

# AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

The Newsletter of the American Arachnological Society

NUMBER 55

May 1997

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### \*\*\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\*\*\*

We are electing two officers this year. The deadline for ballot submission is **14 JULY, 1997**. Please do not delay sending your ballot today! (page 15)

### - Dates & Deadlines -

- ◆ Materials for '97 AAS Meeting due 15 June
- ◆ Ballots and student abstracts due 14 July
- ◆ 1997 AAS Meeting, 20-23 July, Dickinson, ND
- ◆ AAS Research Fund 30 November & 30 May; (see past Newsletters for details)
- ◆ 1998 CIDA & AAS, 27 June-3 July, Chicago IL
- ◆ 1998 Highlands Arachnology Course, late July or early August
- ◆ 1999 AAS Meeting, Trinidad&Tobago, West Indies

## AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

is the official newsletter of the American Arachnological Society and is distributed biannually to members of the Society. Items for the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor, Alan B. Cady, Dept. Zoology, Miami Univ.-Middletown, 4200 E. Univ. Blvd., Middletown, Ohio, 45042, USA, (513/727-3258, FAX: 513/727-3223; E-mail: CADYAB@MUOHIO.EDU). Deadline for receipt of material for the Fall issue (Vol. 56) is 15 October, 1997. All correspondence concerning changes of address and information on membership in the American Arachnological Society should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, Norman I. Platnick, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York, N.Y., 10024 USA, (FAX: 212/769-5277). Members of the Society also receive the JOURNAL OF ARACHNOLOGY, published triannually.

## 1997 A.A.S. Meeting Dickinson, North Dakota 20 - 23 July

**Dan Mott** is our host for the Annual Meeting this year at Dickinson State University, Dickinson North Dakota. This location continues the tradition of exposing meeting attendees to the floral, faunal, and landscape diversity composing North America. Dan has provided some comments and directions pertaining to our gathering. - Ed.

I am pleased to invite you to Dickinson State University for the 1997 American Arachnological Society meeting from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July. Dickinson is located on I-94 in the southwest corner of North Dakota. We are 100 miles west of Bismarck, 80 miles from the Montana state line, 240 miles from the Black Hills and approximately 175 miles from the Canadian border.

Those who are driving may come on I-94 or, if you prefer the slightly more southern route, I-90. Just turn north at Spearfish, SD on Route 85. From I-94, take Exit 61 (the middle of 3, none too far wrong) and turn south on ND 22 (3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. W). Proceed south and turn right on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. W. This leads directly to the University at 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. W.

**Delong Hall** is on the west side of campus. Direction signs will be posted. There is an airport in Dickinson with service from Denver (and Williston), but there are only 2 flights per day on Saturday. I will arrange for transportation from the Bismarck airport at selected times (please see Registration form). There are vehicles to be rented in Bismarck.

Smoking is not allowed in any building except dorm rooms and alcohol is not allowed on campus.

The weather is often very good in July, however, one should be prepared for most anything. As a wise man (guy) once said; Going to North Dakota? **Better take a jacket**. Day time temperatures should be 80-90 degrees F, and because of low humidity, the after



dark temperatures drop quickly to 45-50 degrees F. Collecting should be good, but in areas with moisture there will be hoards of mosquitoes. I recommend face netting. Long sleeved shirts are always recommended to protect against the sun. Did I mention the wind?

For those wishing to travel the area before or after the meeting, Yellowstone National Park is approximately 450 miles southwest and Glacier National Park is approximately 600 miles northwest. If you wish to stay at the parks it would be best to make reservations as soon as possible. If you wish to stay in a local hotel, indicate this on the returned form and I'll send you a list.

**Dan Mott**  
**Department of Natural Sciences**  
**Dickinson State University**  
**Dickinson, ND 58601**

**Electronic mail:**

**Daniel\_Mott@DSU1DSU.NODAK.EDU**

**Phone Numbers**

**Dept. (701) 227-2369**

**FAX (701) 225-0526**

**Office (701) 227-2111**

**Home (701) 225-7806**

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**1997 A.A.S. MEETING**

**Tentative Schedule**

The 1997 meeting of the American Arachnological Society will be held in Dickinson, North Dakota on 19-23 July, hosted by Dan Mott (Dickinson State University). Registration begins at 5 pm on 19 July in DeLong Hall. The schedule is:

**Saturday 19 July**

Check into DeLong Hall; Evening social

**Sunday 20 July**

Paper presentations - Student Center

Informal discussions - Rattlesnake Creek

**Monday 21 July**

Paper presentations

Field Trip - Schnell Ranch 4 pm

**Tuesday 22 July**

Paper presentations

Banquet - 6 pm

**Wednesday 23 July**

Paper presentations

Business meeting

## **Student Paper Presentation Award Guidelines**

### **I. ELIGIBILITY**

A. The student should submit a copy of the paper's abstract to the meeting organizer AND to the President-Elect. The President-Elect must receive the abstract one week prior to the commencement of the meeting. In addition to the abstract, a letter to the President-Elect should contain the name of the major professor who supervised the work. The name and mailing address of the President-Elect is :

**Dr. Ann L. Rypstra**

**Dept. of Zoology Miami University**

**Oxford, Ohio 45056**

E-mail: RYPSTRAL@MUOHIO.EDU

B. The presentation either represents independent or joint research in which the student's contribution has been substantial. In case of a co-authored paper the student presenting the paper must be first author.

C. Entry is limited to one standard research paper per meeting (invited symposia presentations and poster presentations are excluded from competition.)

D. Previous winners of the outstanding Student Paper award are not eligible.

### **II. JUDGES**

A. A panel of three judges will be appointed by the President-Elect before the meeting. The abstracts of all student papers and a copy of the judging guidelines will be mailed to each judge prior to the meeting. An appropriate number of evaluation sheets (listing the criteria as below) shall accompany the abstract package for each judge. Judges will be chosen from different disciplines (systematics, morphology, physiology, ecology, behavior).

B. Efforts should be made to avoid bias or conflict of interest in judging, either by appointing judges with no students in the competition or, if that is unavoidable, by having judges abstain from voting on their own students.

C. Judges should meet twice: once before the paper presentation to review the guidelines and once afterward to make a decision on ranking.

D. At least one hour should be available between the last eligible presentation and the scheduled announcement of the award.

### **III. EVALUATION**

A. Judges should give equal weight (expressed in points from 1-10) to each of the criteria listed below. Decisions should be based on the total points earned. In co-authored papers, the judges will carefully evaluate the student's contribution to the presented research. In case of a tie or



very close ranking, the judges may decide on a joint award.

**B. Criteria**

**1. Abstract and paper title:**

Organization, clarity, completeness. The abstract should summarize the main results of the research.

**2. Scientific merit:**

Difficulty and scope of research problem

Approach and design of study

Details of analysis

Creativity of experimental design

Soundness of conclusions

Significance of results

**3. Presentation:**

Overall organization and clarity, timing of talk

Oral presentation skill, poise

Quality of visual aids

Response to questions

**IV. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES**

A. Traditionally, the award is announced at the society's banquet. Students entering the student paper award competition are eligible to buy banquet tickets for a reduced price.

**V. AWARDS**

The top ranking and runner-up individuals traditionally receive a monetary award. Other awards vary according to donations and other philanthropy.

**SAMPLE JUDGING SHEET**

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-authors: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Paper: \_\_\_\_\_

Equal weight (expressed in points from 1-10) should be given to each of the criteria listed below.

