

MICHIGAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of the Michigan Entomological Society will be held on Saturday, March 24, in Room 2009 of the University Museums Building, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. This is our first meeting as the Entomology Section of the Michigan Academy of Sciences. The room in which the meeting will be held is on the same floor as the Insect Division of the Museum of Zoology, which extends a cordial welcome to the Society. Dr. Henry K. Townes, as Chairman of the Entomology Section of the Michigan Academy, will be the presiding officer. The following is the schedule of papers and activities:

- 9:00 Distribution patterns of northern ichneumonids in relation to the Bering migration route. Henry Townes, University of Michigan.
- 9:20 Taxonomic studies on the North American sawfly genus Cimbex (Hymenoptera: Cimbicidae). Andrew H. Gibson, Gogebic Community College and Michigan State University.
- 9:35 Industrial melanism in moths. Dennis Owen, University of Michigan.
- 9:50 Mimicry in heliconiid butterflies. Charles Collins, University of Michigan.
- 10:00 Notes on the post-diapause development of the cuckoo wasp, Chrysis verticalis Patton. Sylvan J. Thomas, Saint Clair Shores, Michigan.
- 10:15 Subsocial behavior in Anurogryllus muticus. Mary Jane West, University of Michigan.
- 10:30 Flight and swimming reflexes in the giant water bug. Hugh Dingle, University of Michigan.
- 10:45 Announcements.
- 10:50 Recess.
- 11:15 A morphological study of the tibial spurs of bees of the subfamily Halictinae (Hymenoptera: Halictidae) of eastern North America. G. C. Eickwort and R. L. Fischer, Michigan State University.
- 11:30 Taxonomic observations and distribution records of the millipede family Polyxenidae. R. L. Fischer and B. A. Wilson, Michigan State University.

- 11:45 Taxonomic notes on Sciomyzidae (Diptera). George C. Steyskal, Grosse Ile, Michigan.
- 11:55 Genitalia of Neotropical species of Cryptocheilinae and Macromerinae (Hymenoptera: Psammocharidae). R. R. Dreisbach, Midland, Michigan.
- 12:15-2:00 Lunch period.
- 2:00 When is a species of the katydid genus Rehnia a subspecies? T. J. Cohn, University of Michigan.
- 2:15 Climatic correlations with adult abundance and activity of Michigan Ichneumonidae. Marjorie Townes, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- 2:30 The scelionid component of the grassland insect fauna. Urless Lanham, University of Michigan.
- 2:40 Migrations and population fluctuations of the meadow spittlebug. Richard Wiegart, University of Michigan.
- 2:55 The morphological variations of Tendipes attenuatus (Walker) [= Tendipes decorus (Johannsen)] collected in Michigan. Ross Powers, Central Michigan University.
- 3:10 The inshore bottom fauna of southwestern Lake Huron. Jim McKim, University of Michigan.
- 3:25 Recess.
- 3:45 A new species of Agrilus which infests aspen seedlings and suckers (Coleoptera: Buprestidae). John C. Nord, University of Michigan.
- 4:00 The position of Utah in the dispersal of some western dragonflies (Anisoptera). Jean Musser, University of Michigan.
- 4:10 Business Meeting.

The University Museums Building backs up to U. S. 23, in the Y between Washtenaw Avenue and North University. The building is marked with a large sign and has two bronze mountain lions flanking the front door. Unfortunately, parking restrictions in the Museum lots will be in force until noon, but there should be ample space in the nearby streets.

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members of the Society:

Mildred V. Berkowski, Warren
James J. Daly, Detroit
Frank Russell, Jr., Pontiac
Virgil Wargynski, Bay City, Lepidopterist
Robert H. Winkler, Mount Clemens

We hope that they will enjoy and profit from the activities of the Society and we expect that the Society will be enriched with their contributions.

News from the Branches

The Ann Arbor Branch, under the Chairmanship of R. D. Alexander, has had a full schedule of meetings this fall and winter. The following talks have been presented:

The Singing Insects of Ann Arbor. R. D. Alexander
Swimming Reflexes in Giant Water Bugs. R. H. Dingle
Studies in the Metamorphosis in Giant Silkworm Moths.
D. G. Shappirio.

The Black Hills Beetle. F. B. Knight
Neurophysiological Mechanisms in Courtship of a European
Grasshopper. Franz Huber (Univ. of Tübingen, Germany)

For those who doubted the availability of living insects during the winter, Dr. Moore exhibited a collection of living insects made in his back yard and a nearby stream between dinner time and meeting time in December. Insects of 9 orders and 24 families were represented as follows:

Hemiptera: Lygaeidae, Nepidae, Belostomatidae, Corixidae,
Notonectidae, Reduviidae.

Homoptera: Cicadellidae, Aphidae, Coccidae

Coleoptera: Carabidae, Curculionidae, Gyrinidae, Haliplidae,
Dytiscidae.

