovations among curculionoid families and (insofar as possible) within the diverse family Curculionidae. Moreover, the orientation of presentations is such that researchers are encouraged to exchange and summarize results with a variety of implications: classificatory, phylogenetic, evolutionary, and so on. These broad-scale collaborations can be intellectually rewarding, as all participants acquire a more inclusive understanding of their research areas. They could similarly transform into exciting personal experiences. Last not least, the structure of the symposium presents an opportunity for weevil researchers to speak to members of the scientific community with a largely unified voice. We should thus reach out and attempt to attract students and other resources valuable to our interests.

One way to assure a more lasting impact is to **collect the relevant presentations in a symposium volume.** This strategy has served to publicize important results from the symposia in Canada (1988) and Italy (1996). It will be adopted for the upcoming Australian Phytophaga symposium as well.

Initial call for papers

As a result of several previous exchanges, in July 2003 the organizers circulated an initial call for papers to the readership of CHRYSOMELA and CURCULIO. The original information can still be accessed at http://www.coleopsoc.org/colemeet.shtml. Here are some (slightly modified) excerpts. "This symposium presents **a unique opportunity to address the evolutionary history of the Coleoptera Phytophaga as a whole.** We are looking for papers investigating broad evolutionary patterns rather than taxonomically or geographically restricted studies. Given the paramount importance of robust phylogenetic frameworks in this, we aim at devoting about half the symposium to phylogeny and suitably complementing this with investigations of aspects such as fossil record, patterns of host associations, biogeography and life strategies (e.g. endophyty/ectophyty, monophagy/polyphagy, chemical associations). We like to encourage multi-authored papers that present syntheses rather than narrow, individual points of view. We also like to encourage participation by young researchers and students in such team efforts, both to facilitate their attendance of the Congress and to engage them in collaborative studies".

"A quick overview of the current literature identifies a few open key questions regarding the evolution of the Phytophaga.
(1) When did the Phytophaga evolve, and in association with which plant group?
(2) How and when did their main lineages diverge, ecologically and morphologically, and what has driven their early diversification?
(3) What impact did the mid-Cretaceous rise of the angiosperms have on the evolution and diversification of the Phytophaga?
(4) How did the mass extinction event at the K-T boundary affect the Phytophaga, and what impact may it have had on their further diversification in the Tertiary?
Overflow papers will move into slots reserved for general, or unaligned, papers, but together may still form a block that can follow the main symposium as closely as possible. Posters can also be submitted, and we hope to be able to align those dealing with Phytophaga as closely with the symposium as possible. The ICE offers possibilities for informal evening sessions or workshops, which may take the form of evening continuations of symposia in the same room, or separate meetings at some other venue. We want to schedule at least one such workshop on Phytophaga, so as to allow further discussion of issues emanating from the symposium or other relevant papers".

"We are investigating avenues of collectively publishing the papers of this symposium and related oral and poster presentations, so as to present a combined and reasonably comprehensive picture of the evolution of the Phytophaga. Further information about the ICE is available at www.ccm.com.au/icoe/index.html".

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ICE Brisbane 2004 (continued)

Identification of main topics and presenting teams

One month after the initial call, Rolf Oberprieler proposed a list of candidate topics for the symposium. This list was mailed to various specialists who had previously indicated their interest in participating. The schedule for the curculionoid session is still very much a work in progress. At this point we wish to circulate the potential research topics more widely. It is not our intent to (nor could we for that matter) impose an agenda on the weevil community. Ultimately we have to be realistic about what can and cannot be achieved within the coming year, and reach an acceptable compromise. Nevertheless it should be possible to mobilize additional contributors before settling for perhaps less comprehensive topics. So please keep on reading.

(1) Phylogeny of Curculionoidea. "This is an obvious choice topic considering the various studies that have already addressed it in recent times. Are we content with the current scheme that identifies 6-7 main lineages, or are there major reservations or questions about it? From my point of view, 18S ribosomal DNA (as in Marvaldi *et al.*'s 2002 analysis) provides some support for the main clades but is rather disappointing overall, not really clarifying much on its own. The morphological matrix has not advanced much from Willy Kuschel's 1995 *magnum opus*. This is not surprising in light of the diversity of Curculionoidea and the daunting task of grasping its full morphological diversity. If I examine the primitive members of Brentidae-Curculionidae (e.g. *Ithycerus, Ctenaphides*), however, it appears more likely that their ancestors were belid-like rather than carid- or attelabid-like. Have our current morphological conceptions obscured such a relationship? The positions of Anthribidae and Belidae are other questions that have already come up. Are there others?"