Total number of points: 110

**1. Abstract and paper title:**

\_\_\_\_\_ organization, clarity, completeness. The abstract should summarize main results of research.

**2. Scientific merit**

\_\_\_\_\_ difficulty and scope of research problem

\_\_\_\_\_ approach and design of study

\_\_\_\_\_ details of analysis

\_\_\_\_\_ creativity of experimental design

\_\_\_\_\_ soundness of conclusion

\_\_\_\_\_ significance of results

**3. Presentation**

\_\_\_\_\_ overall organization and clarity, timing of talk

\_\_\_\_\_ oral presentation skill, poise

\_\_\_\_\_ quality of visual aids

\_\_\_\_\_ response to questions

Points awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of points by all three judges: \_\_\_\_\_

**Arachno-Auction**

or

**Comb Your Closets**

The fifth annual Arachno-Auction will take place at the 1997 A.A.S. Meeting. This event has produced some significant contributions for the A.A.S., and this tradition will certainly continue in 1997. Everyone is urged to search your storage and purge your bookshelves to find books, curios, T-shirts, and other objects for bidding at the Arachno-Auction. If you plan to contribute items, please notify Dan Mott (meeting host) to enhance coordination of this event.

Considering the Great Plains location of our 1997 meeting, I thought it appropriate to attempt to organize a symposium on grassland arachnid biology. This is to be interpreted broadly as including: evolutionary biology, ecology, behavior, distribution, faunistics, and natural history of grassland arachnids. If you are interested in participating in this symposium, please drop me a note preferably by e-mail, otherwise US mail (often I am not easy to reach by phone).

Bruce Cutler, Entomology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2106;

BCUTLER@ALIVE.BIO.UKANS.EDU.

**CAVE CONSERVANCY FOUNDATION  
GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN KARST  
STUDIES**

The Cave Conservancy Foundation is sponsoring an annual competition for a \$15,000 graduate fellowship in karst studies. The fellowship, designed to foster graduate research, will be awarded to a master's or doctoral student who is working on a thesis or dissertation in some aspect of karst. The work can be in any of the sciences or other disciplines that in some way has a relationship with karst terrain, karst processes, caves, etc. Competition will not be limited to the classic sciences such as archeology, biology, geology and hydrology but may include ecology, conservation, civil engineering, pollution, restoration, water quality and other social issues resulting from karst processes. An applicant must be full-time graduate student at a U.S. college or university. Applications must include a thesis proposal, graduate transcripts, and two letters of recommendation, one being from the thesis advisor. **Applications are due by June 1.** Awards will be announced by July 15. For more information contact:

Dr. David Culver, Department of Biology, American University, Washington, D.C. 20016; or via E-mail:

DCULVER@AMERICAN.EDU

**Mail applications to: Cave Conservancy Foundation**  
Attn. Graduate Fellowship Program 5300 W. Marshall Street Richmond, VA 28230

Note: Please reply only to the addresses above, not the lists or me.

Thank you

*Combine into one category*



## 1997 Elections

This year We elect a President - Elect and a Director. You'll find a handy ballot on page 15, so read-up on the candidates, turn to the ballot, and exercise one of your privileges of being a Society member. The President - Elect position is a three-year commitment (one year as P-E, one year as President, and the following as a Director). The other Directors serve a two year term.

Please send your ballot (on page 15) to:

**Jon Reiskind**

**Department of Zoology  
University of Florida**

**Gainesville Florida USA 32611**

**Ballot Deadline is 14 JULY, 1997**

Here is an opportunity to participate in your Society, so find the ballot, make your informed choice, and send the ballot back to Jon Reiskind TODAY!!!

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## Candidates for President - Elect

### **Fredrick A. Coyle**

Coyle earned his B.A. in Biology from the College of Wooster in 1964 and his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1969. He is currently Robinson Professor of Biology at Western Carolina University. Most of his research effort has been devoted to the systematics and natural history of mygalomorph spiders. Recently, however, he began a biodiversity survey of the spiders of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

### **Robert B. Suter**

Bob Suter is a graduate of Swarthmore College (BA, Biology) and Indiana University (Ph.D., Animal Behavior), and began participating in the AAS in 1982 when he gave a paper at the meetings at Hampden-Sydney College. As a graduate student he studied the role of web-borne vibrations in the behavioral ecology of *Cyclosa turbinata* (Araneidae), and in the subsequent fifteen years at Vassar College and The Rockefeller University he studied a variety of facets of the biology

of *Frontinella pyramitela* (Linyphiidae) including pheromone-mediation of courtship and aggression, foraging ecology and dynamics, and decision theory. During the past five years, while chairing the biology department at Vassar, Bob has been studying the physics of water-surface locomotion by *Dolomedes triton* (Pisauridae). In addition to nearly annual presentations at AAS meetings, he has participated in the Society both as its Business Manager (1988 to present) and as a member of the Executive Committee (1995 to present).

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## Candidates for Director

### **H. Don Cameron**

Don is a Professor of Greek and Latin, and Adjunct Curator, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan. He has been a member of the AAS since 1974, and specializes on the history of biological nomenclature. Don is currently preparing a book on the etymology of spider genus names. Interests: Scorpions and general spider stuff. Selected papers: Platnick, N.I. and H.D. Cameron. 1977. *Cladistic methods in textual, linguistic, and phylogenetic analysis*. Syst. Zool. 26:380-385. Cameron, H.D. 1987. *The Upside-down cladogram: Problems in manuscript affiliation*, in Hoenigswald, H.M. and Wiener, L. Biological metaphor and cladistic classification. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.

### **Wayne P. Maddison**

Wayne is a long-time member of the Society, and co-hosted the last meeting of the AAS (1996). He is interested in the biology and systematics of the Salticidae, and is intimately involved with initiating and operating *The Web Of Life*, an ever-growing resource available on "The Web". - Ed.

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## Student Research Fund Awards

Checks and letters of congratulations go to the following:  
**J. Thomas Curtis**, University of Missouri - Columbia \$635  
**Will McClintock**, University of California \$614  
**Martin J. Ramirez**, Buenos Aires University \$495  
**Carl T. Kloock**, Kellogg Biological Station \$372.75  
**Mary Popson**, Bowling Green State University \$720  
Good luck to these researchers, and a big Thank-you to Beth Jacob, Craig Hieber, and the Committee. -Ed.



# American Arachnological Society Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 31 July, 1996

1. The 1996 Business Meeting of the American Arachnological Society was called to order by President Greenstone on 31 July at 1345 hours. He conveyed greetings from Bill Shear, Fred Coyle, and Paul Selden. The President mentioned the 17th European Colloquium of Arachnology in Edinburgh and asked those interested to refer to the Newsletter. Greenstone then remarked that this is a historic time for the Society. We are able to support student research, abolish page charges in The Journal of Arachnology, and are hosting the 1998 CIDA Congress in Chicago.

The minutes of the 1995 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Reading of the minutes was waived, and they were accepted unanimously with one correction noted by the Secretary.

2. Elections - We need to hold elections for President-Elect and a Director. Jon Reiskind and Lenny Vincent are the Nominating Committee. Reiskind made a plea to the Members for the names of possible nominees. (Note: the ballot for the 1997 election may be found on pg. 15 -Ed.)