Lepidoptera: Phalaenidae

Diptera: Borboridae, Chloropidae, Tachinidae

Orthoptera: Tetrigidae

Thysanoptera: Tubulifera

Collembola: Entomobryidae

Hymenoptera: Formicidae, Braconidae, Chalcididae

After each meeting, the secretaries of the Branch, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Thomas, provided a gastronomically fascinating, as well as satisfying, spread of unusual foodstuffs.

For the Detroit Branch, Dr. David Cook, President of the Society, reports that another entomologist joined the staff of Wayne State University. He is William J. Arnold who received his Ph.D. at the University of California. His present research deals with the gross anatomy of the Periplaneta cephalic nervous system, and regional anatomy and histology of the Periplaneta brain. Dr. Arnold is teaching General Cytology and Microtechnique at Wayne.

For the East Lansing Branch, Dr. Roland Fischer reports on the growth of the Entomology Museum. "A cursory check of a few selected groups has shown that the number of species represented in the collection has increased by 40 per cent while the number of specimens has increased fivefold since 1949. This increase in number of specimens, with roughly 50,000 pinned specimens being added yearly, has seen one addition of cabinets and floor space to increase the capacity of the museum. Currently, additional plans are underway to further expand the facilities of the museum. Important recent gifts to the museum have included the collection of nearly 6000 Michigan Lepidoptera of the late Walter C. Stinson, and a collection of over 7000 European Lepidoptera in the Hejgaard collection."

Collecting Areas

In this and succeeding issues of the Newsletter, the veteran collectors of the Society will describe the localities which they have found to be entomologically interesting, or likely to be so. Our first contributor is Dr. Ed. Voss, by profession a botanist, but an ardent Lepidopterist by avocation. He has probably logged more hours in the field in Michigan than any other member of the society. He is presently engaged on the Michigan Flora Project at The University of Michigan and spends about four months in the field every year. He has the advantage of being able to very accurately characterize the vegetation of habitats in which he has collected interesting insects.

A suggestion for collecting trips. Those who would like to venture a bit farther away than usual for a collecting grip, and to enjoy some wilder terrain than much of southern Michigan, would do well to investigate the State Game Areas. Several of these are close enough for a long day's trip, especially with the rapid increase of expressways.

However, if one wishes to spend the night, there are suitable spots to pitch a tent - so long as conveniences like water and tables are not required. These are projects of the state Department of Conservation, and while insects are not as wild "game" as one ordinarily pursues in them, any lover of the outdoors will rejoice at the comparative wildness and variety of habitats in each of them. It would be wise to request a map from the Department of Conservation, Lansing 26, before attempting to explore any of them in detail; the map will show some of the back roads, the exact boundaries of state-owned land in the project area, location of houses, and in some cases local names of roads, cover types, and other helpful features. Here are a few examples:

Pittsford State Game Area. Hillsdale Co., southeastward from Osseo. Upland field and woods, juniper savana, a few small ponds, boggy meadows, marshes and creek banks - all provide exceptionally rich variety fairly close to Ann Arbor and, like most of these Game Areas, in a county which is not too well known entomologically.

Lapeer State Game Area. Lapeer Co., east of Columbiaville and north of Lapeer. Small lakes, fields, low rich woods, and some nice country along the South Branch of the Flint River are among the attractions in this area.

Tuscola State Game Area. Tuscola Co., south of Caro. A good deal of sandy land, with woods of oak, etc., as well as moister woods, a large cat-tail marsh, and other habitats.

Maple River State Game Area. Clinton and Gratiot Counties, from Hubbardston to Maple Rapids and east to U. S. 27. Fields and woods along the Maple River, including a nice public fishing site. Several fascinating marshes described by the first State Geologist of Michigan, Douglass Houghton, as "salt marshes" and harboring yet a number of plants normally characteristic of saline habitats.

A bit larger circle would encompass other areas, including two especially fine ones: Three Rivers (St. Joseph Co., NW of Constantine and SW of Three Rivers) and Flat River (Montcalm and Ionia counties, NE of Belding). But the examples cited are sufficient to indicate the potential wealth of these areas to the insect collector as well as to the hunter, hiker, botanist, and even, in season, the berry-picker.

Announcements

The Michigan Botanist. Entomologists with some interest in the plant life of the state may wish to subscribe to the new journal published by the Michigan Botanical Club. To be published semi-annually at first, "The Michigan Botanist" is expected soon to be a regular quarterly publication dealing with all phases of Michigan botany. The first issue is dated March, 1962, and includes articles (some with distribution maps or other data) on Sugar and Drummond Islands, lichens of the Tahquamenon area, pollination of *Campanula americana*, distribution of poison ivy, and recent literature (including maps) of interest to Michigan naturalists. Subscriptions, to non-members of the Michigan Botanical Club, are \$2.00 per year and may be sent to the circulation manager, Laura T. Roberts, 2120 Washtenaw Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan. (from E. D. Voss)

News from the Members

A. H. Beyer, East Lansing, writes that he made a collecting trip to the Pacific Coast last summer doing general collecting but specializing in Lepidoptera. The most interesting part of the trip was "in the Puget Sound Basin and the Olympic Peninsula of Washington. On Hurricane Ridge of Mt. Olympic, I collected Orthoptera at snow line in August." He collected Lepidoptera, Coleoptera and other insects with "an improvised trap light consisting of an electric light, a fan and a paper filter screen."

Stephen P. Hubbell is presently engaged in an Honors Program research project at Carleton College, Northfield, Minn., on freezing tolerance in the pupae of Giant Silkworm Moths. He is attempting to determine minimum temperature tolerances, the effect of the rate of chilling, and the nature of the physiological resistance in these moths. One of the problems under investigation is whether freezing actually takes place at temperatures below zero, and if so, what it is in the body of the pupa which actually freezes. To determine the viability of experimentally treated pupae, he is employing tissue transplant techniques, often using as a recipient a species different from the donor. This may yield interesting information on the extent to which tissues remain viable when transplanted to individuals of different species or genera. (Information from D. G. Shappirio)

Thomas E. Moore, University of Michigan, sends the following report: "In August my family and I visited two museums of special interest. One, the Staten Island Museum, is an outstanding small museum serving the New York City area. There I studied type specimens in the William T. Davis cicada collection and arranged for the loan of specimens of several species not represented in our collection. Partly as a result of this loan, we now have the finest cicada collection in the western hemisphere. The other museum visited was the Quebec Provincial Museum, Quebec, Canada, where I had hoped to examine Provancher's cicada types. Unfortunately, there no longer is a curator for the insect collections, the insects are no longer available for study or loan, and present museum plans call for removing these research collections to storage quarters in a garage. If this plan is carried out, it will be a breach of public trust on the part of a large institution with fine public exhibits and an outstanding past performance."

Stanley K. Gangwere, former Executive Secretary of the Society, is spending the year in Spain as a Fulbright Exchange Professor. He is presently at the University of Madrid. The following are extracts from a letter to Drs. Hubbell and Cantrall:

"We debarked at Algeciras, Spain, a sleepy, dirty town immediately adjacent to Gibraltar and with little else to recommend it. After a hurried lunch we boarded our narrow-gauge train for the classic voyage to Madrid. On the trip it was hot, which necessitated opening the windows; yet smoky when going through the numerous tunnels penetrating the mountain ranges, which necessitated closing the windows. As a result we spent most of our time remedying these urgent, yet incompatible needs, and had little time for sight-seeing. Fortunately, however, this latter was not a disappointment, for the southern section of Spain is an arid, hot, rugged wasteland, even in September when we crossed it; except for a few Roman aqueducts and some interesting mountain scenery which can be seen sufficiently in a few minutes, there is little else to look at.

[They visited E. Morales Agacino, famous Spanish Orthopterist, at the Institute for Agronomic Investigations.] "On this and succeeding visits he really rolled out the velvet carpet, for apparently few entomologists visit the Instituto. We dined with him once and were even invited to his home one evening, a most unusual event, for few Spaniards entertain at home. His orthop collection at the Instituto, originated, as you know, by I. Bolivar and augmented by

C. Bolivar and by himself, is really first-rate, being vastly underrated, and his library surprisingly good. The appearance of the place and the manner in which the collections are put up reminds me somewhat of the Philadelphia Academy....."

"The Science Building of the University [at Valencia] is a typical Spanish public building. Though new, it is a big, lavish building with all of the trimmings; yet it is cold and poorly furnished. The Department is very small; there is a "Catedratico" or chairman, two other professors, a handful of graduate students and assistants, and about 400 students, all of the latter of whom take the one formal course offered, general biology. Apparently, the only decent biology program in Spain is to be found in Madrid. My office is large, comfortable, and reasonably well-equipped. The staff has gone all out to take care of me as well as they are able; they have even assigned me an assistant for whatever purposes I wish. My only duties consist of conducting a field course all day every Saturday during which it is customary to spend about as much time preparing sumptuous feasts in nature as in collecting. Except for a spell of rainy weather last month the weather has been fairly warm and good, and the collecting season for many groups of insects never ends. Unfortunately, the orthop populations are quite reduced at present."

David R. Cook, President of the Society, sends the following report of his activities: "I am presently working up the material collected during the summers of 1960 and 1961 on the water mites of the so-called 'subterranean waters.' Beginning in June 1962 I have a Fulbright grant to study the water mites of India. I will be attached to Poona University, near the rain forest areas of the Western Ghats."