(2) Phylogeny of Brentidae. "We have made progress in recent times, thanks largely to Marek Wanat's 2001 work on apionines, but the concept of Brentidae is probably the most critical remaining problem we have in terms of identifying and delineating the major weevil lineages. Are the Brentidae *sensu lato* monophyletic or paraphyletic with respect to Curculionidae? What are the main clades and their relationships to each other? We have a number of at least partial character sets available (adult and larval morphology, molecular evidence). We could thus combine and expand these into a comprehensive analysis".

(3) Phylogeny of Curculionidae. "Surprisingly, the monophyly of Curculionidae *sensu lato* appears more certain than that of the Brentidae, yet at the moment we have no real grasp of principal lineages within this clade (other than Dryophthorinae). What are Brachycerinae, Curculioninae, Erirhininae, and how are these related to each other and to other controversial taxa such as Platypodinae, "Baridinae" (*sensu* Zherikhin) and "Cyclominae"? Can we attempt a phylogeny of the major curculionid lineages without getting confused by the many evidently derived clades?"

(4) Evolution of Brachycerinae. "This is a critical taxon not only in terms of curculionid phylogeny but also for understanding the diversification of weevils in the Cretaceous in association with angiosperms. What exactly are Brachycerinae? Is their concept as proposed by Willy Kuschel in 1995 (including all Adelognatha) tenable? Are they monophyletic or perhaps a paraphyletic assemblage near the origin of Curculionidae? From my own studies I consider it increasingly difficult to separate Brachycerinae *sensu stricto* (Brachycerini excluding Microcerinae) from Erirhininae (which are a rather ambiguous concept in themselves). Brachycerinae *sensu stricto* actually appear to be specialized, terricolous Erirhininae. Can we elaborate a natural conception of Brachycerinae and reconstruct its evolution? This project would involve establishing the relationships among Brachycerini, Erirhinini, Ocladiini, Cryptolaryngini, Raymondionymini, Entimini, and perhaps other taxa. Some critical fossils from the Cretaceous and Early Tertiary appear to be closely related, particularly Britton's (1960) specimens from Lower Eocene London Clay deposits. Zherikhin (2000) reviewed additional fossil "Brachyceridae". This is an exciting project that requires collaborators with expertise in Erirhinini".

(5) and (6) Open to suggestions. "A possibility would be to investigate palm associations. This phenomenon has evolved convergently in several weevil lineages. An inventory of such associations and some assessment of their evolutionary and geographical origins would illuminate the role that palms have played in the evolution of weevils. Can we offer something to plant evolutionists? What other major evolutionary themes can we investigate?"

Progress update and a call for collaborators

Evidently these are ambitious topics. Although we have identified coordinators for several of them, there is still a need for collaborators and (maybe) additional projects. Here is an update of progress and problems so far.

(1) Chris Lyal (United Kingdom: chcl@nhm.ac.uk) has proposed to coordinate a presentation on the overall superfamily phylogeny. There is still a wealth of 18S ribosomal DNA evidence and conclusions to be published, in addition to some relevant morphology. He could particularly contribute to specifying the positions of Belidae, Oxycorynidae, Anthribidae, and Nemonychidae *auctoris*. This collaboration would likely include Robert Anderson (Canada: randerson@ mus-nature, Oxycorynidae), Adriana Marvaldi (marvaldi@ lab.cricyt.edu.ar, larval characters, DNA), and Rolf Oberprieler (relevant Southern taxa).