3. Membership Report - President Greenstone gave a report for Norman Platnick, Membership Secretary. There has not been much change in member numbers from previous years. The President noted that membership forms will be included in the Journal and Newsletter. Jon Reiskind suggested an application form be placed on the appropriate websites.

4. Future Meeting Sites - President-Elect Ann Rypstra related a letter from Chris Starr in Trinidad & Tobago inviting the Society to meet at the University of the West Indies in 1999. There was a discussion of timing and possible air fares (combining).

Rypstra made a plea for meeting sites for 2000 and beyond. It was related that Steve Skinner in Detroit, Michigan, was interested in hosting a meeting. The President-Elect also noted that posters will not be a part of student competitions in future meetings, with the upcoming CIDA Congress the exception.

5. Report on the Journal of Arachnology - Editor Jim Berry gave a briefing on the Journal, stating it was on schedule, and there were approximately 25 articles a year in the Journal. He gave an accounting of the costs: \$5 K-\$6 K for each issue of 650 copies.

Because of the efficiency of our staff, Editor Berry had the rare pleasure to announce the abolition of page charges for the Journal of Arachnology. (He then indicated that there was no longer any reason not to submit to the Journal.) Berry made a plea for manuscripts. An index for

Volumes 11-25 is being assembled by Petra Sierwald, Jack Kaspar, H. Don Cameron, and Rick Vetter. It is expected late in 1997.

Editor Berry made a plea for photographs suitable for the cover of the Journal. Any format may be accepted, black & white preferred. A question about back issues of the Journal was answered by Pat Miller: Contact her and she'll tell you what is available.

Associate Editor Petra Sierwald made some comments about her first year in that position. She confessed to enjoying the job and was looking to the future. Editor Berry called for and received a solid sign of appreciation from the Membership for Petra's good work.

President Greenstone thanked the Index Committee for the job they are about to do, and announced the formation of a task force of Jim Carico, Heather Proctor, and Gary Miller to investigate ways to increase numbers of submissions to the Journal while keeping the high quality. Jack Kaspar suggested trying to make the Journal more international. It was suggested that dropping page charges will probably do that. Wendel Icenogle suggested color in the Journal. Berry stated that he can do color if the author is willing to support the finances. It was suggested by Heather Proctor that non-agriculture mite papers might be carried by the Journal. A discussion ensued, with it agreed that only ecological and behaviorally-oriented papers are appropriate. Proctor will draft a proposal and submit it to the Executive Committee.

6. Research Awards - Chairperson Craig Hieber announced that Beth Jacob will be taking the reigns of the Awards Committee. Craig explained the reviewing process and gave a brief history of the Fund. He had some suggestions for the future: keep the Committee balanced by having turnover of members, but much overlap in terms; standardize a submission format, and keep official submissions in hardcopy, not electronic. Craig thanked all those who helped on the Committee, especially Gail Stratton. Jon Reiskind suggested a list of the awardees should appear in the Newsletter, and Petra Sierwald suggested awardees must give a report of what they did and findings. There was a discussion on who should be eligible for research awards.

7. Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Gail Stratton related our good fortune to have \$20 K more in our accounts than last year, and it has been growing over the last 7 years. The Society should have \$90 K by the end of 1977. Dues are stable and should remain so. Stratton called for the independent auditor, Beth Jacob, to give her report: the books are fine. Jon Reiskind moved to adopt the Treasurer's report, it was seconded, and passed unanimously. Treasurer Stratton received recognition from the Members for her good work.

8. Executive Committee Report - Secretary Alan Cady outlined discussions and actions of the Executive Committee: A financial plan has been formulated, and certain plans and policies were produced (1. A reserve fund of 1 year's expenses must remain at all times (approx. \$34 K),



2. Budget and spend only income expected from any given year, 3. Eliminate JOA page charges, 4. A fund will be available to meeting hosts for up-front expenses, 5. Plans to spend more than \$500 must be submitted to the Executive Committee before the Business Meeting.

Posters will not be considered for future AAS student paper competitions, CIDA excepted. The student Research Award Fund will be increased to \$4 K per year, in two rounds. The possibility of allowing advertisers in the Newsletter will be investigated by Alan Cady and Matt Greenstone through the Executive Committee. Aspects of the Membership Directory were discussed. The tabled motion of an honorarium for the secretary was considered not appropriate at this time. A Futures Committee is being formed, and the Communications Committee is looking into website policies for the AAS. Members were encouraged to bring suggestions and issues to the Executive Committee.

9. CIDA 1998 Congress / AAS Report - Host Petra Sierwald reported progress on the plans for the 1998 CIDA & AAS meeting in Chicago at the Field Museum. The meeting will be 27 June - 3 July 1998, with 4 days of papers. Field trips and a banquet, along with receptions are scheduled. Costs are estimated at \$150 (US) for registration, the field trip \$25, and t-shirts \$12. Housing costs depend on the accommodations chosen (hotel or dorm). Petra was given warm recognition for all the hard work she has done so far, with even more to come.

President Greenstone and the members recognized Secretary Cady's work for the Society.

10. New Business - Dan Mott will be our host for the AAS meeting in 1997 in Dickinson, North Dakota. The dates were not set at that time.

Lenny Vincent suggested that research grants be made available to faculty in smaller, non-research institutions. There was much discussion, and eventually our Parliamentarian, H. Don Cameron, had to extract us from a tangle of motions and amendments to receive a motion to move the issue to the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

Rich Bradley mentioned that the database made available by Jon Coddington needs a program named *Paperbase* to correctly download the information. The software is available (in DOS) for about \$50.

Chuck Kristensen wanted to know what Members thought were about working with Asian colleagues and more closely with the European Arachnological Society. Discussions lead to suggestions for personnel exchanges, attending EAS meetings, and improving communications. President Greenstone suggested that Chuck be a liaison.

Rick Vetter suggested setting aside certain items in the auction for student bidding only, and perhaps giving students a longer time to pay for higher-priced items.

George Uetz moved to adjourn, it was seconded and passed at 1535 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alan B. Cady Secretary

## AAS 1999 - Trinidad & Tobago

Chris Starr at the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, W.I., will be our host for the 1999 Meeting of the American Arachnological Society. This is a wonderful opportunity to see and experience tropical biology while conferring with fellow arachnophiles. Chris has offered some preliminary information now, with much more coming in the future. Make your plans folks, this promises to be a meeting you'll not want to miss. - Ed.

From Christopher K. Starr, Department of Zoology, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, W.I.

Dear Colleagues,

The University of the West Indies (UWI) and its Department of Zoology are happy to host the 1999 meeting of the American Arachnological Society. As far as I am aware, the annual meetings of the entire AAS have yet to be held outside of the USA and Canada.

Trinidad & Tobago are a twin-island state off the coast of South America, just north of the Orinoco River delta. Both are continental islands, whose rich biota is harmonic with that of the mainland. The larger island, Trinidad, has a land area of 4800 km<sup>2</sup>.

Trinidad & Tobago are a semi-industrialized country, economically intermediate between what used to be called the First and Third Worlds. The local currency is the TT\$, holding steady at about \$0.16 US. Costs for most ordinary things are probably slightly more than in the USA, but somewhat less than in Canada. The society is ethnically and culturally diverse, with a population of 1.3 million, the predominant groups descended from West Africa and India. English is the language of all public and most private affairs.

