

Chalcid Forum

A Forum to Promote Communication Among Chalcid Workers

Volume 22. February 2000

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(see Research and Documents)



Editor's Notes

Welcome to the 22nd edition of Chalcid Forum. This issue's masthead is *Tanaostigma stanleyi* LaSalle created by Klaus Bolte, Canadian Forest Service, CNC. This issue is also available on the Systematic Ent. Lab. web site at: <http://www.sel.barc.usda.gov>.

Research News

Christer Hansson

Zoological Institute, Dept. of Systematic Zoology,
Helgonavagen 3, S-223 62 Lund, Sweden

After many years of jumping from one short time position to another, I have finally managed to get a position where I can plan for my future research. This position is a firm one, at least as firm as they come here in Sweden, funded by the Swedish Natural Research Council. The position includes research on tropical biodiversity (lucky me!). My main research will be in alpha taxonomy, and I will continue my studies on the chalcidoid family Eulophidae. For a couple of years, I have been working with the eulophid fauna of Costa Rica and Honduras. Through my appointment with the Research Council, I will be able to continue this research. I am also involved in a project, initiated and headed by Mike Sharkey at the University of Kentucky, to survey some of the hymenopteran fauna of Colombia. So, with some luck, a lot of zeal, and a lot of work, I will cover the eulophid fauna in Central America and northern South America, before I retire some twenty years from now(!)

In my work, I benefit largely from the collecting efforts of other people. Even though I have done some collecting on my own and plan to do so also in the future, the absolute bulk of material has been, or will be collected by others. Paul Hanson (at the University of Costa Rica) and his wife Caroline Godoy (at Instituto Nacional de

bioversidad-INBio-in Costa Rica) and their associates, have done a tremendous amount of collecting and sorting. It has resulted in a lot of material from Costa Rica which forms the bulk of my acquired material. To make this study as complete as possible, I need a lot more material from Central America and northern South America. I have acquired material from the University of Costa Rica, INBio, Zamorano (Honduras), NMH (London), CNC (Ottawa), and the USNM (Washington, DC). I would be very grateful if anyone reading this knows of other material from the northern Neotropical region and could let me know.

Sergiy V. Libenson

Royal Ontario Museum, Centre for Biodiversity and
Conservation Biology, 100 Queens Park, Toronto, Ontario,
Canada, M5S 2C6

I am a volunteering researcher at ROM under the guidance of Dr. Chris Darling as well as in cooperation with Dr. Steve Heydon (The Bohart Museum, Department of Entomology, University of California, Davis). My plans include expanding and further curating the ROM's collection of Chalcidoidea with a special focus on Pteromalidae (Pteromalinae). I am particularly interested in the *Pteromalus* species of the Nearctic region.

I am currently conducting field studies of Chalcidoidea species in semi-aquatic microhabitats associated with local bird colonies with reference to host-parasitoid relationships. Attempts are being made to simulate these communities in laboratory cultures of Pteromalinae (e.g. Urolepsism, Muscicifurax) and Spalanginae together with their dipterous hosts (Sepsidae, Milichiidae). This approach may allow for the differentiation of morphologically similar species by behavioral parameters and by the structure of the reproductive organs. I am very interested in developing mutually beneficial collaborations with chalcidologists who are interested in Pteromalidae, especially in terms of exchanging specimens and obtaining assistance with identifications.

George O. Japoshvili

Institute of Zoology, Chavchavadze av. 31, Tbilisi, Georgia

From 1994 to 1999 I have been studying parasitic chalcids of coccids, psyllids, and whiteflies in Tbilisi, under professor V. Yasnosh's supervision. In May of 1999 I got the degree in Biological Sciences, awarded by the council of Georgian Academy of Sciences. In Tbilisi we discovered 75 species of parasitic Hymenoptera: 23 genera and 43 species of encyrtids, 9 genera and 29 species which belong to aphelinids, 2 genera and 2 species of pteromalids, 1 genus and 1 species of eulophids. For the first time we have established an annotated list of parasitic chalcids of Tbilisi. Eleven species of chalcids are new in Georgia and Caucasus fauna. One new species of parasitoid is also described - *Psyllaephagus georgicus* Yasnosh et Japoshvili (1999). While working on the degree theme I've also collected valuable information from different regions in Georgia. Now I am planning to do the monographical study of Encyrtidae dwelling in Georgia. I'll be very thankful for any information sent to me concerning this problem or any references about the same subject (e-mail: giorgi.j@usa.net). Thank you in advance.

References:

- Yasnosh V., and G. Japoshvili. 1998. Japanese wax scale and natural enemies in Tbilisi. *Bul. Georgian Academy of Sci.*, 157, N1, 132-134 (in English).
 Yasnosh V., and G. Japoshvili. 1999. Parasitoids of the genus *Psyllaephagus* Ashmead (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea: Encyrtidae) in Georgia with the description of *P. georgicus* sp.nov. *Bulletin of the Georgian Academy of Sciences*, 159, N3, 516-519 (in English).

Valentina A. Yasnosh

Institute of Plant Protection, Chavchavadze av-82, Tbilisi, Georgia

I continue the study of biodiversity, systematics, and biology of Aphelinidae and Encyrtidae. Many of them are effective biocontrol agents of coccids, psyllids, and aphids. Together with my postgraduate student and at present Biol. Sci. Dr. George Japoshvili we started to study Chalcid parasitoids of Psyllidae. I took part in the XIV International Plant Protection Congress, Israel, Jerusalem, 25-30 July 1999. In poster (authors: V.Yasnosh, L. Chkhaidze, E. Tabatadze) we presented the results of 18 years monitoring of insect pests and their natural enemies in citrus orchards in Georgia. At present the complex of chalcid parasitoids and some predators will be able to suppress most part of the noxious species in citrus groves. The revised check list of some mealybugs (Pseudococcidae) and their natural enemies on woody plants in Georgia will be published in *Proc. of VIII International Symposium on Scale Insect Studies*. Together with G. Japoshvili we published the article on Japanese Wax Scale - *Ceroplastes japonicus* Green in Tbilisi and its effective parasitoid, earlier introduced in Georgia - *Microterys clauseni* Compere. This pest of many subtropical plants and later its parasitoid *Microterys* have been recently accidentally spread and acclimatized on plants in Tbilisi, far away from their primary area in Georgia and in different climatic conditions. It is an interesting and important example or natural biocontrol of pest by chalcid bioagent.

Books**Indo-Australian Ormyridae (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea)**

by Prof. T.C. Narendran, Dept. of Zoology, University of Calicut, Kerala, India, 673635.

An illustrated monograph providing the latest revision including dichotomous keys, new synonyms, hosts etc. of the Indo-Australian region and adjacent islands. 220 pp., December, 1999.

For price of copies and method of payment etc., contact Prof. Narendran at his E-Mail address: narendra@unical.ac.in, or at his postal address given above.

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Trip Report

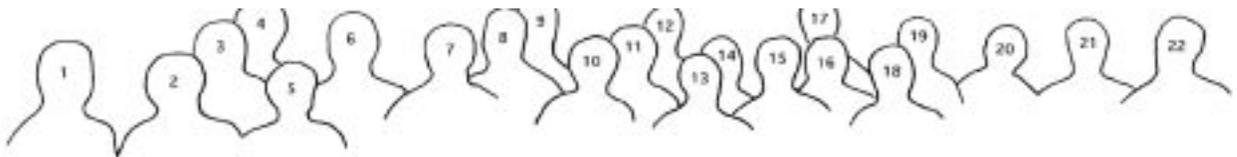
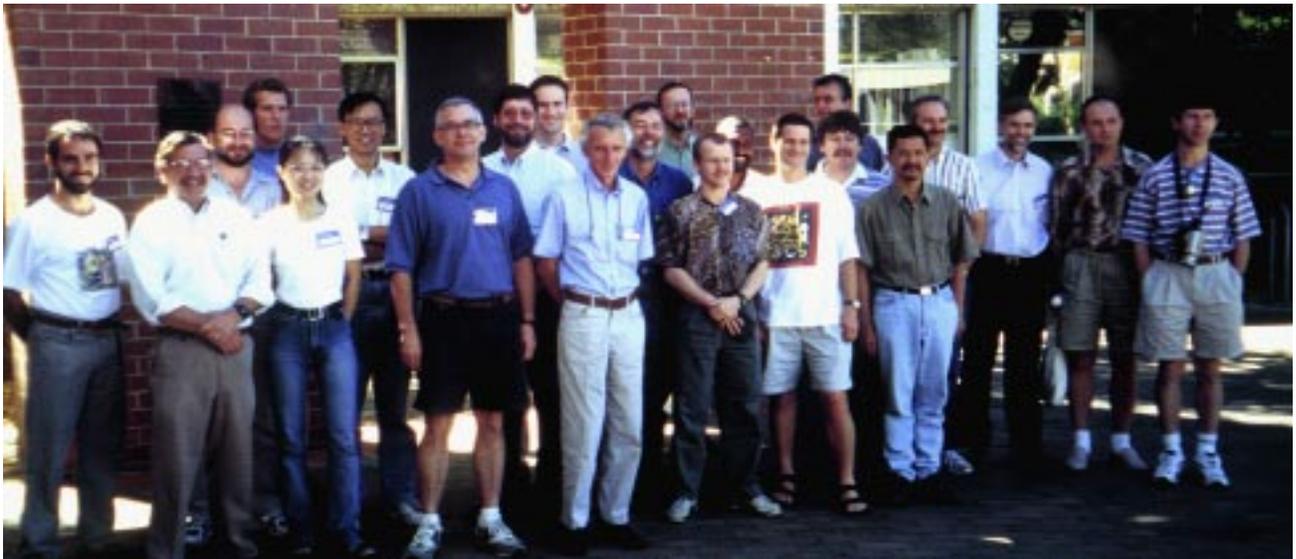
Australia
by Eric Grissell, SEL

I was able to spend 3 to 29 January 1999 in Australia, where Mike Schauff and I attended the 4th International Hymenopterists Conference, Canberra, during most of the first week. After the conference I spent several additional days at the Australian National Insect Collection examining voucher specimens of seed-feeding wasps, and Mike took off collecting with a number of chalcidological bounders. I did not see him again until returning home. I spent the next several weeks in Brisbane examining voucher specimens at the Queensland Museum, the Department of Primary Industries, and the University of Queensland, all under the tutelage of Chris Burwell. Most of my work was undertaken to determine the identity of a seed-galling wasp that attacks river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) introduced into South Africa in the past. John Heraty and I first discovered the wasp, a *Megastigmus*, on the *Eucalyptus* in Clan William, Western Cape Province. In subsequent collecting it turned it up everywhere that river red gum was found. This tree is the most widely distributed eucalypt in Australia and is exported to other countries including the United States and South Africa, so it is likely the wasp has been spread as well. The tree is useful in areas of high temperature and low rainfall where it is used as an ornamental, provides

windbreaks around farms, and provides high quality lumber. Chris Burwell and I confirmed the presence of the same wasp in Australia by rearing and seed-pod dissections. After study of voucher specimens at the Queensland Museum and ANIC, I believe the species is undescribed. Simon van Noort, South African Museum, is studying the biology of the wasp, and together we are preparing a paper with its description and biology.

Chalcid Workers Gather in Australia

The 4th Congress of the International Society of Hymenopterists took place January 6-11, 1999 in Canberra Australia at the Australian National University and played host to one of the largest gatherings of Chalcid workers every assembled in a single venue. Twenty-two colleagues gathered on a bright sunny day to be photographed (see below). The meeting included numerous papers on chalcid systematics and biology including a half-day symposium entitled "Evolution of the Chalcidoidea" chaired by John LaSalle of CABI Bioscience. The meeting provided ample opportunity for social interaction. Following the meetings a number of workers embarked on collecting and/or museum trips to various parts of Australia. Significant portions of the research presented during the meeting will be published in the upcoming Proceedings volume of the Congress.



Chalcid Workers at the 4th International Conference of the International Society of Hymenopterists, Canberra, Australia, January 1999.
1 - Marcelo Tavares 2 - Jim Woolley 3 - John Heraty 4 - Bruce Campbell 5 - Xiao Hui 6 - Da-wei Huang 7 - John LaSalle
8 - Mike Schauff 9 - Chris Desjardins 10 - Gerard Prinsloo 11 - Ian Naumann 12 - Eric Grissell 13 - Chris Darling 14 - Anura Wijsekara 15 - Chris Burwell 16 - John Noyes 17 - Stefan Vidal 18 - Rosichon Ubaidilla 19 - Gary Gibson 20 - John Huber
21 - Serguei Triapitzin 22 - Andrey Sharkov

Collections

New Housing for the USNM Chalcid Collections
Mike Schauff, SEL

In early August, 1999, the collections at the USNM moved from old quarters in a musty exhibit hall to brand new space in the just finished East Court Building of the National Museum of Natural History. Constructed in what had been the East Courtyard of the Natural History Building, the East Court facility is a free-standing 9 story building which is attached to the main building at the ground level and by "sky-bridges" on the 6th floor. The collections of Coleoptera (primarily 7th floor), Diptera (6th Floor) and Hymenoptera (5th floor) along with several smaller orders and various support offices on the 4th floor occupy the top half of the new facility. In addition to much improved heating and air conditioning systems the collections are benefiting from placement in all new steel cabinets mounted on electrical compactor carriages. The offices of scientific staff (Eric Grissell and Mike Schauff) and technicians (Tami Carlow and Terry Nuhn) are situated around the periphery of the central compactor system (see picture). One of the major benefits to the collection is the greatly increased expansion space which the new compactors make possible. We are still adapting to this new way of accessing and handling collections but the benefits seem to far outweigh any disadvantages. We also have a visitor room on the 5th floor and space for short term quests in the offices of the technicians. As always, we welcome visits by any of our chalcid colleagues.

Recent Literature

Due to problems associated with databases, we cannot provide the literature information normally supplied by John Huber.

Mailing List

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Missing Persons

The last issue of Chalcid Forum sent to the following people were returned. If you know the correct address for these folks, please let us know.

Jerome Casas (Switzerland)
Ian Galloway (Australia)
Tova Rivnay (Israel)
J. DiGiulio (USA)
Manfredo Fritz (Argentina)

New People

Additions to the Chalcid Forum mailing list:
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Hannes Baur, Naturhistorisches Museum Bern, Bernstrasse 15, CH-3005 Bern, Switzerland.
Karel Bolckmans, Biological Systems, Ilse Velden 18, B-2260 Westerlo, Belgium.
Stephen Krauth, Insect Research Collection, Dept. of Entomology, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706 USA.

Due to problems associated with databases, we cannot provide the literature information normally supplied by John Huber.

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- Pintureau, B. 1997. Systematic and genetical problems revised in two closely related species of *Trichogramma*, *T. embryophagum* and *T. cacoeciae* (Hym., Trichogrammatidae). Miscel·lània Zoològica 20 (2) :11.
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