(2) Miguel Alonso-Zarazaga (Spain: zarazaga@mncn.csic.es) has agreed to address the phylogeny of the Brentidae, in collaboration with Marek Wanat (Poland: wanatm@biol.uni.wroc.pl), Luca Bartolozzi and Alessandra Sforzi. Other colleagues

(continued page 6)

ICE Brisbane 2004 (end)

are welcome to contribute to a more complete synthesis of brentid evolutionary history.
(3) We have been unable to identify any principal coordinators for a curculionid presentation.
(4) Rolf Oberprieler has proposed to coordinate a presentation on the evolutionary history of Brachycerinae/Erirhininae. He is actively requesting assistance and involvement from researchers with experience in Erirhininae. This would be an opportunity for younger researchers to address interesting coevolutionary questions among weevils and monocots.
(5) Nico Franz and Roberta Valente (Brazil: roberta@museugoeldi.br) intend to present a summary of palm-weevil associations, emphasizing phylogenetic trends in Neotropical derelomines. Collaborators are openly asked to add information on such taxa as Dryophthorinae, Cholini, Baridinae, etc.
(6) Various additional topics have been proposed to occupy this slot and possibly also slot (3). Among them are: morphological correlates of seed predation in weevils; changes related to the transition from vegetative material to dead wood (involving analyses of Cerambycidae, Scolytinae, Platypodinae, Cryptorhynchinae, Belinae, etc.; and a review of host specificity in weevils. Alternative, the slot may be used for a phylogeny of the Phytophaga, in collaboration with chrysomeloid workers. The aim is to combine updated and expanded morphological and 18S ribosomal DNA matrices and test whether Curculionoidea and especially Chrysomeloidea are monophyletic.

Summary

It appears that we have identified topics and coordinators for maximally 4 out of 6 weevil-related presentations at the Phytophaga symposium. All can be improved by more inclusive collaborations, and some are still in need of "everything". Please contact the organizers and respective coordinators if you are able to contribute to any of these objectives. Active collaboration does not require that you attend the Congress personally. Your results can nevertheless reach their audience at the meetings and through the planned publication of the symposium proceedings. You can thus participate in an important step towards a better picture of weevil phylogeny and evolution.

Please refer to **page 15** of this volume for a **final ICE update.**

Research Activities and Requests for Specimens

Robert Anderson (Canada: randerson@mus-nature.ca). Returned from three weeks of successful field work in Chiapas, Mexico in July 2003. Sampling efforts were concentrated on leaf litter weevils in small, fragmented patches of cloud forest at 1800 m and up in the mountains, around and north of San Cristobal de las Casas. Many interesting and new species were collected. Continuing work on a variety of subjects. A description of a new genus and species of Oxycorynidae from Costa Rica is in preliminary review. This paper also includes the description of a new species of *Alloxycorynus* from Peru. Continuing work on *Theognete* and the recent trip to Chiapas provided a number of species from "new" sites. These specimens are awaiting preparation and may add yet again to the increasing number of species in this genus (will it ever be done?). Has started with Miguel Alonso-Zarazaga (Spain) the description of the first true species of *Apion sensu stricto* in North America, a new species from alpine tundra in the Rocky Mountains west of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Has also started with Frode Odegaard (Norway) the description of some five new species of *Anthonomus* and one *Sibinia* collected by FO in the course his canopy studies in Panama. Wayne Clark has seen these and confirms their "new" status. A small paper on some Ceutorhynchinae new to North America with Boris Korotyaev has been submitted to The Canadian Entomologist. A paper on Costa Rican Dryophthoridae describing a new genus and seven new species will appear soon in the Coleopterists Bulletin. With Carlos Viquez of INBio, a paper describing the second species of *Cholomus* from Central America (Panama and Costa Rica) will be published soon in the Coleopterists Bulletin.

Roberto Caldara (Italy: r.caldara@tin.it). Has revisions of world Mecinini and Cionini in progress. Presently the revisions of Afrotropical *Gymnetron* and *Cleopomiarus* are in press.

Nico Franz (USA: nmf2@cornell.edu). Has recently published a paper in Insect Systematics & Evolution describing 15 new species of *Cyclanthura,* a new genus of derelomine flower weevils. A smaller companion paper reporting behavioral observations of several *Cyclanthura* species in Costa Rica has been submitted to the Revista de Biología Tropical. One clade within this genus has species that are pollinators of *Anthurium* (Araceae). This arum-weevil interaction is documented for the first time in detail. A manuscript summarizing research on the coevolutionary interactions between derelomines and *Carludovica* (Cyclanthaceae) in Central America is in press in the Biological Journal of the Linnean Society. Has initiated work on a new derelomine genus with at least 5-8 new species that are closely related to *Staminodeus* and similarly associated with Cyclanthaceae. Planning to submit a cladistic analysis of Neotropical derelomine genera for publication in early 2004. Will also at that time participate as a postdoc in a biodiversity project.