The Trinidad campus of UWI is one of three, the others being in Jamaica and Barbados. Its student population is slightly over 5000. The well vegetated campus is located at St. Augustine, about 15 km east of the capital city of Port of Spain and at the foot of the low, forested mounts comprising the Northern Range.

Aside from our attractive location and physical aspects, we are well equipped to host the AAS meetings. Like people everywhere, we gripe about such things as public transportation and communi-



cations, but AAS members will find Trinidad's infrastructure well up to the task. The nearby international airport handles daily flights from London, Toronto, New York, Miami, and Caracas, and telephones, fax and e-mail are about as reliable here as in industrialized countries.

Furthermore, our campus is far from inexperienced as a meeting host. During each of the five years that I have been at UWI, at least one international conference of comparable size and requirements to AAS meetings has been held here. These have included the IBRA-sponsored Fifth International Conference of Apiculture in Tropical Climates in 1992 and the annual meetings of the Association of Caribbean Ornithology last year. We made a point of consulting with the organizers of the latter event after the fact, as it was very similar to AAS meetings in all important aspects. They unequivocally approved the campus as a meeting site. As far as I know, the organizers of other conferences held here have also been satisfied.

Our school year is from September to June, with most of the students away during the northern summer. Given sufficient notice, a block of on-campus dormitory rooms can be reserved for the AAS. Depending upon the particular residence hall, per-person costs for this accommodation are presently between US\$10 and \$20 per day. The most attractive (although more expensive) alternative for a limited number of colleagues is the Pax Guest House, gorgeously situated about half way up into the Northern Range behind St. Augustine. The Pecks have stayed there.

Human resources have been a key concern of ours in considering this proposal. While local organizers can call upon the AAS Executive Committee for a measure of advice-at-a-distance, and also upon the host institution's public affairs office for considerable facilitation, there must be a home team of enthusiasts for the main job of putting it all together. Without belabouring the point, we can assure you that we have the people to do it.

As a long-time serious amateur arachnologist and sometime attendee of AAS meetings, it has been my personal ambition since I joined the UWI staff to be in a position to ask the Society to meet here. Having taken the time to consult extensively and be

quite sure that we have what it takes to do the job well, we anticipate the privilege of hosting you in 1999.

If you wish further or more detailed information, Chris may be contacted at:

Christopher K. Starr, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, W.I.  
CSTARR@CENTRE1.CENTRE.UWI.TT

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### Symposium at the XIV International Arachnological Congress 1998

Keith Sunderland (Horticulture Research International, U.K.) and Matt Greenstone (USDA-Agricultural Research Service) will co-sponsor a symposium, "Spiders in Agroecosystems: Ecological Processes and Biological Control," at the 1998 Congress in Chicago. Speakers from Europe, the U.K. and the U.S. will review and systematize what is known about fundamental ecological processes as they relate to biological control of insect pests by spiders, in order to promote the use of spiders in insect pest management and make recommendations for future research.

Matthew H. Greenstone USDA-ARS, Plant Sciences Research Laboratory 1301 N. Western Street Stillwater, Oklahoma 74075 U.S.A. Tel: 405 624 4119; Fax: 405 372 1398 e-mail: MATTG@AG.GOV

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### Arachno - CyberSpace

The Majordomo (Arachnology ListServer) mail address is: [MAJORDOMO@ZI.BIOLOGIE.UNI-MUENCHEN.DE](mailto:MAJORDOMO@ZI.BIOLOGIE.UNI-MUENCHEN.DE)

The Mailinglistarchives is found under: <http://www2.zoologie.de/~majordom/archives/> or <http://www.zi.biologie.uni-muenchen.de/~majordom/archives/>

The January archive will come soon. The description of the list can be found under:

<http://www2.zoologie.de/~majordom/arachnology.html> or <http://www.zi.biologie.uni-muenchen.de/~majordom/arachnology.html>

If you have any special messages for me, please send them to [ARACHNOLOGY-OWNER@ZI.BIOLOGIE.UNI-MUENCHEN.DE](mailto:ARACHNOLOGY-OWNER@ZI.BIOLOGIE.UNI-MUENCHEN.DE)

With regards, Nils Koesters: [Koesters@zoologie.de](mailto:Koesters@zoologie.de)

The arachnological community is invited to view our new web site at: <http://www.oeb.harvard.edu/Departments/InvertZoo/inverts.html>

We invite comments about the site and especially about useful information or features that you would like to see, and if appropriate, links to our site from other relevant web sites.

Sincerely, **Laura Leibensperger**, Curatorial Assistant, Dept. of Invertebrates, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 phone: (617) 495-2447; FAX: (617) 495-5667; [MCZARACH@OEB.HARVARD.EDU](mailto:MCZARACH@OEB.HARVARD.EDU)

Hello all, Please note my new email address:

[Herman.VanUyten@LIN.VLAANDEREN.BE](mailto:Herman.VanUyten@LIN.VLAANDEREN.BE)

All mails concerning the **Arachnology Home Page** can be sent to this address. My university address (UFSIA) also works, but my former address: [vanuythe@lin.vlaanderen.be](mailto:vanuythe@lin.vlaanderen.be) will not.

With best regards, Herman

Vanuyten Herman, Universiteit Antwerpen, UFSIA-SES0 Prinsstraat 13 2000, Antwerpen, Belgie & Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap Dep. Leefmilieu en Infrastructuur Adm. Wegeninfrastructuur en Verkeer, Dienst Antwerpen Copernicuslaan 1 2018 Antwerpen Belgie

<http://www.ufsia.ac.be/Arachnology/Arachnology.html>;  
<http://www.ufsia.ac.be/Arachnology/Pages/Herman.html>



# REGISTRATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

1997 Meeting of the American Arachnological Society  
Dickinson State University  
Dickinson, ND

**DEADLINE FOR EARLY REGISTRATION IS 15 JUNE 1997**

Please submit a copy of this form to: Dr. Daniel Mott; Dept. Natural Science; Dickinson State Univ.; Dickinson, ND: 58601  
(701) 227-2111; FAX (701) 225-0526  
or email to DANIEL.MOTT@DSU1.DSU.NODAK.EDU

Please type or print plainly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_  
(night) \_\_\_\_\_

Electronic mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Registration fees:

\_\_\_\_\_ Regular \$45 (late \$55)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Students \$35 (late \$45)

\_\_\_\_\_ Field Trip  
Monday 21 July 1997 (\$5 per person)

\_\_\_\_\_ Tee shirts  
(\$12 ea.) (A solpugid: design by Robert Holmberg)  
\_\_\_ S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL

\_\_\_\_\_ Banquet  
Tuesday 22 July (\$15 per person, \$10 for students)

\_\_\_\_\_ Transportation from Bismarck  
Saturday 19 July (\$15 per person roundtrip, \$10 oneway)

\_\_\_ 4 pm                      \_\_\_ 7 pm                      \_\_\_ 11 pm

Accommodations: DeLong Hall \$11 per night-double, \$16 per night single. Linen provided, but please leave it here.