Carlo Giusto (Italy: giustocarlo@iol.it). Completing the revision of the *Synapion ebeninun* group and **requesting material belonging to this taxon: all specimen data received no later than next December will be published in the revision.** Continuing the compilation of the world catalog of the Apionidae. Interested in determining and exchanging world Apionidae.

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Research Activities (continued)

Lawrence Kirkendall (Norway: lawrence.kirkendall@zoo.uib.no). Focusing on both bark beetle biodiversity in general (as a collaborator with the ALAS project in Costa Rica) and on comparative phylogeography in several complexes of inbreeding bark beetles. Working in particular with Ph.D. student Paul Berg and several Masters students on seed-breeding *Coccotrypes* species (cosmopolitan) and a complex of *Araptus* species which breed mainly in seed pods and leafstalks (endemic to Central and South America, in collaboration with postdoc David Rees). Also currently working on the taxonomy and phylogeography of the southern pine beetle complex, including a new species currently confused with *Dendroctonus frontalis* (and occasionally with *D. mexicanus*) in Mexico and Central America. Collaborators on the *Dendroctonus* research include Brian Sullivan and John Moser, USDA Forest Service, as well as Karl Thunes, Norwegian Forest Research Institute, and Fred Midtgaard, Norwegian Agricultural College. Applying DNA fragment profiling ("fingerprint") techniques such as AFLP and microsatellites in these studies, in addition to standard DNA sequencing and morphological, behavioral, and ecological methods. Finally, collaborating with Evan Notham and Ana Villegas on the ecological effects of seed predation by *Coccotrypes* species in Costa Rica and Panama, and with Justin Calabrese on the population ecology of leafstalk insects, at the La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica. **Requesting the following specimens: (1) seed breeders** - always interested in seeing specimens of *Coccotrypes* which breed in seeds, from around the world, for data on distribution and seed preferences as well as for sequencing; **(2) leafstalk communities** - interested in coming in contact with anyone who might be interested themselves in doing research on *Cecropia* or other leafstalk bark beetles, or who could send samples of the bark beetles, for Central and South America; **(3) *Dendroctonus frontalis* complex** - very interested in tracking down collections made from early epidemics in Central America, such as G. Becker's collections from Guatemala in the 1950s, in order to determine which species were actually involved (literature records are incorrect in some cases). **Requesting contact from anyone who has or knows of collections of *Dendroctonus* from pines in Mesoamerica made before the 1990s.** Also in need of more freshly collected material from Mexico, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, of *Dendroctonus* involved with tree killing. Any help with these projects is greatly acknowledged.

Andrei Legalov (Russia: legalov@online.nsk.su). Has created a website on the leaf-rolling weevils (Rhynchitidae, Attelabidae) of the World (see The Bulletin Board). Continuing studies on the systematics of these taxa, having described over 100 new species at this point. Preparing a summary CD and interested in collaborating with other experts. Willing to identify material, requesting reprints on leaf-rolling weevils.

Chris Lyal (United Kingdom: chcl@nhm.ac.uk). Continuing his work on weevil seed predators of Dipterocarpaceae. Field

Alcidodes weevil larva developing in a dipterocarp tree fruit in Thailand, photo by C. Lyal

work in Thailand in April with the Royal Forestry Department yielded over 2000 specimens of dipterocarp-seed weevils, mostly Nanophyidae, and including over 20 new species, all with good host information. Most of the specimens were cut from or reared from seeds collected from the trees. The most effective method of obtaining these was to send a tree-climber up to cut branches and to strip the fruit from these when they fell. One of the interesting findings is the succession of weevils attacking dipterocarp fruit at different stages, from bud through to fallen fruit.