\_\_\_\_\_ nights X \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per night = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

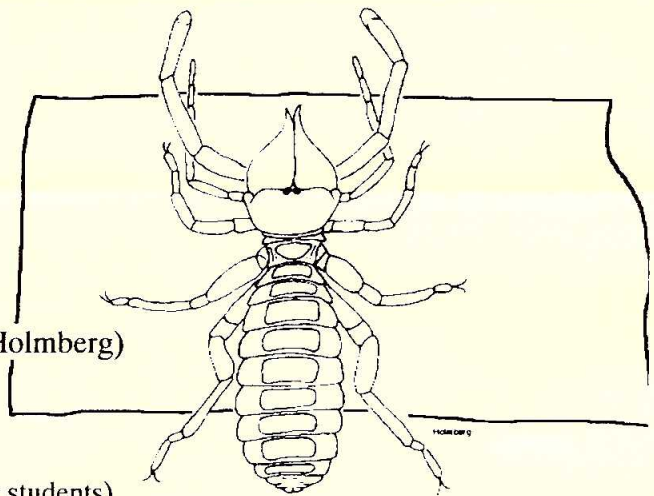
Arrival date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Remitted

Departure date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate preference: \_\_\_\_\_

Your gender: \_\_\_ male \_\_\_ female





# CALL FOR PAPERS

1997 Meeting of the American Arachnological Society  
Dickinson State University  
Dickinson, ND

Please submit abstracts by **15 June** via **e-mail** (preferred) or by standard mail to:

Dr. Daniel Mott  
Dept. Natural Science  
Dickinson State University  
Dickinson, ND 58601  
(701) 227-2111; FAX (701) 225-0526  
or email to DANIEL\_MOTT@DSU1.DSU.NODAK.EDU

Talks are 12 minutes with 3 minutes for questions.

\_\_\_\_\_ Oral Presentation

\_\_\_\_\_ Poster

Name of Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Electronic mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special equipment may not be available, but it doesn't hurt to ask.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student presenter who wishes to be considered in the Student Paper Competition.

(Posters are not considered in the student competition.)

**NOTE:** Students wishing to enter the Paper Competition **must also submit** an abstract to:

**Dr. Ann L. Rypstra Dept. of Zoology Miami University Oxford, Ohio 45056 by 14 July, 1997**

Abstracts should be in the following format: Put an asterisk by the presenter's name, use a footnote for the presenter's address; the title should be all capital letters. The entire abstract with title, name, and address should fit in a box 6 inches wide and 4 inches high.



## REVIEWS

Review of 'The Book of the Spider: From Arachnophobia to the Love of Spiders.' By Paul Hillyard (1994. Random House, NY, pg. 193+)

Suddenly spiders are in vogue with the general public.

While approximately 48 children's books on the biology of spiders have come out within the last 5 years, only one book has attempted to popularize spiders for the adult market in the same time period. For this reason, I was interested in Dr. Paul Hillyard's *The Book of the Spider* with an eye to it filling the need for an accessible, factual, up-to-date, and appealing book for general adult readers.

Unfortunately, 'The Book of the Spider' is unlikely to fill that role. It is not apparent to me what audience Hillyard was aiming to attract: his book is a hodgepodge of different types of information about spiders presented at very different levels of interest or previous knowledge. On one hand, the book is a collection of historical and cultural references to spiders throughout the world, with an emphasis on the Victorian era. On the other hand, the book attempts a cursory scientific overview of the biology of spiders. The organization of these topics is not logical and switches back and forth between the two approaches.

The book opens with an overlong discussion of arachnophobia and some of the sources of fear of spiders (venom, silk). The historical sections may appeal to readers who enjoy cultural and literary references to spiders, but are not particularly interested in the animals themselves. As an arachnologist, I enjoyed learning about the careers of the early arachnologists whose names I recognized but about whom I knew little. But I am not certain that readers who do not already know something about these early scientists will find their biographies particularly involving.

The biological overview of spiders is inadequate for two major reasons. First, arachnology is a vibrant field with excellent research done within the last 30 years. Yet, Hillyard's book emphasizes the earliest historical references (from 1600 - 1920) to various phenomena, and only briefly concludes each section with some of the current research on a given topic. For example, historical observations of gossamer and

ballooning occupies five pages, while relatively recent discoveries about ballooning receives six paragraphs interspersed through the chapter. Similarly, Hillyard only spends three pages on the intrinsically interesting traits of social spiders, omitting *Anelosimus eximius* entirely. Yet, in a later chapter the discovery of social *Epeira* by Europeans is recounted in great detail, but without providing the spiders current scientific name (*Eriophora bistrinata*) or even clarifying that it is an Araneid being described. Second, when the book does deal specifically with a current biological issue, it is frequently treated so superficially that only someone who already knows the issue would understand it. For example, on pages 123 - 125 Hillyard attempts to describe the wide variety of modifications of spider webs. Web modifications provide important insights into the evolution of web-building behavior. But the book does not include drawings or photos of the complex 3-D structures that are described, so there is no visual reference to aid in interpretation of his descriptions. I can not imagine that the average reader would be able to envision the structure of the webs, much less understand from the text why arachnologists find them so interesting.

Most drawings are unlabeled and irrelevant to the text. For example, a sketch (pg 122) of a group of orb-webs appears to be over water. In the text near the sketch, the only species described that builds webs over water is *Wendilgarda* (Family Theridiidae) whose web is a horizontal frame supporting many vertical sticky silken lines. However, most readers would reasonably (and erroneously) suppose that the drawing is of *Wendilgarda* webs. Although the text consistently uses scientific names, Hillyard often uses archaic nomenclature and rarely uses family names, making it difficult for the curious reader to track down further information. Photographs and illustrative graphics can add immeasurably to comprehension by a reader. I think that much of the source of peoples' attraction to and repulsion from spiders is due to their appearance. Whatever the response, real spiders are fascinating to look at closely. Hillyard has clearly made the decision to supplement the text with cute line drawings that are not linked to the text. I believe the book seriously lacks appeal and clarity by not having good color photos or illustrative drawings.



The contrast between Hillyard's book and popularized books by R. & K. Preston-Mafham (1984. *Spiders of the World*. Facts on File Publications, NY) or R. Preston-Mafham (1991. *The Book of Spiders and Scorpions*. Crescent Press, NY) is striking. Both of the Preston-Mafham books are full of superb color photos of spiders and other arachnids, excellent (if occasionally mislabeled) graphics, and a lucid, engaging description of spider biology. My father, a non-biologist, recently read the latter book, and was evidently enthusiastic enough to repeatedly interrupt his reading to regale my mother with information about the amazing diversity of methods spiders use to catch prey (!!)

Hillyard's book will not evoke that kind of excitement. There is a need for an up-to-date popular book on spiders, but one with more scientific meat to it would be more satisfying. I will continue to recommend *Spiders of the World* to adults who want to know more about the wonders of spiders.

Dr. Linda S. Rayor, Dept. Entomology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853  
LSR1@CORNELL.EDU

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Gruner, H.-E. editor. Kaestner, A. **Lehrbuch der Speziellen Zoologie, Wirbellose Tiere, part 4, Arthropoda (ohne Insecta), 4<sup>th</sup> revised edition.** Gustav Fischer Verlag, Jena, Stuttgart, New York. 1279 pp. \$105.00 US.

Kaestner's Lehrbuch was first published from 1954 to 1956 as summaries of Prof. Kaestner's lectures at the University of Munich. A second, larger edition (1965-1967) followed the successful first, and a third edition in 1969. The American version was an adaptation of the German 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. After Kaestner's death in 1971, Prof. H.-E. Gruner (Natural History Museum, Humboldt University, Berlin) became the chief editor for the fourth edition, which, unlike previous versions, was written by specialists mostly from what was the German Democratic Republic. The fourth volume, fourth edition, *Arthropoda (ohne Insecta)*, came out in 1993. All volumes are much expanded from earlier versions, with more information from recent world wide literature, but following Kaestner's outlines and style. The volume's 1279 pages include about 450 pages on arachnida (by M. Moritz), 500 pages on crustaceans (by H.-E. Gruner),

and 150 pages on myriapods (W. Dunger), expanded from 172 on arachnida, and 382 on crustaceans in the second edition.