Results from a day's fruit collecting in Thailand, photo by C. Lyal

Luigi Magnano (Italy: luigimagnano@libero.it). Continuing studies for the compilation of a catalog of the Palearctic genus *Otiorhynchus.* Presently working on *Otiorhynchus* of the Himalayan region. **Also requesting material of this genus for study.**

(continued page 8)

Research Activities (end)

Adriana Marvaldi (Argentina: marvaldi@lab.cricyt.edu.ar). Currently preparing a manuscript on larval morphology and biology of oxycorynine weevils, and the higher phylogeny of Belidae. It contains a cladistic analysis based on 30 informative characters from larval morphology that were scored for all the belid genera for which larval information is available. New larval information is provided for *Hydnorobius hydnorae* from Argentina, and also for the Chilean *Oxycraspedus cribricollis.* The relationships proposed by the cladogram based on the larval data set are recovered after analysis of an expanded data matrix by addition of 25 adult characters and three biological characters (host plant associations and feeding habits). The cladogram summarizes larval and adult synapomorphies defining the family Belidae, the subfamilies Oxycoryninae, Aglycyderinae and Belinae, and some tribes. Larval development in vegetative tissues of conifers appears to be ancestral in Belidae. A shift to reproductive structures characterizes the Oxycoryninae, a habit that was conserved while several shifts to distantly related host-plant groups occurred. Also in preparation is a manuscript, co-authored with Cecilia Ruíz, on the immature stages and biology of *Oxycraspedus,* whose larvae have been recently discovered breeding in female araucaria cones (yes, Willy Kuschel was right!). Working on a key, co-authored with Analía Lanteri, to the adults of the South American subfamilies of weevils. Making plans with Rolf Oberprieler, Chris Lyal and Robert Anderson for a contribution to the weevil symposium at the ICE Brisbane 2004.

Massimo Meregalli (Italy: massimo.meregalli@unito.it). Currently studying the Molytinae of the Chinese transition zone, where a large number of taxa have recently been collected. The studies include a revision of the large genus *Niphadonyx* and a survey of the tribe Aminyopini, which includes a large number of still undescribed genera and species. Three contributions are in press or progress on the tribe Cleonini, a second field of concentration: (1) a study of the collections housed in the Pretoria Museums and in Tervuren to obtain better knowledge of the African species, (2) an attempted phylogenetic reconstruction of the whole tribe (in collaboration with Robert Anderson), and (3) the description of a new genus, *Pseudeumecops,* from Somalia.

Jose Ricardo Mermudes (Brazil: jrmermudes@uol.com.br). Now a postdoctoral researcher at the Museu de Zoologia in São Paulo, working on a revision and cladistic analysis of the tribe Ptychoderini Jekel, 1855 (Coleoptera, Anthribidae, Anthribinae) under the supervision of Dr. Sergio Vanin. **Requesting to loan specimens of the Neotropical genera *Tribotropis* and *Hypselotropis,* the Afrotropical genus *Phloeotragus,* and the Oriental genus *Phloeopemon.* Willing to exchange Neotropical Anthribidae for identification and future studies.**

Charles O'Brien (USA: biocontrol@nettally.com). Continues to work (now offically in retirement) on a variety of individual and collaborative weevil-related projects. Has recently completed a two-week collecting trip to Arizona. Working in collaboration with Guillermo Wibmer on a substantial paper on South American Stenopelmini.

Herbert Winkelmann (Germany: winkelmann.coleopt.curcul@t-online.de). Managed after various unsuccessful attempts to rediscover the recently described hyperine species *Donus osellai* at the type locality in Northern Italy while collecting with Christoph Bayer. Another excursion is planned for 2004 to verify and publish information on host plant associations, immature stages, and distribution records of this rare species. Planning to closely collaborate with Jiri Skuhroves (Czech Republic) on future Hyperini studies. A collecting trip to Northern Greece in July 2003 (with Friedhelm Bahr and Christoph Bayer) yielded some interesting results in a short time period. For example the previously unknown males of *Omphalapion rhodopense* (otherwise only collected in Bulgaria) were found. More analyses and possible publications are planned as activities for the winter season.