Each chapter deals with a taxonomic group, starting with a short paragraph on the number of species included, name and size of the smallest and largest members of the group. The second paragraph gives a diagnosis, followed by a general section called "Eidonomie", followed by an anatomy section subdivided into sensory organs, digestive, vascular, etc. Anatomy is followed by sections on reproduction, development, relationships, distribution and habits, behavior, and a systematic section listing only the common families.

This current volume summarizes the recent flood of literature on all aspects of invertebrates. It is a superb guide for each of the groups, using simple language and short sentences. The illustrations are much improved from earlier editions. The good illustrations of earlier editions having been kept and the poor ones replaced. Some of the figures came from illustrations especially made for the English translation of the second edition; many new ones were especially prepared for this edition.

The volume has two indexes, one to all animal species cited, the other a general index. The literature is cited by number in the text, and is referenced in the back of the volume alphabetically by author for each chapter, each class, subclass, or order. The bibliography gives authors, and complete journal citations but for titles, gives only a few words summarizing the contents. The most recent literature considered is 1992.

While I found the section on spiders well balanced, it does not encompass all the information found in R. Foelix's *Biology of Spiders* (second edition, 1996, Oxford Univ. Press). On the other hand, the volume gives information for scorpions, harvestmen, mites, and other non-insect arthropods not included in the Foelix volume. Years ago Kaestner insisted that the price of his volume be kept low, but that ended with part 3 of the third edition (@ \$26.00). The large part 4 of the fourth edition, with better paper and much improved binding, is more expensive, but a good value for a storehouse of information.

**Herbert W. Levi, Museum of Comparative Zoology  
Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138**



## Second Circular XIV International Arachnological Congress & 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Arachnological Society

This circular will be available on the  
WorldWideWeb under

<http://www.ufsia.ac.be/Arachnology/Pages/News.html>

**Schedule and Program** All sessions and social events will take place at FIELD MUSEUM unless noted otherwise. All sessions and events are free with your registration fee unless noted as: "extra ticketed." Saturday, 27th June 1998: Arrival Day: registration, poster set-up, congress reception (includes light buffet and beverages) Sunday, 28th June 1998: Paper Sessions/Symposium. Architecture Cruise on the Chicago River (includes light buffet and beverages, extra ticketed) Monday, 29th June 1998: Paper Sessions. Poster reception (includes light buffet and beverages) and auction of arachnid related books and memorabilia) in the evening Tuesday, 30th June 1998: Field Trip Day (extra ticketed) featuring prairie and old growth forest, possibly the famous Indiana dunes (box lunch included). FIELD MUSEUM's Insect Division and arachnid collection will be open, our library will offer a special Arachnid Book Exhibit (open all week), featuring treasures from our Rare Book Room. Informal evening with slides and videos (includes light buffet and beverages) Wednesday, 1st July: Paper Sessions. Thursday, 2nd July: Paper Sessions. Banquet (extra ticketed, reduced student price). Friday, 3rd July: Paper Sessions in the morning. Separate AAS and CIDA Business Meetings in the afternoon. The congress will end at 5:00 pm. Informal farewell gathering on the north steps of FIELD MUSEUM to enjoy the Independence Day Fireworks over Lake Michigan at 9:00 pm.

**Travel and Accommodation Hotel:** The BLACKSTONE HOTEL, 636 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605; 15 minute walk to FIELD MUSEUM. Approximate rates per night per room:

single \$79, double \$89, \$99 triples, \$109 quads (add 14.9% tax), extended stay available at the same rate. Dormitories: Illinois Institute of Technology, 3100 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60616, three miles south of FIELD MUSEUM, convenient public transportation. Approximate rates per night per room: \$27 single, \$47 double. You will book your accommodation yourself. Reservation forms with payment instruction will be mailed to you as part of your registration package. United Airlines will provide a 5% discount on any published fare booked in connection with the Congress for flights within the U. S. More information will be provided in the registration package (to be mailed in January 1998).

Complimentary Shuttle Service to and from Blackstone Hotel and IIT. In the morning, trolleys will shuttle congress participants and accompanying persons to the Field Museum to sessions and events and return them to their accommodations in the evening after paper sessions and social events.

Papers Contributed papers will be scheduled in 15 minutes intervals, talks should be 10 minutes long, allowing 5 minutes for questions.

### **Call for Arachnid related Books and Memorabilia**

A live auction of arachnid related books and memorabilia has become a cherished tradition during the Annual Meetings of the American Arachnological Society. Frequently, rare books are available or a scorpion-shaped belt buckle will find another proud owner. The proceeds from the auction to be held during the 1998 International Arachnological Congress will be used to cover some of the travel costs for participants who may need assistance to come to Chicago. Please search your bookshelf and your attic or basement. Find those items you are willing to part from and donate them to the auction at the 1998 International Arachnological Congress. We will ask for items again in the registration package and you can mail items to the meeting host anytime (wrap that crystal spider carefully). You can also bring the item(s) with you when you come to the meeting. Don't hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions regarding auction items.

**Student Paper and Poster Competition** Students presenting a paper or poster at the congress may enter the student competition for best student paper/poster. In co-authored papers/posters, the student must be



first author. The judges will be appointed by CIDA President Dr. N. Platnick and AAS President-Elect. The winners (and runner ups) will receive a one-year AAS membership and cash prizes and will be announced at the banquet. ALL students participating in the competition will receive free housing at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Competing students need to send their abstracts to the meeting host and to the President-Elect of the American Arachnological Society no later than May 1st 1998 (Name and address of AAS President-Elect will be announced in the January 1998 registration package).

**Proceedings** The Proceedings will be published by the Journal of Arachnology no later than 1999. Every full and student registrant will receive the volume. Manuscripts are restricted to six printed pages, including illustrations. This is equivalent to 4000 words or 12 double-spaced manuscript pages. The space occupied by printed tables and figures will reduce this text limit. Manuscripts will be subject to the regular peer-review procedure of the Journal and its instructions to authors (inside back cover) must be observed. The registration package will contain a copy of the "Instructions to authors." The final version of the manuscript will have to be supplied on computer disk (either in PC or MAC format). Manuscript intended for publication in the proceedings must be received by Dr. Brent Opell no later than 1st May 1998. Address: Dept. of Biology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0406.

**Abstracts** Mailed abstracts are due 1st May 1998; electronic abstract submission: 10th June 1998 (Fax submission is not feasible, since faxed text often causes problems during scanning). Paper and poster abstracts will be included in the congress program and the abstracts of papers that are not published in the proceedings volume will be published in the November 1998 issue of American Arachnology, the newsletter of the American Arachnological Society

**Deadlines** Registration packages will be mailed in January 1998 to those who return the registration slip below to me or send me an e-mail message. Manuscript submission to Dr. Brent Opell and registration: 1st May 1998 (late registration will require a late fee). Paper and poster abstracts due to the

meeting host: 1st May 1998 by mail, 10 June via e-mail. Accommodation: 1st May 1998 at the Blackstone Hotel or at Illinois Institute of Technology. Reservation forms and payment information will be included in your registration package.