Donus osellai in Northern Italy, photo by H. Winkelmann

Nikolai Yunakov (Russia: blaps@zin.ru). Graduated in 1999 from the Biological Faculty of the Kharkov State University (Ukaine). Since then graduate student at the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences. Specializing in the taxonomy and distribution of broad-nosed weevils (Curculionidae: Entiminae). Weevil ecology and weevil host plant interactions are additional interests. Currently working on a Ph.D. thesis about the fauna of broad-nosed weevils of the Ukraine. Taxonomic reviews of several subgenera of the genus *Otiorhynchus* Germar and a review of the genus *Brachysomus* Schoenherr are in progress. **In need of specimens and literature and interested in exchanging weevils.**

Collecting Trip to Comunidad Valenciana - Spain

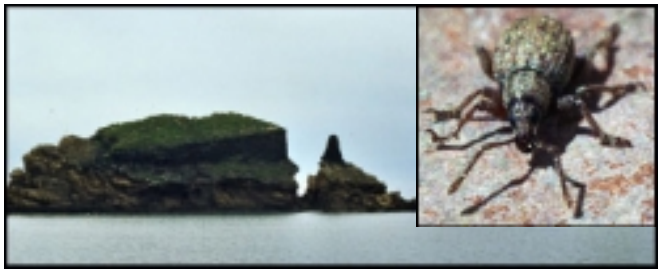
By Antonio Velázquez de Castro (Spain: velazquezdecastro@wanadoo.es)

My friends Helio Pierotti and Cesare Bellò visited this part of Spain in the spring of 2002 and 2003. They are in the process of finishing their work on the Peritelini of Spain, but never get tired of collecting more weevils. I joined their trip to travel to Alicante, a xerothermic region south of Valencia, and also to the Columbrete Islands, 60 km off the coast of the Castellón province. It took us a very long time to get to this last locality, as we had to wait for good weather, for a boat to take us there, and for a permission from local authorities to collect insects. Finally we got there and were successful at collecting *Peritelus españoli,* an endemic of the Islands.

It was also interesting to visit the Museo de Historia Natural in Valencia. This museum holds a large collection of Spanish weevils, although it is one of the less known collections of weevils in Spain. In the course of our visit we found a new species of Peritelini in the boxes there, represented by a lot of specimens. I think many more new species are still to be described, and plan to verify the identification of these weevils in near future.

Gastronomy was also an important goal of the visit. Valencia is known for a special drink - *horchata* - made from a tuber, and for several rice dishes such as *paella.*

Helio Pierotti, Antonio Velázquez de Castro and Cesare Bellò (from left to right) at the Museo de Historia Natural of Valencia, photo by A. Velázquez de Castro



Peritelus españoli on the Columbrete Islands (of volcanic origin), photos by A. Velázquez de Castro

Curculionoidea Bibliography of Mario Elgueta - Chile

Over a period of almost 30 years Mario Elgueta (Chile: melgueta@mnhn.cl) has published systematic articles on curculionoids and a range of other South American insects (the latter are not included below). For many years he served as editor of the Revista Chilena de Entomología and continues to work as an investigator at the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural in Santiago de Chile. Reprints are unavailable if a publication is marked with [*].

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(continued page 10)

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Book Review - Orthocerous Weevils of New Zealand

Guillermo (Willy) Kuschel

By Sarah Solomon (USA: sas97@cornell.edu) **and Nico Franz** (USA: nmf2@cornell.edu)

Kuschel, G. 2003. Nemonychidae, Belidae, Brentidae (Insecta: Coleoptera: Curculionoidea). Fauna of New Zealand 45. ISBN 0-478-09348-9. Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln, New Zealand,100 pp. Cost: $ 40.00 US (including packing and postage). Website: www.mwpress.co.nz

(continued page 11)

New Zealand Weevils (continued)

This monograph is an important and welcome contribution by a world authority of curculionoid paleontology, phylogeny and evolution. Its author has enjoyed an impressively long and productive career, working on weevils of predominantly the southern hemisphere since the mid 1940s (Zimmermann 1993). The present volume will only add to this legacy. It is a *tour de force* of related yet also partly independent results and conclusions, reminiscent of Kuschel's influential 1995 analysis of Curculionoidea. The range of information presented within the 100 pages could easily constitute a series of articles. With respect to the treated subject areas, it will be a reference framework for generations to come.

Kuschel provides a comprehensive overview of 3 of the 4 orthocerous weevil families occurring in New Zealand: Nemonychidae, Belidae, and Brentidae. The remaining family Anthribidae was revised by Holloway (1982) in an earlier volume from the same series. The monograph includes keys to genera and species with detailed descriptions of all taxa, and a key to the families of adult New Zealand Curculionoidea. A total of 17 species are treated in this work: 1 genus and 4 species of Nemonychidae, 6 species in 4 genera of Belidae, and 7 species in 6 genera of Brentidae. Three of the genera and six of the species are new. The book includes 187 illustrations, with habitus drawings for 12 of the species, numerous additional drawings including side views, drawings of the head, mouthparts, hind wings, genitalia, and several photographs and scanning electron micrographs. Distribution maps are provided for each species.

In addition to the revision, Kuschel discusses host plant relationships of orthocerous weevils in New Zealand, gives a brief overview of fossil weevil families, and contributes information about glands associated with the female reproductive tract of many weevils. Finally, a phylogenetic analysis of the genera of Belinae is included in an appendix written by Kuschel and Leschen (2003).

In his section on host-plant information, Kuschel notes that in New Zealand, Australia, and Chile over 50% of weevils having host-specific relationships with conifers are orthocerous. This contrasts remarkably with 2.5% of weevils in Europe specializing on conifers being orthocerous. The author hypothesizes that this dissimilarity between Orthoceri in the southern versus the northern hemisphere could be due to differences in the level of climate change between them, the loss of Araucariaceae and Podocarpaceae, and the great success of Scolytinae in temperate northern zones. A list of known host plants for each of the 17 revised species is also included.

Kuschel discusses the general patterns of distribution for each of the four families of orthocerous weevils occurring in New Zealand, as well as their levels of endemicity. Apparently, these taxa are most closely related to genera from New Caledonia, then from Australia, the area northwest of New Caledonia to Sulawesi, and finally Chile.

The section entitled "Fossil Evidence" is not specific to New Zealand, and contains information relevant to anybody interested in the taxonomy of fossil weevils. The author provides evidence for the exclusion of the fossil family Obrieniidae from the Curculionoidea. Characters considered important for the placement of Eobelidae, Ulyanidae, and Eccoptarthridae are discussed, and relationships among these and extant taxa are suggested.

Based on their phylogenetic analysis of the genera of Belinae, Kuschel and Leschen (2003) propose that Agnesiotidini (*sensu lato*) and Pachyurini are paraphyletic. Belini and Agnesiotidini (*sensu stricto*) are monophyletic yet their positions within the phylogeny are still ambiguous. Pachyurini are paraphyletic and should be recognized only for convenience. Clearly these insights will form a basis for further discussions at the upcoming Phytophaga symposium in Brisbane, Australia.

In light of such a varied scope and the duration of the study it is understandable that some idiosyncrasies will occur. We have noticed that the quality of the illustrations is inconsistent, ranging from excellent to somewhat ambiguous. Most of them lack scale bars. In our view it is also useful to complete a cladistic analysis by selecting a particular cladogram and optimizing the included characters along its branches, even if the overall consensus is less resolved. Character optimization is the most efficient way to convey the diagnostic achievements and problems inherent in a character matrix, particularly when morphological characters are used. Apparently the author also omitted results from recent and critical publications on fossil weevils by Gatshev and Zherikhin (R. Oberprieler, personal communication [an update on this literature is planned for CURCULIO 48]).

These minor issues notwithstanding, we strongly recommend Kuschel's authoritative and wide-ranging monograph to anyone interested in the fauna of New Zealand. For experts and students of phylogeny and evolution it represents a valuable step towards understanding the origins of Curculionoidea as a whole.

The shipping costs are conveniently included in the moderate price for this paperback edition.

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The Bulletin Board

News About Weevils

Robert Anderson (Canada: randerson@mus-nature.ca) informs beetle enthusiasts about possibilities for **leaving a legacy gift to the Coleopterists Society,** in order to ensure its strong partaking in the future. Additional details about legacy contributions and a full brochure can be requested at www.coleopsoc.org/legacybr.shtml

Anthony Cognato (USA: a-cognato@tamu.edu) announces **available graduate student positions** in insect systematics. Several Ph.D. positions in systematics are available for Spring/Fall 2004 in the Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University. He has USDA-NRI and NSF-PEET grants to support scolytid studies concerning pine cone beetles (*Conophthorus*) and Southeast Asian ambrosia beetles (Xyleborini). Four year stipends and tuition waivers will be provided. Please contact him for details concerning these positions.

Greg H. Jones (USA: www.gregjones.com) has recorded an American Traditional song called **"Boll Weevil Blues"** (in reference to *Anthonomus grandis*), using original vocals performed by Vera Hall in 1940. It is pretty and can be downloaded without charge from his website. [apparently there are various boll weevil-related songs]

Andrei Legalov (Russia: legalov@online.nsk.su) has developed a new website **"The Leaf-Rolling Weevils (Coleoptera: Rhynchitidae, Attelabidae) of the World Fauna".** It can be accessed at attelabidae.narod.ru/index.htm or at www.geocities.com/attelabidae/index.htm, and contains information about the author, the history of studies on leaf-rolling weevils, bionomics, picture galleries, morphology, systematics, catalogs, regional lists, literature, other experts, museums, news, and other relevant links.

Chris Lyal (United Kingdom: chcl@nhm.ac.uk) announces two internet initiatives of interest. The information is not on the web as yet. (1) **The species catalogue of Curculionoidea,** being compiled by Miguel Alonso-Zarazaga and Chris Lyal, has just benefited from a grant from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). This will allow the data to be made available on the web as they are gathered. The data are being collected in the first instance from secondary sources and will be checked against all original sources subsequently. The initial web data will, therefore, contain many things that need updating or correcting, but it is hoped that they will both be valuable to all and enable faster spotting of errors and updates than would otherwise have been the case. (2) A collaboration has been initiated with the Smithsonian Institution to digitize all of the **Biologia Centrali Americana.** In the first instance the text and images of all 58 biological volumes will be placed on the web as JPEGs. Subsequently, however, a format in XML will also be made available, making it more flexible in the way that the data can be treated and manipulated, and allowing links to be made directly from the text to other datasets, such as collection databases and, indeed, the world checklist of weevils. The project website is at www.sil.si.edu/BCAproject/

Adriana Marvaldi (Argentina: marvaldi@lab.cricyt.edu.ar) received the "**Hermann Burmeister 2002" Price** in May 2003 from the National Academy of Sciences of Argentina for her research on weevils. The award is given to highlight the work of young scientists (under 40 years) in the natural sciences.

Brett Ratcliffe (USA: bcr@unlserve.unl.edu) announces that five faculty curators (including one in Entomology) will be retained at the **University of Nebraska State Museum.** Entomology, its programs, staff and students will be there as they always have, and the collections are safe and open for business as usual. Vocal support by colleagues from all over the world is gratefully acknowledged, with a reminder about the importance of acting as a community.

Peter Sprick (Germany: psprickcol@t-online.de) informs about recent contributions to the Weevil News (www.curci.de/inhalt.html): (1) an interesting report about a study trip of the Curulio-Institute to Morocco (by Christoph Germann); (2) a short report about the first record of *Rhopalapion longirostre* in Poland (by Marek Kozlowski and Stanislav Knutelski); and (3) a contribution from Roman Graf about common names for Coleoptera species. Part I is primarily drafted for German readers.

Recent Publications on Curculionoidea

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Beaver, R. A., and H.-T. Shih. 2003. Checklist of Platypodidae (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea) from Taiwan. Plant Protection Bulletin (Taiwan) 45: 75-90.

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(continued page 13)

Recent Publications (continued)

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This Just In

ICE 2004 Brisbane - Final Update!

The **registration** for the ICE 2004 Brisbane has opened on October 10, 2003. The **updated website** is at **www.ice2004.org** and includes registration details, calls for papers, the provisional program, section Symposia and general information. Registrations can be made on-line, and discount fees are applicable until February 1, 2004. The closing date for the submission of papers and abstracts is March 31, 2004. All papers and abstracts must be submitted directly to the ICE Secretariat, and not to the Symposium organizers, although the latter will invite key papers into their Symposia.

Our Symposium - "Evolution's great success: the evolutionary history of the Coleoptera Phytophaga" - is one of nine grouped in Section 15 (Systematics and Phylogeny). Please examine the other Symposia for the global evolutionary framework of this Section. It will be interesting to compare the evolutionary analyses of the Phytophaga with those of the Lepidoptera, Diptera and Heteroptera.

Prophthalmus planipennis, female (left) and male (right), photo by S. Bambi