**Fees and Payments** (all quotes are approximate) Registration fees will be around \$160 per full registrant, \$50 for one-day registration, \$100 for students, and \$50 per accompanying person. Late registration fee will be approximately \$30. Field Trip, Banquet, and Architecture Cruise will be between \$30 and \$50 each, students banquet tickets are available for a reduced price. Children under 12 are free at the banquet. Before the meeting, registration and other meeting fees should be paid in US currency either by check drawn to an American Bank made payable to the American Arachnological Society, or by credit card (with a voluntary donation of 5%, AAS has to pay for the credit card use). At the meeting, cash, check (drawn to an American Bank), and US\$ traveler checks (possibly credit card as well) will be accepted. Accommodation (hotel and IIT) can be paid by credit card, check, traveler's check or cash.

**XIV International Arachnological Congress 1998  
22nd Annual Meeting of the  
American Arachnological Society**

Preliminary Registration/Préinscription/Pre-inscripción/  
Vorläufige Anmeldung

Name/Nom/Nombre/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Adresse/Dirección/Anschrift: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your plans regarding presentations (no obligation).

I anticipate to present a: PAPER, POSTER.

I plan to submit a MANUSCRIPT for the Proceedings: YES NO

I plan to participate in the: STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION  
or STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION. YES NO

During the evening for informal Slide/Video presentations I anticipate to show: Slides Video(s).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to/ Envoyer / Enviar/ Senden an:  
Petra Sierwald, Insects, THE FIELD MUSEUM, Roosevelt Road  
at Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605, USA.  
Phone: (312) 922-9410 ext. 841, Fax: (312) 663-5397  
E-mail: SIERWALD@FMPPR.FMNH.ORG (include your full mailing  
address and paper/poster plans)

Hope to see you in Chicago



## From Vince & Barb Roth:

### Collecting Spiders in Madagascar

Madagascar (shaped like California but the size of Texas) is famous for its unique flora and vertebrate fauna. The spiders have a few interesting genera, but most are also known from the mainland of Africa. There are a little over 400 species recorded from all of Madagascar, but within 3 months we recorded 350 species (mostly unidentified) within a few kilometers or so from our camp site among primary and secondary rain forests in Ranomafana National Park. Collections made elsewhere on the island, north and south in the eastern tropical rain forests and western deserts, contained only 5% to 10% of the same species suggesting that Madagascar might have as many species as all of North America.

The collections included 7-8 families not recorded on the island and at least one and possibly two new genera of Gallieniellidae. In addition, the unusual endemic araneophage, *Archaea* (Archaeidae) with the elevated head and elongate chelicerae was relatively common, and one or two new species were collected. Besides the latter two, other families rare to most American arachnologists include the mygalomorphs Barychelidae, Idiopidae, Migidae, and the araneomorphs Cyatholipidae, Hersiliidae, Palpimanidae, Tengellidae, Tetrablemmidae, and Trochanteridae.

The best methods for producing the greatest number of species per hour in the rain forests (following Coddington's methods) is nocturnal collecting with head lamps (averaging 20 species of adults), beating or sweeping (16 species), and sifting (8.3 species). Can traps, casual collecting, and diurnal searching produced fewer species but often different ones. After 125 hrs. of collecting we were still getting 0.5 to 2.7 new records for every hour of collecting, depending on the method used. This was, incidentally, during the poorest (cold) season for insects and spiders.

The Linyphiidae, which is usually the most abundant family in the leaf litter of temperate forests, are replaced by the Theridiidae in the tropics where the leaf litter layer is very thin. Also, the habitats among the dense vegetative understory with its great diversity of tree, shrub, and vine species have been successfully exploited by the theridiids. We recorded 77 species from Ranomafana National Park and only 14 species of linyphiids. Previously 23 and 4 species in these families were recorded from the whole Island, indicating that we still have only touched on the fauna.

The primary rain forest contains many "Phantom" spiders. These are pale white or light green, often translucent and slender, with elongate appendages and occasionally with reduced eyes. They are always nocturnal, usually found in the daytime hiding among the mid-ribs under broad leaves and palm fronds. We found representatives of 9 families, mostly Clubionidae (with elongate chelicerae), Pholcidae, Pisauridae, Sallitidae, Theridiidae, and Thomisidae.

It is not easy to obtain permits to study and collect spiders in Madagascar. One must have accord with the Malagasy

Eaux et Foret, usually negotiated by an institution such as a university or museum. A proposal is written in advance and acceptance will be decided upon by a tripartite committee. Allow 3 months to a year for a decision. All business in Madagascar, like many third-world countries, takes much longer than planned, and here it is usually all in French. Calculate at least 3 days to obtain your collecting permits after arriving, even after you have your accord, and 3 days at the end of your stay for your export permit. The office is far from the city center and is closed from 12 to 2 pm, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Also, officials leave early Fridays for weekends or before holidays and at any other time for personal business. If one does not collect in National Parks nor National Reserves no collecting permits are necessary. However, in order to take specimens out of the country one needs an export permit, but the latter can only be obtained if one has a collecting permit! It took four weeks to obtain this information and the NO permit. There is an alternative for spiders collected outside the Park system: they can be sent through a commercial exporter.

It is good to work with a local student or research guide who can help with collecting and getting around for a modest salary. Stick to Malagasy food, it is healthy, non-fattening, and tasty. Besides malaria and venereal diseases, there are few tropical illnesses. We managed to stay away from all.

Getting from place to place is not always easy. Flights are often reported to be full but are not, or vice versa, taxi brousses (taxis used as buses) or buses are always packed, and backpacks are known to disappear off the roofs: roads are impassible during the rainy season and barely passible in the dry season while the speed is often 10 to 30 km/hr. On the positive side, one sees more of the country, can meet the people, practice patience, and get the feeling of joy when things work out. The forests, (also called the spiny forests), where still available, are fantastic, and the wilderness experience in desert areas like Isalo and Ankarana National Parks is indescribably beautiful.

Ready to book your flight to Madagascar? Keep in mind that there is a 20-30 kg luggage allowance, plus 5 kg carry-on in or out of Madagascar, more if luggage is checked straight through from the USA or on some French carriers. To pay for overweight is very expensive. What if your French is not so good? English works surprisingly well at times, and people are very friendly and helpful with a good sense of humor. In the country, Malagasy is often necessary, so have a few words available. We felt very comfortable and safe except in downtown Antananarivo at night or on market days. (Specimens are divided between the California Academy of Science, San Francisco and the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.)

### Common Names of Arachnids

The second edition of Common Names of Arachnids will be published this year. For those of you who were not aware of the first edition, it was published in 1995 by the American Tarantula Society in conjunction with the Common Names Committee of the American Arachnological Society. At the species level, coverage of this spiral bound book has mostly dealt with the Americas, especially North America north of Mexico. Obviously most the



species occurring in this area endemic to the area. On the other hand, most families are not. For the purposes of updating the new edition, everyone is encouraged to send lists of arachnid family common names, especially for spiders (Araneae) and harvestmen (Opiliones), to Dr. Robert G. Breene, chairman of the Common Names Committee, at the e-mail address below:

RGBREENE@COMPUSERVE.COM

Please pay particular attention to families that are unique or prevalent in your geographic area, so that the list may be made as complete as possible. Thank you are your assistance.

G. B. Edwards, Curator: Arachnida, Myriapoda, & Thysanoptera. Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Division of Plant Industry, P.O. Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100 USA phone: 352-372-3505; suncom: 624-1194; fax: 352-334-0737 email: spidey@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu

I have posted my preliminary list (with Bruce Cutler) of the spiders of the arid Southwest (Arizona, New Mexico and Trans-Pecos Texas). It is at :

<http://taipan.nmsu.edu/people/richman/southwest.html>

Any corrections, deletions, additions, or comments are welcome.

David B. Richman The Arthropod Museum Dept. of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science New Mexico State University Las Cruces, NM 88003 (ph.) (505) 646-2900 (fax) (505) 646-8087 (homepage) <http://taipan.nmsu.edu/people/richman/dbr.html>

### From Jim Berry, Editor, Journal of Arachnology

Jim has the pleasure of reminding everyone that page charges for JOA have been eliminated! This is for electronic submissions only, and there is a \$3 per line charge for changes in proof.

Authors are requested not to send the original illustrations when they submit a manuscript. With the four copies of the manuscript, they should submit only **photocopies** of the figures. Photocopies should be reduced to fit the exact size the author intends for final publication. Original figures should be submitted only when the manuscript is accepted for publication. For more information, contact Jim Berry (e-mail: BERRY@BUTLER.EDU).

## Join the A.A.S. !

Are you reading a borrowed copy of *American Arachnology*? Start enjoying the benefits of membership in the American Arachnological Society. Complete the following form and send with your dues, (calculated by table below), to the Membership Secretary (address below).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State (or province), Postal code, Country \_\_\_\_\_

#### Indicate Membership Dues Enclosed:

Regular	\$ 30
Student	\$ 20
Institutional (USA)	\$ 80
Institutional (all other countries)	\$ 90

Snip & Save Time

Norman I. Platnick - Membership Secretary  
 American Museum of Natural History  
 Central Park West at 79th Street  
 New York, New York 10024 USA

Members receive the *Journal of Arachnology* triannually, and the newsletter *American Arachnology* biannually.

# BALLOT

## 1997 A.A.S. ELECTION

Please choose ONE candidate for each office, or you may enter a write-in candidate.

Clip this and send on, or before:

**14 JULY, 1997** to:

**Jon Reiskind**

**Dept. of Zoology Univ. of Florida  
 Gainesville Florida USA 32611**

### President - Elect

**Fredrick A. Coyle**

**Robert B. Suter**

**Write-in**

### Director

**H. Don Cameron**

**Wayne P. Maddison**

**Write-in**

I want to mention that the Icelandic Institute of Natural History has recently printed a book(let) on Icelandic spiders in the publishing series of the institute (no 31. by Ingi Agnarsson). If this is of interest to anyone out there please contact me (INGIA@NATTFS.IS) for a copy (which will be given away free, or for a minimum price (2-3 pounds) to cover printing cost). However, I'll only be here sporadically, so please contact the library (PALINA@NATTFS.IS).

Here follows the abstract from the work:

All species of Icelandic spiders are treated. Previously published material is summed up and new material added. A new checklist of Icelandic spiders is presented. Each species is treated individually in the species synopsis and available information on their distribution, habitat selection, time of maturity, and status in Iceland is given. Identification pictures accompany the information of all indigenous species as a part of an identification key. Maps showing the distribution of records is given for most species and general maps showing how and where spiders have been collected in Iceland are presented.

The text is in Icelandic but with abstract, introduction and summary chapters in English, as well as English summary for each species. Identification keys are in English as well as in Icelandic. Most identification pictures are by Michael J. Roberts.

**Ingi Agnarsson**

From Bill Shear:

To make it a full arachnological summer (1998), plan to take the **Biology of Spiders** course at Highlands, NC, later in July or in early August (dates not yet set)! For more information, contact: William A. Shear, Dept. of Biology, Hampden-Sydney College, Hampden-Sydney, VA 23943 USA Tel. (804) 223-6172 FAX (804) 223-6374; e-mail- [BILLS@TIGER.HSC.EDU](mailto:BILLS@TIGER.HSC.EDU)

#### In The Next Issue ...

- Abstracts from the 1997 AAS Meeting
- Reports from the 1997 AAS Meeting
- Submit items for Vol. 56 by 15 October, 1997



# AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

The Newsletter of the American Arachnological Society

Number 55

May 1997

## E-Mail Happenings

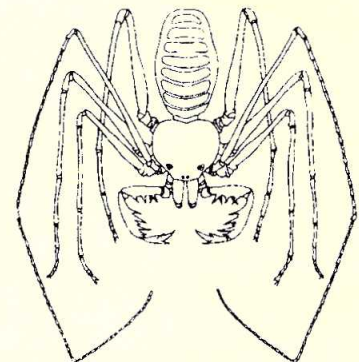
Those wishing a hard copy of the Directory should contact the Secretary (Alan B. Cady, Dept. Zoology, Miami Univ.-Middletown, 4200 E. Univ. Blvd., Middletown, OH 45042, U.S.A.). A new version (5.0) is now in production, and a Full version of this will be sent to all on the list upon completion. If you wish to have your e-mail address included in the A.A.S. E-Mail Directory, or if your address has changed, or if it's an incorrect entry, please contact Alan Cady (CADYAB@MUOHIO.EDU).

## A.A.S. Membership Directory

A directory listing the names of all A.A.S. members in good standing was produced in May 1996. The Secretary reminds Members wishing to have more than just their name listed in the Directory, that you may include additional information (address, phone, FAX, e-mail) according to your desires. Anyone wishing a copy of version 1.0 of the Directory should contact the Secretary (hardcopy now, digital later).

Heather Proctor's "Last Party and Arachnid Photo Judging" was held, and there were 13 lucky winners of the calendar contest. Here are the stats:

- (a) SUBMISSIONS Number of submissions: 170 slides Number of contestants: 18 Countries participating: USA, Canada, Germany Countries from which arachnids came: USA (including Hawaii), Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru
- (b) JUDGING Number of judges: approximately 20 biologists (arachnologists, ornithologists, botanists, ichthyologists) Head judge and final adjudicator: H. Proctor Judging criteria: all slides were shown to the judges, who scored them as "nah", "so-so" or "wow!". Final judging: I compiled all "wow's" and divided them into the following taxa from which a set number (N) was chosen, in landscape orientation: mygalomorphs(1); Pisauridae/Lycosidae (1); Thomisidae (1); Salticidae (2); Araneidae (1); other families of spiders (2); non-spiders (4). Landscape orientation was chosen over portrait because most submissions were landscape; the only exception was the cover shot, which is portrait.
- (c) WINNERS Winners (number of slides chosen): Joe Warfel (2); Jason Bond (1); Hubert Hofer (with an umlaut over the 'o' - 2); Rogelio Macias (1); William Preston (1); Heather Proctor (1 - not rigged!); Bob Suter (1); Robert Jackson (1); Lenny Vincent (2); Rosemary Gillespie/ Geoff Oxford/Sam Gon (1). Cover shot: Joe Warfel's spectacular shot of *Cupiennius coccineus* in a threat display. (Thanks to Heather and all who took the time to submit photos. We'll probably need another batch for the next calendar. - Ed.)



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Department of Zoology  
Miami Univ.-Middletown  
4200 E. Univ. Blvd.  
Middletown, Ohio, 45042

AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY