

Anansi, the spiderman trickster central to West Indian folklore

# AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

## The Newsletter of the American Arachnological Society

NUMBER 59

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

We are electing two officers this year. Be looking for your ballot in the mail soon. Please do not delay sending your ballot.

### --DATES & DEADLINES--

- ◆ A.A.S. Research Fund - 31 October
- ◆ 1999 - 27 June - 3 July, St. Augustine, Trinidad
- ◆ 2000 - 15 - 20 July, Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky USA
- ◆ 2001 - Keene, New Hampshire USA
- ◆ 2002 - Riverside, California USA
- ◆ 2003 - Denver, Colorado USA
- ◆ 2004 - Norman, Oklahoma USA

### 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. 60) is 15 September, 1999. 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 U.S.A. (FAX: 212/769-5277). Members of the Society also receive the JOURNAL OF ARACHNOLOGY, published triannually.

### 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 27 JUNE - 2 JULY 1999, ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

#### Introduction

The American Arachnological Society will meet in the tropics for the first time next year at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago. The Local Organizing Committee for the meetings is drawn from organizations representative of the national biological/conservation/naturalist community: Caribbean Union College, Trinidad & Tobago Biological Society, Trinidad & Tobago Field Naturalists' Club, University of the West Indies, UWI Biological Society, Wildlife Section: Government of Trinidad & Tobago, Zoological Society of Trinidad & Tobago.

The languages of the meetings will be English and Spanish. As emphasized by Chris Starr at the recent international congress in Chicago, arachnologists accustomed to attending annual meetings in North America will find the costs of attending these meetings much the same except in one item: travel.

A Spanish version is going to the Latin American arachnology network, ARACNOL@NET.USP.BR. If you are certain not to attend the meetings, or if you receive bulletins through the Latin American network and need not receive them in English, please let us know. And if you know someone who should be added to the list, please let us know.

#### Housing Accommodation

Two housing options are available for meeting participants. All prices are in US dollars. Payment can be made in US\$ or TTS (i.e. Trinidad & Tobago dollars). In some cases these or other meeting expenses can be met in other currencies, by arrangement.

Most participants will probably prefer to stay in an on-campus student dormitory. The meetings take place during the summer vacation, so that there will be few other occupants at the time. The dormitory is much like familiar accommodations from past meetings. Cost per person per night: Single—\$15 Double—\$13 Single in double room—\$20. The alternative is the Pax Guest House, on Mt. St. Benedict above St. Augustine. Accommodation is comfortable, although not luxurious, with very friendly management and a lovely setting. Bill & Marina Peck stayed there during a recent visit and pronounced themselves satisfied. Break-

fast and supper are included. Shuttle transportation to the UWI campus will be arranged. Cost per person per night: Single with shared bathroom \$35 Double with shared bathroom \$25.

If you have already decided to attend the meetings, or if you think it is quite likely that you will attend, we ask you to advise us at this time. This will be a big help in our planning. Please specify the expected number of persons in your party and what type of accommodation is preferred.

Those who prefer to stay at the Pax Guest House are advised to make reservations directly with the managers, Gerard & Oda Ramsawak, at: PAX-G-H@TRINIDAD.NET. At the same time, please advise the Local Organizing Committee.

### Collecting Specimens

Trinidad & Tobago are a signatory of CITES since 1984. Legal requirements with respect to the collection and export of land arthropods for scientific purposes are very modest, although by no means lax. There is no unreasonable bureaucracy or cost involved for the scientific visitor. Permits are required for entry into some conservation areas. Permits for collection and export of dead land arthropods are fairly routine, with the exception of butterflies recognized as rare. The usual guide in determining rarity of butterflies is Barcant's (1970) field guide. The relevant government authority is the Wildlife Section, Forestry Division, Farm Road, St Joseph, Trinidad & Tobago; tel (868) 662-5114, fax (868) 645-4288. The Head of Section is Mrs. Nadra Gyan. You are not legally required to seek a collecting permit before arriving in Trinidad next year, but it will make things easier if the Wildlife Section can handle many or most requests in advance. If it is likely that you will want to collect arachnids or other land arthropods for scientific study during your visit, it is suggested that you send your request through this committee. This can be done by e-mail, fax (C.K. Starr, 868-645-7132) or mail (C.K. Starr, Dep't of Life Sciences, University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago). Include the following information: your name, institutional affiliation, intended main repository of specimens (if different from above), focal taxa, the habitat(s) in which they are mainly found, whether your request is for Tobago as well as Trinidad, and a brief (one or two sentences) indication of your research with respect to the focal taxa. If any targeted species is known or suspected to be rare, please make a separate statement and rationale about it. We are aware of just one such species, the scorpion *Chactas raymondhansi*, but you may know of others. Unless otherwise stated, it is assumed that all specimens will be dead when taken out of the country. If you wish to take any live material, a somewhat more precise statement with respect to taxa, numbers and purpose is in order. This list of desired information may raise alarm in some colleagues with experience in certain countries. Let us reassure you.

In contrast to some tropical countries, our government maintains a reasonable and understanding posture toward legitimate scientific visitors. It is understood, for example, that where land arthropods are concerned you cannot very well be expected to say in advance exactly what species you will collect, or how many of each. Nor is there a set fraction of specimens that must be repatriated within a given time, let alone a preposterous requirement that you deposit labeled, identified duplicates before you even leave the country. What is expected of you is a fair indication of your intentions, that you will report new records and other new knowledge in a timely manner, and, where species series are long enough, that you will in time send identified synoptics for our reference. You will NOT send any specimen that becomes a primary type, but will report its repository. It may be legitimate to send a paratype or two if the type series is long. Most arachnologists and other scientific visitors do not even need to be told this. Most have shown a cordial and responsible attitude toward local priorities. This has kept our government's attitude from hardening, which makes it easier for all of us.

### Introduction to the Organizing Committee

The AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY (AAS) is represented on the local Organizing Committee by committee coordinator Christopher K. Starr, on staff at UWI. His main research areas are the behavioural ecology and systematics of social insects and the history of ethology. Arising out of two summers as research assistant to AAS past-president Charles D. Dondale, he is also an amateur arachnologist and an AAS member since 1973.

The CARIBBEAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (CAS) was founded in 1988 as an organizing body for science and technology in the region. Originally largely an organization of the Trinidad campus of UWI, it has gradually and deliberately expanded its membership base and influence to become more truly Caribbean. This year's AGM will be held in Suriname, and the 2000 meeting will likely be in Cuba. Committee member Harold Ramkissoon is Professor of Mathematics at UWI, with main research interests in fluid dynamics. He is a founder and past-president of CAS.

The TRINIDAD & TOBAGO BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY is a non-profit NGO formed in 1989 by former UWI Biological Society members who had graduated from the university. Its main concern is the preservation of local biodiversity through public education and action-oriented programmes. Committee member Carol Ramjohn has been an environmental consultant for several years. She is now a UWI graduate student, researching the ecology and conservation of native birds.

The TRINIDAD & TOBAGO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB (FNC) was founded in 1891 (yes, 1891) and has about 200 members, mostly amateur naturalists. It is mainly a natural-history society with some involvement in environmental activism. The Club publishes a biennial (soon to be annual) journal, the LIVING WORLD, and a guide to nature trails of Trinidad & Tobago. Committee member Raymond

Martinez is a retired medical entomology technologist and an amateur scorpionologist.

The UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (UWI) is the main tertiary-level school in and for the English-speaking Caribbean region. It has campuses in Jamaica, Barbados and — our meeting venue — Trinidad. The Trinidad campus has about 425 teaching staff and 7100 students at the undergraduate, masters and doctoral levels. The Department of Life Sciences has 19 teaching staff. Committee member Peter R. Bacon is department head. His research is in the ecology and management of wetlands and coastal ecosystems. UWI is also represented by its public relations officer, Robert Henry.

The UWI BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY is the very active biological and conservation organization of UWI students. Committee members Matthew Eversley and Shoba Maharaj are undergraduate students in Life Sciences.

The Government of Trinidad & Tobago is represented through the WILDLIFE SECTION of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, which has responsibility for the environment. Committee member David Persaud did his masters degree in ichthyology at UWI. Among his present duties are issuance of permits to collect specimens (so you will definitely want to be nice to him) and oversight of compliance with CITES.

The ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO is a public-education organization, founded in 1946. Its main function is management of the Emperor Valley Zoo in Port of Spain, in existence since 1951. Committee member Sayeed Ali is Assistant Curator of the zoo.

### **Social Niceties and Personal Safety**

You will find Trinidadians to be warm, gracious and almost unflinching polite. The people of Tobago tend to be a little more reserved, but this should not be mistaken for unfriendliness. To Americans, the sense of politeness may appear somewhat formalized. For example, it is considered crude in the English-speaking West Indies to approach someone with a question before proffering a greeting. There is no need to overdo it, but "Good morning, Ma'am. Could you direct me to Abercromby Street?" is much superior to "Where is Abercromby Street?" At the same time, there is a very definite informality in the attitude that everyone has a God-given right to an opinion on absolutely anything and to address it to absolutely anyone. Derek Walcott (Nobel Prize for Literature, 1992) says that ancient Athens must have been rather like Port of Spain is today, in that you could stop anyone in the street and talk to her/him about anything. Just remember the etiquette. "Hello, Sir, and a very pleasant good afternoon to you. Now, don't you find that the Honourable Minister of ... is the worst, shifty-eyed, thieving bastard this country has seen since ...?" The foregoing is not a far-fetched example. Humour — especially the variety known as "picong" has an accepted place in public life, and it is hazardous to be perceived as taking oneself too seriously. This is really nothing less than a philosophy of life. It bears mentioning

that, while "morning" means the same here as elsewhere, the boundary between "afternoon" and "evening" is shifted forward to around 14:00 or 15:00. 15:30 is already "evening", and "night" begins at dusk (about 18:30 year-round). Accordingly, when someone greets you soon after dark with "Good night", it can mean either hello or goodbye. English is the language of public affairs in Trinidad & Tobago, and few people speak any other at home. Although Trinidad English is by no means as heavily creolized as that of Jamaica and some of the other islands, it is nonetheless unlike standard English. You should expect to understand almost everyone you meet, although with occasional difficulty. If you speak French, you will be startled by occasional expressions that sound as if they come from French. Not quite. Until about a century ago, French Creole — still the predominant language of everyday life in such islands as St. Lucia, Dominica and Haiti — was widely spoken in Trinidad and has influenced present-day English. Some expressions, such as "mov, lang" [mauvais langue], have been taken over almost unaltered, while others, such as "it have " [il y a] are in translated form.

It would be a serious mistake to see Trinidad & Tobago as peopled exclusively by gentle tropical philosophers. As almost anywhere in the world, there are risks to personal safety. As long as you bring your usual precautions and good judgement with you, you should have no problem. In some of the islands you can leave your rental car unlocked when you are out of sight of it; this is not one of them. One precaution that may not be obvious has to do with beaches. Travel brochures abound with pictures of secluded little beaches far from the madding crowd, but those are in fact the ones to avoid. It will disappoint your fantasies, but if you go swimming choose a drive-up beach with at least a few other people on it. This precaution can be relaxed in Tobago. Walking by yourself in the forest is a judgement call. It is rarely risky, but unless you are (or look) reasonably tough it is probably best to hike with at least two or three others.

This is not a malaria area. However, we are advised by the health authorities of two medical alerts in force at this time (early February): 1. Because of cases of cholera detected in northern South America, there is a cholera alert. The danger is minimal as long as one exercises good sense, e.g. in avoiding food prepared or served under suspect conditions. Ordinary pipeborne water is safe, and there has been no public advice to drink only boiled water. In this decade there have been two previous such alerts, each occasioned by cholera in mainland South America. No cases were reported in Trinidad & Tobago. 2. About once a decade we have a yellow fever alert. There has been no outbreak, but most of us have had our shot. The risk appears to be minimal, and the alert may be lifted before you arrive. Still, if you see your doctor before coming to Trinidad, ask about getting vaccinated against yellow fever. We will monitor the situation and, if it seems warranted, ask about having the campus Health Centre take care of visitors.

### **Cultural aspects I: Demography, Music, Literature**

The population of Trinidad & Tobago is about 1.3 million.

Those of African and Indian descent account for most of the populace, each about 40%. For historical reasons, the 50,000 people of Tobago are almost entirely of African descent. The other major cultural influence seen in the arts and daily life is European. A recent book on art in the Caribbean describes T&T as "culturally and ethnically perhaps the most diversified in the world." Alongside Christianity, the predominant religion, Hinduism and Islam account for about 24% and 6% of believers, respectively.

Trinidad & Tobago are known worldwide for two musical innovations. Calypso is a form of narrative and satirical song with its roots in the period of slavery. As such, it tends to be topical music. Much of the commentary then and now has been in a veiled style, although there have also been very openly political calypsos. Among the best-known living calypsonians are Chalkdust, David Rudder, Lord Kitchener, the Mighty Sparrow, the Roaring Lion, Shadow, and SuperBlue.

Another innovation is the steel drum or steel pan. This originated as beaten oil drums in the years immediately after World War II. It is now a much more sophisticated music form, played by large orchestras according to professional arrangements. Although the steel drum has come a long way from its raucous beginnings and is now almost sedate, the sound of a full orchestra in motion can still be exciting.

A number of world-renowned authors have come from the English-speaking Caribbean. The best known from Trinidad is undoubtedly V.S. Naipaul, whose stories drawn from his early years are eminently readable, entertaining and instructive. *A HOUSE FOR MR. BISWAS*, based on the life of his own father, is generally regarded as his best book. In reading Naipaul, be prepared for a very sardonic view of Trinidad and life in general.

The poet Derek Walcott, winner of the 1992 Nobel Prize for Literature, is from St. Lucia. He is also a Trinidadian, in the sense that he lived here for years and plainly regards it as a second home. The epic poem *OMEROS* is perhaps the best-known of his recent works. Don't try to read Walcott when you are tired; you will have to work at it. Three other Trinidadian writers are Earl Lovelace, the late Samuel Selvon, and Eintou Pearl Springer. *THE DRAGON CAN'T DANCE*, Lovelace's novel about the Carnival, is perhaps his most enjoyable and accessible novel. His most recent, the critically-acclaimed *SALT*, is a somewhat more difficult but very rewarding story of the condition of Black people in the Caribbean. Recommended works by Selvon include the novel *A BRIGHTER SUN* and his many short stories.

Springer is Trinidad's leading living poet. Her very accessible poems are found in the books *OUT OF THE SHADOWS* and the more recent *FOCUSSED*.

The single best guidebook to these islands is the *INSIGHT GUIDE TO TRINIDAD & TOBAGO*. This attractive

book is prepared by people who know the subject and have no stake in selling you things you don't want. Substantial historical-cultural background is included. Distributors: Cedibra Editora Brasileira Ltda, Rua Leonidia, 2 Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. Kingston Publishers, 1-A Norwood Avenue, Kingston 5, Jamaica. Graphic Arts Center Publishing, 3019 N.W. Yeon, P.O. Box 10306, Portland, OR 97210, USA. Prentice Hall Press, Gulf & Western Bldg, 1 Gulf & Western Plaza, New York, NY 10023, USA.

A number of Internet sites include information on Trinidad & Tobago. Of the ones known to us, just two are likely to be of interest: 1. TIDCO, the national tourist board, can be reached at <http://www.discover-tt.net>. The site has some useful information, but keep your fraud-detector on Alert. 2. Former UWI staffer Roger Barnes maintains a sub-site on the Dep't of Life Sciences within his personal site: <http://www2.carib-link.net/~rfbarnes>.

### **Cultural/ethnic aspects II: Food and drink**

The cuisine of Trinidad & Tobago, like that of the rest of the Caribbean, has been heavily influenced by the various waves of immigration throughout our history. Most of the characteristic food is readily attributed to the two dominant ethnic groups, those of African and Indian descent, so that there are more or less distinct "Creole" and "East Indian" cooking styles.

The former draws its name from a blending of African and French traditions. It makes heavy use of legumes and ground provisions, such as yam, cassava, eddoes.

Likewise, East Indian cooking will not seem entirely familiar to those who have been to India. It has, for example, a much greater emphasis on meat. The most popular dishes — and probably the most characteristic of Trinidadian cuisine as a whole — are various types of rotis, consisting of the flat roti bread and an array of curried fillings. North Americans can think roti as a sort of exotic burrito.

A strictly New World dish within the East Indian style is doubles, consisting of two deep-fried pancakes (soft of) with various spicy meatless toppings. It is not exactly a meal, and you are unlikely to find it in any restaurant. Rather, it is a roadside snack, usually sold from portable stands. Nonetheless, it is a substantial and nutritious snack, one that you should try at least once.

A common ingredient in non-dessert dishes is pepper sauce. However, even in Trinidad & Tobago, not everyone likes or can tolerate very spicy food, so that pepper sauce is retained as an option. In a restaurant or roadside stand, the customer will usually be asked her/his preference. Respond with "no pepper", "slight pepper" or "plenty pepper", according to taste. North Americans fond of Mexican food will feel right at home with "plenty pepper".

A word of caution is in order regarding roadside food stands. As anywhere in the tropics, they are not equally reliable. To avoid trouble in the lowlands, it is best to use them sparingly and prefer the more substantial-looking ones. For arachnologists staying on campus, the University Doubles stand (actually a solid cement shack operated by

a whole family) just off campus is recommended. Consumption of oysters from roadside stands is not recommended.

Trinidad has two breweries, Carib and Stag. Carib is very much like Mexican beer and seems to be preferred by most beer drinkers. The evident reason is that Stag is rather like American beer.

The standard strong drink of these islands is rum, of which Trinidad has at least two distilleries. Both the clear and dark varieties seem to be very popular in mixed drinks. However, our information breaks down at this point, as no one on this committee has much idea what either one tastes like or how they compare with the rum of other islands.

### **Local habitat and biota**

The land areas of Trinidad and Tobago are about 4800 and 300 square kilometers, respectively. The topography is only moderately rugged, with maximum elevations somewhat over 900 m and 600 m in Trinidad and Tobago, respectively. For land-oriented field biologists, the areas of greatest general interest are the Northern Range of Trinidad (very near the meeting venue) and Central Range of Tobago. Each has substantial tracts of intact forest.

The climate is moist tropical, with annual rainfall varying with locality between about 600 and 2600 mm and a moderately pronounced seasonality. The dry season typically extends from January through April. During the AAS meeting week, one should expect some rain on most days but also substantial clear periods on most days.

In contrast to the Lesser and Greater Antilles to the north, these are continental islands. They have been narrowly separated from the South American mainland only since the last glacial period. As such, the biota is harmonic with that of northern South America. Among the groups for which we have been reasonably thorough species inventories are all groups of land vertebrates, freshwater fishes, palms and some other families of plants, butterflies, and termites. The land arthropod fauna comprises an estimated 2-4% of that of the world.

Except for the scorpions, with 10 known species, no order of arachnids has been reviewed for Trinidad & Tobago. The scorpions include one species potentially hazardous to humans, *Tityus trinitatis*. Another species, the much rarer *Chactas raymondhansi*, is mostly found in a single, very localized species of bromeliad.

Among the spiders of note are *Anelosimus eximius* and another apparently social species, *A. rupununi*.

It is hoped and expected that collecting by visiting arachnologists will contribute very significantly to increasing our knowledge of the local fauna.

### **Excursions I: Field trip to Arena Forest Reserve, 1 July.**

As is customary, the annual meeting includes a one-day field trip to a pleasant locality with good collecting opportunities. We have chosen an area that will also serve well for ecotourism and the varied interests of accompanying persons.

The Arena Forest Reserve is located in north-central Trinidad, south of the town of Arima. It comprises 1519 hectares, mostly of lowland evergreen forest. This is a managed forest, including both undisturbed areas close to natural climax and areas manipulated to maximize the concentration of timber trees. Extensive trails and road-cuts penetrate the forest, so that it is relatively easy to walk about.

As the name implies, the soil is mainly sandy. Within easy walking distance of our base is a sand pit of about one hectare, a good place to find sand-loving arachnids and insects.

At the edge of the reserve is a large artificial lake, managed as a reservoir and recreation area. It is a pleasant place to stroll and watch water fowl and will be favoured by some for collecting of specimens.

A nearby historical site of interest to some commemorates the Arena Massacre of 1699. As part of the efforts of the Spanish colonial regime to convert the local Amerindians, these were forcibly gathered into missions. The Amerindians around Arena rose in revolt in 1699 and killed several Spanish priests and administrators, to which the authorities responded by capturing and executing the rebels. In line with established custom, the "massacre" refers to the death of a small number of Spaniards and not to the genocide of the natives. In this committee's heterodox view, the Spaniards were asking for it.

### **Excursions II: Field trips in the week after the meeting**

It is hoped and expected that most arachnologists will want to do more than just attend the meeting and then go home. In order to facilitate those who stay an extra week or so, we have planned a set of optional excursions within Trinidad that will allow you and yours to combine ecotourism and specimen collecting during 3-9 July while leaving the logistics to us. Unless otherwise indicated, your collecting permit will cover the excursion localities. For an organized alternative during the same period, we are arranging a one-week stay in Tobago, to be described in a forthcoming bulletin.

Concrete arrangements will depend upon demand and in some cases on the vagaries of weather. We ask that you read the descriptions and be prepared to give an indication (in your registration form) of which ones you will likely want to do. Page numbers in brackets refer to relevant pages in the INSIGHT GUIDE TO TRINIDAD & TOBAGO (see Bulletin no. Estimated costs per person are in US\$ and include transportation, food and any entrance fees. They will be a little lower for students and children.

1. One-day excursion: Hollis Reservoir This is located near the wettest part of Trinidad (average annual rainfall about 2250 mm), formed from the damming of a cocoa-growing valley in the 1930s. The reservoir itself comprises some tens of hectares. The surrounding habitat is 60-year-old secondary forest or, on the steeper slopes, primary forest. Trails allow reasonably extensive access. Estimated cost:

S11.

2. One-day excursion: Arima Valley and North Coast (pp 154-155, 161-162) A good and very scenic road runs up the Arima Valley from the town of Arima to the ridge of the Northern Range, and from there down to the North Coast. Note William Beebe's (1952) paper on the Arima. The main stop in the Arima Valley will be the Asa Wright Nature Centre, a 77-hectare plot of forest managed by a non-profit ecotourism concern. As a long-standing strict nature reserve, this is the foremost destination in Trinidad for birdwatching. Visits are by guided tour, and collecting of specimens is not permitted. Arrangement will be made for those who prefer to walk on their own and/or collect specimens outside of the Nature Centre. From there, the group will proceed north to the town of Blanchisseuse, with one or two short collecting stops along the way, and then west along the North Coast to Maracas Beach. According to weather and group consensus, the stop for swimming will be substantial, brief or perfunctory. The rest of the excursion will comprise a circuit back to St Augustine with one or two more collecting stops. Estimated cost: \$16.
3. One-day excursion: Mt. Tucuche-At 922 m, this is the second highest peak in Trinidad. It lies in the Northern Range at the head of the Maracas Valley, above Maracas Beach on the North Coast. Starting from the village of Loango, the ascent will be through lowland forest up to the beginnings of mossy forest in the peak area. The walk is not especially rigorous and should be within the capability of a person of average health and better-than-average motivation. This will be your best opportunity to visit medium-elevation habitat. However, collection of specimens is prohibited in most of the area to be visited. Estimated cost: \$11.
4. Afternoon excursion: Caroni Swamp (pp 162-163, 219-220)-This is the third largest swamp in Trinidad & Tobago, situated on the west coast southeast of Port of Spain. It is built around tributaries of Trinidad's largest river, the Caroni, which drains an area of about 660 km<sup>2</sup>. The dominant vegetation is mangrove, of which four species are present. The most abundant of these is red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*), occupying the edges of water channels and covering small islands. 138 species of birds are recorded from the swamp, of which 54 are known to breed there. The outstanding resident bird is the scarlet ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*). Mammals include the crab-eating raccoon (*Procyon cancrivorus*), silky anteater (*Cyclopes didelphis*) and various tree-dwelling rodents. The caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*) is an occasional visitor. The submerged prop roots of red mangrove support dense growths of an edible oyster, along with mussels, barnacles, sponges, tunicates, and other sedentary marine or estuarine invertebrates. Crabs abound on mudflats and the muddy mangrove forest floor. The waters of the swamp harbour a diverse fish fauna, including several edible species of economic significance. Collecting of land arthropods is permitted in part of the area to be visited, but opportunities will likely be sparse. Binoculars are recommended. The tour will be by boat, conducted by an established tour-guide operator. If there is sufficient demand, a tour of the swamp can be arranged for accompanying persons during the meeting. Estimated cost: \$15.
5. One-day excursion: Pitch Lake and Erin Savanna (pp 177-179) The Pitch Lake in southwestern Trinidad is a large natural tar pit, known to western science since at least the time of Sir Walter Raleigh. Although it has long been mined for road asphalt, it shows no sign of serious depletion. With proper guidance, one can safely walk around on it and see the solid tar, oil seeps, and methane gas leaks. Although it has not been exploited as a source of fossils, it is apparent that animals sometimes become trapped in the pitch, so that the pit may contain fossilized remains. From there, the group will proceed to the Erin Savanna further to the south. This is a natural savanna, although much of it has been planted with introduced Caribbean pine. This is a good collecting locality that will likely provide species not found elsewhere in Trinidad. The excursion will provide several other brief ecotourism and collecting opportunities. Estimated cost: \$14.
6. One-day excursion: Nariva Swamp and Bush Bush Wildlife Sanctuary The Nariva Swamp is the largest (6200 hectares) freshwater swamp in Trinidad & Tobago and the country's only RAMSAR site. It comprises a permanent brackish lagoon with extensive mangrove swamp, swamp forest and seasonally flooded marshes. It is especially good for seeing birds. Part of the swamp is under rice cultivation. Bush Bush is a large, low peninsula in the Nariva Swamp. Together with the nearby Bois Neuf Forest, it forms the 1600-hectare Bush Bush Wildlife Sanctuary. The soil is mainly sandy, and walking through the forest is relatively easy. The close proximity of the swamp and dry-land forest makes for some very convenient contrasts in habitat and wildlife. Collection of specimens is not allowed in Bush Bush. Estimated cost: \$11.
7. Leatherback Turtle Watch (nighttime) (pp223-224)-The leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) is the largest and most thoroughly pelagic of all sea turtles. The AAS meeting falls during the breeding season, and several beaches in northeastern Trinidad are favoured nesting areas of leatherbacks. All sea turtles are protected by law in Trinidad & Tobago when nesting, and beach visits are regulated by the Wildlife Section and recognized local-community groups. The cost to you includes a fee in support of these groups. This is a highly recommended excursion, providing a rare and very convenient opportunity to watch sea turtles nesting. Much depends upon luck in this case, but you are virtually certain of seeing at least one leatherback nesting, and it is not uncommon to see several in a night. Four other species of sea turtles are found in the waters around Trinidad & Tobago, and some appear occasionally on these same nesting beaches. This excursion requires some stamina, as it takes place at night and includes about two hours of travel each way. Opportunities for collecting arthropods are virtually nil, but reasonable photography (including with flash) of turtles is

# 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 English abstract by June 11. Indicate the language of presentation, either Spanish or English. 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. Frederick A. Coyle**

**Dept. Biology      Western Carolina University**  
**Cullowhee, North Carolina 28723**  
**Phone: 704-227-7244, Fax: 704- 227-7647**  
**COYLE@WPOFF.WCU.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: \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION, ACCOMMODATIONS, AND EXCURSIONS

Registrations should be received no later than 1 June. Fees may be paid upon arrival, by cash or traveler's cheque in either Trinidad & Tobago dollars (TTS) or US\$. Some other currencies are acceptable by advance arrangement. **It is preferred that you submit this form completed by e-mail to: CSTARR@CENTRE.UWI.TT** (not case-sensitive). Alternatively, you may use:

a) **FAX** to: C.K. Starr, (868) 645-7132, or b) **post** to: C.K. Starr, Department of Life Sciences, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago.

### REGISTRATION

The registration fee for all categories **includes lunch** on each meeting day, Wednesday social evening, and Thursday field trip to Arena Forest Reserve. Although these items have not been standard in the past, we are fairly certain that all participants will want to include them, given the special location. Accompanying children under 12 years of age need not register and have gratis entry to all events.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone (day):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone (night):** \_\_\_\_\_

**FAX:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration fee:** \_\_\_\_\_ Regular TTS450 or US\$75 \_\_\_\_\_ Student TTS300 or US\$50

Latin America-based TTS300 or US\$50

Accompanying person TTS210 or US\$35

Names of accompanying persons: \_\_\_\_\_

**Accommodation** (see Page 1). Please indicate number of persons.

UWI dorm single at US\$15/night: \_\_\_\_\_ UWI dorm double at US\$13/night: \_\_\_\_\_

UWI dorm single in double room at US\$20/night: \_\_\_\_\_ Pax Guest House single; shared bath: US\$35/night: \_\_\_\_\_

Pax Guest House double; shared bath US\$25/night: \_\_\_\_\_

If your choice is the Pax Guest House, please contact the managers, Gerard & Oda Ramsawak at PAX-G-H@TRINIDAD.NET and at the same time advise us. Let the management know that your stay is in conjunction with the AAS meeting.

**Pre-registration for excursions for accompanying persons** (see Page 11): Please indicate number of people for each, except children under 12. **1.** Port of Spain city tour: **2.** UWI campus and Mt. St. Benedict: **3.** Maracas Beach: **4.** Caroni Swamp: **5.** Mystery tour: **6.** Leatherback Turtle Watch

Number attending each trip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-registration for field trips in the week after the meeting** (see Pages 5-11). Please indicate number of people for each, except children under 12. **1.** One-day excursion to Hollis Reservoir: **2.** One-day excursion to Arima Valley and North Coast: **3.** One-day excursion to Mt. Tucuche: **4.** Afternoon excursion to Caroni Swamp: **5.** One-day excursion to Pitch Lake and Erin Savanna: **6.** One-day excursion to Nariva Swamp and Bush Bush Wildlife Sanctuary: **7.** Leatherback Turtle Watch: **8.** Weekend excursion to Chacachacare

Number attending each trip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-registration for week-long field trip in Tobago immediately after the meeting.** The group will stay in Charlotteville at the northeast end of the island. Small 4WD jeeps will be rented for group use. Knowledgeable leaders/guides will join the group for the duration. The costs will be reasonable but not cheap. This very attractive option will be more completely described in a forthcoming bulletin. We would appreciate an expression of interest from those who are likely to choose this option if the price is right.

Number attending each trip: \_\_\_\_\_

### TRAVEL TO TRINIDAD

The Organizing Committee cannot promise to meet you at the airport, but we will make every effort either meet you or otherwise facilitate your arrival. If your travel plans are already firm, please fill in this section. Please advise us promptly of any change.

#### **Airline and flight number:**

Date of arrival: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

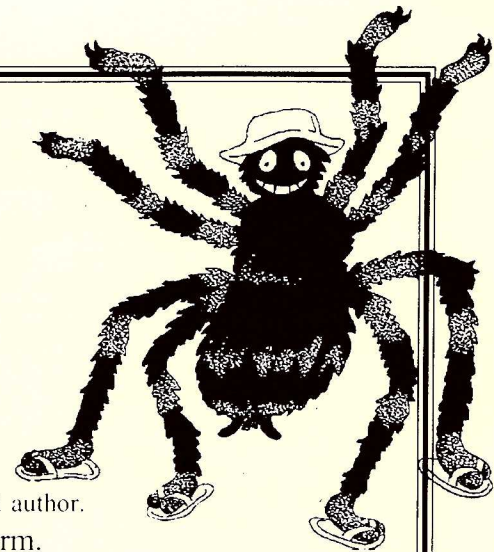
**Citizenship:** If you have permanent residency or landed immigrant status in another country, please indicate:

If you require an official letter of invitation, please indicate where it should be sent and to whom it should be addressed.

The letter will go by e-mail, fax, or post. Unless you request otherwise, letters will be in Spanish to countries where Spanish or Portuguese is the language of public affairs, in English to all others.



# CALL FOR PAPERS



Please submit by:

- a) **15 May** if by fax or post      **OR**  
b) **7 June** if by e-mail

E-mail is preferred. **CSTARR@CENTRE.UWL.TT**

- This form should be submitted by the presenter, regardless of whether she/he is first author.
- If submitting more than one paper, please duplicate this part of the form.
- Papers may be in English or Spanish. If in Spanish, we require an English version of the title and abstract for the meeting programme. You may submit this along with the English version, or the Organizing Committee will prepare it for you.

**Preferred form of presentation (ORAL or POSTER):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation(s) of author(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Type(s) of projection (slides and/or overheads and/or video):** \_\_\_\_\_

If you need any extraordinary equipment, please indicate: \_\_\_\_\_

If a student presenter, do you wish to be considered in the Student Paper Competition (oral presentation only)? \_\_\_\_\_ Student presenters must contact the Vice President (see page 7).

## Abstract

The abstract should be no more than one-half to two-thirds page of ordinary text (10-point minimum). The frame shown here could serve as a guide.

- Line 1 -**      **A descriptive, concise TITLE**  
**Line 2 -**      **AUTHOR(S), (if co-authored, please underline presenting author)**  
**Line 3 -**      **Institutional AFFILIATION(S) & ADDRESS(es)**

Oral presentations are allowed 15 minutes. The suggested breakdown is 12 minutes of initial presentation and 3 minutes for questions.

Poster dimensions - 122 cm (48 in.) high, 200 cm (79 in.) wide.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

1998 Second Quarterly Report

The American Arachnological Society  
2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financial report  
June 19, 1998

1997 Final report

The American Arachnological Society  
Final Report, 1997  
Dec 31, 1997

Balance in checking, end 1996  
Chemical Bank South, Albion MI. Acct. #075-964-7 \$ 23,731.46

**Deposits**

Membership	51,353.00
Page charges	2,475.00
Sales, Spider Genera	1,198.65
Sales, back issues	2,115.00
Sales, calendars	1,762.00
Interest, checking account	557.80
Donations (from CIDA for congress)	2,992.00
Source Uncover	33.00
Credit memo	25.00
Vince Roth Fund	470.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 63,581.45</b>

**Expenses**

Allen Press JOA 24(3)	7,189.14
Allen Press JOA 25 (1)	7,407.69
Allen Press JOA 25 (2)	8,864.36
Co-collected dues	9,006.00
Newsletter printing	3,000.00
Postage	1,589.81
Honoraria	1,500.00
Student awards	6,036.75
International Congress, seed money	2,000.00
IRS Penalty for late filing	1,810.00
Renewal notices	192.52
Filing fees, bank charges, printing checks	324.62
Printing calendar	7,200.00
Allen Press, page chg, return of loan	217.75
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 56,338.64</b>

Amt in Checking \$ 30,974.27

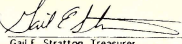
### Activity in Smith Barney Account

# 221-11904-14-14

Balance in account, 4th quarter 1996	\$82,579.29
Amount in CD (maturity 10/05/97)	51,000.00
Amount in CD (maturity 3/05/98)	20,000.00
Amount in money market	15,447.80
Dividends and interest, this year	4,158.51
Balance, Dec. 31, 1997	\$86,687.80

Total Assets \$ 117,662.07

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gail E. Stratton, Treasurer  
American Arachnological Society  
P.O. Box 2198, Oxford, MS 38655

101-10241-98

The American Arachnological Society  
First quarter financial report  
April 19, 1998

Activity in Checking Account  
Balance in checking, 4th quarter, 1997  
Chemical Bank South, Albion MI. Acct. #075-964-7 \$30,974.27

**Deposits**

Interest	120.67
Membership	12,919.00
Sales, calendar	556.90
Vince Roth Fund	145.00
Sales, back issues	990.00
Refund from 1997 Meeting, Dickinson, MI	719.61
Refund for overpayment on CIDA Reg fee	18.56
Change for deposit to International Congress	1,832.70
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$17,197.19</b>

**Expenses**

Allen Press JOA 24(3)	11,440.85
New York fee for interest notices	310.38
Refund for extra copies of Spider Genera	72.00
Postage - box rental 1996, 1997, Treasurer	302.26
Credit statement for International Congress	1,832.70
Tripal Award for Congress	798.50
Main University, Newsletter	500.00
Student research awards (includes residue of one check)	4,400.00
Bank charges for credit	15.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$19,832.69</b>

Amt in Checking \$28,338.77

### Activity in Smith Barney Account

# 221-11904-14-14

Balance in account, 4th quarter 1997	\$66,687.80
Amount in CD (maturity 10/05/1999)	51,000.00
Amount in CD (maturity 3/17/1999)	20,000.00
Amount in money market	16,906.97
Dividends and interest, this quarter	1,168.97
Balance in account, March 29, 1998	\$87,944.80

Total Assets \$116,283.57

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gail E. Stratton, Treasurer  
American Arachnological Society  
P.O. Box 2198, Oxford, MS 38655

Activity in Checking Account  
Balance in checking, 1st quarter, 1998  
Chemical Bank South, Albion MI. Acct. #075-964-7 \$28,338.77

**Deposits**

Interest	91.49
Membership	11,883.00
Sales, calendar	76.00
Vince Roth Fund	102.00
Sales, back issues	30.00
Credit memo from bank	12.69
Deposits for charges for int. Congress	12,806.30
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$14,309.48</b>

**Expenses**

Postage, calendar, back issues	115.10
To Int'l registration payments	13,249.60
Check charges	166.76
Bank charges, new check - int	69.74
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 13,701.20</b>

Amt in Checking \$28,947.05

### Activity in Smith Barney Account

# 221-11904-14-14

Balance in account, 4th quarter 1997	\$86,687.80
Amount in CD (maturity 10/05/1999)	51,000.00
Amount in CD (maturity 3/17/1999)	20,000.00
Amount in money market	18,448.02
Balance in account, May 31, 1998	\$89,500.96
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$89,500.96</b>

Total Assets \$118,448.01

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gail E. Stratton, Treasurer  
American Arachnological Society  
P.O. Box 2198, Oxford, MS 38655

Page 1

1998 Third Quarter Report

The American Arachnological Society  
Third quarter financial report  
Nov. 16, 1998

Activity in Checking Account  
Balance in checking, 2nd quarter, 1998  
Chemical Bank South, Albion MI. Acct. #075-964-7 \$28,947.05

**Deposits**

Interest	137.67
Membership	8,440.00
Sales, Spider Genera	951.12
Vince Roth Fund	150.00
Sales, back issues	360.00
Uncover	72.00
Deposits for charges for int. Congress	4,571.93
Deposit from CIDA grant for Congress Symposium	2,535.00
Transfer from Money Market	13,000.00
Purchase of International Congress	1,818.00
Deposit	554.00
Deposit, 1 label from Arachnology meeting	1,781.00
Deposit, credit memo	41.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$30,171.77</b>

**Expenses**

Postage, Spider Genera, Treasurer, back issues	261.94
Payment to P. Senechal, congress registration (credit)	2,115.13
Payment to P. Senechal, individual travel awards	12,690.17
Student awards (at congress)	750.00
Awards from Fund for Research in Arachnology	2,840.00
Main University, Newsletter	1,000.00
Co-collected dues	3,750.00
BAS	1,568.00
Repay	600.00
Allen Press	1,040.00
Arachnology Soc. Japan	840.00
Arachnology Soc. Japan	4,559.00
Travel awards, 1998 grant	289.23
Allen Press, page charges (return of cash)	7,790.00
Allen Press, JOA 24(3)	8,917.78
Allen Press, JOA 25(2)	3,350.00
Honoraria for Managing and Associate Editors	788.84
Bank charges from bank for returned check payment	1,148.95
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 56,196.07</b>

Amt in Checking \$29,977.70

Funds held for CIDA \$ 978

Expenses for CIDA none

### Activity in Smith Barney Account

# 221-11904-14-14

Balance in account, 4th quarter 1997	\$86,687.80
Amount in CD (maturity 10/05/1999)	51,000.00
Amount in CD (maturity 3/17/1999)	20,000.00
Amount in money market, Nov. 1998	6,454.05
Balance in account, Sept 31, 1998	\$17,458.70
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$77,458.20</b>

Total Assets \$80,380.90

Respectfully submitted,

Gail E. Stratton, Treasurer  
American Arachnological Society  
P.O. Box 2198, Oxford, MS 38655

# TREASURER'S REPORT

1998 Second Quarterly Report

The American Arachnological Society  
2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financial report  
June 19, 1998

Treasurer's Report

## The American Arachnological Society Final Report, 1997 Dec 31, 1997

Balance in checking, end 1996	\$	23,731.46
Chemical Bank South, Albon M. Acct #075-964-7		
<b>Deposits</b>		
Membership	21,957.00	
Page charges	2,475.00	
Sales, Spider Genera	1,198.65	
Sales, back issues	2,175.00	
Sales, calendars	1,062.00	
Interest, checking account	557.80	
Donations (from CIDA for congress)	2,992.00	
Source Uncover	33.00	
Credit memo	15.00	
Vince Roth Fund	470.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>63,581.14</b>

<b>Expenses</b>		
Allen Press JQA 24(3)	7189.14	
Allen Press JQA 25 (1)	7407.69	
Allen Press JQA 25 (2)	8854.36	
Co-collected dues	9,006.00	
Newsletter printing	3,000.00	
Postage	1,589.81	
Newsletters	1,500.00	
Student awards	6,036.75	
International Congress, seed money	2,000.00	
IRS Penalty for late filing	1,810.00	
Renewal notices	192.52	
Filing fees, bank charges, printing checks	324.60	
Printing calendar	7,700.00	
Allen Press, page chg. return of loan	272.75	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>56,338.64</b>
<b>Amt in Checking</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>30,914.27</b>

### Activity in Smith Barney Account

# 221 11904 14 14	
Balance in account, 4th quarter 1996	\$87,579.79
Amount in CD (maturity 10/06/97)	31,500.00
Amount in CD (maturity 3/05/98)	20,000.00
Amount in money market	13,449.00
Dividends, and interest, this year	4,154.51
Balance, Dec 31, 1997	\$86,687.80

Total Assets \$ 117,662.07

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gail E. Stratton, Treasurer  
American Arachnological Society  
P.O. Box 2198, Oxford, MS 38655

## The American Arachnological Society First quarter financial report April 19, 1998

Activity in Checking Account	
Balance in checking, 4th quarter 1997	\$30,914.27
Chemical Bank South, Albon M. Acct #075-964-7	
<b>Deposits</b>	
Interest	120.87
Membership	12,419.90
Sales, Spider Genera	556.90
Sales, back issues	145.00
Sales, back issues	900.00
Refund from IRS, Interest, Oklahoma MI	719.61
Refund for development of a new fund	19.56
Transfer to department for international congress	1,812.70
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$17,197.15</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Allen Press, JQA 24(3)	11,340.45
Postage for 1998 issues	1,010.18
Refund for 1998 copies of Spider Genera	12.00
Postage, Allen Press 1996, 1997, 1998	303.28
Credit deposits for international congress	1,812.70
Travel Award for Congress	298.50
Newsletters, membership	500.00
Student awards (amount in back issue of journal)	4,400.00
Page charges for credit	15.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$19,832.69</b>
<b>Amt in Checking</b>	<b>\$26,338.77</b>

### Activity in Smith Barney Account

# 221 11904 14 14	
Balance in account, 4th quarter 1997	\$86,687.80
Amount in CD (maturity 10/06/1998)	31,000.00
Amount in CD (maturity 3/17/1999)	20,000.00
Amount in money market	16,976.97
Dividends, and interest, this quarter	1,742.51
Balance in account, March 27, 1998	\$87,944.80

Total Assets \$116,283.57

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gail E. Stratton, Treasurer  
American Arachnological Society  
P.O. Box 2198, Oxford, MS 38655

### Activity in Checking Account

Balance in checking, 1st quarter 1998	\$78,918.77
Chemical Bank South, Albon M. Acct #075-964-7	
<b>Deposits</b>	
Interest	91.49
Membership	11,933.00
Sales, Spider Genera	178.00
Sales, back issues	110.00
Sales, back issues	10.00
Refund from IRS	12.69
Deposits to members for int. congress	12,806.50
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$14,309.48</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Travel, calendar, back issues	115.10
Travel, registration business	13,349.63
Credit charges	566.74
Bank charges, new checks - bank	69.74
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 13,701.20</b>
<b>Amt in Checking</b>	<b>\$28,947.05</b>

### Activity in Smith Barney Account

# 221 11904 14 14	
Balance in account, 4th quarter 1997	\$86,687.80
Amount in CD (maturity 10/06/1999)	5,000.00
Amount in CD (maturity 3/17/1999)	20,000.00
Amount in money market	18,448.00
Balance in account, May 31, 1998	\$89,500.96
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$89,500.96</b>

Total Assets \$118,448.01

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gail E. Stratton, Treasurer  
American Arachnological Society  
P.O. Box 2198, Oxford, MS 38655

Page 1

1998 Third Quarter Report

## The American Arachnological Society Third quarter financial report Nov. 16, 1998

### Activity in Checking Account

Balance in checking, 2nd quarter 1998	\$78,947.05
Chemical Bank South, Albon M. Acct #075-964-7	
<b>Deposits</b>	
Interest	177.67
Membership	14,442.94
Sales, Spider Genera	331.17
Sales, back issues	150.00
Sales, back issues	100.00
Interest	72.20
Deposits to members for int. congress	4,571.91
Deposit from CIDA grant for Carolina hurricanes	3,315.28
Transfer from Money Market	13,000.00
Refund for international congress	1,818.50
Interest	1,147.50
Interest, Smith Barney (this quarter)	1,781.00
Deposit, bank memo	41.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$161,721.70</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Travel, calendar, Treasurer, back issues	261.84
Payment to G. Stratton, calendar registration, 1998	1,111.11
Payment to G. Stratton, back issues, 1998	1,690.11
1998 awards for congress	1,500.00
Allen Press page charges return of loan	2,940.00
Membership, Newsletter	1,000.00
Transfer to bank	1,710.00
Interest	1,368.00
ATM fees	665.00
ATM fees, paper	540.00
ATM fees, debit	840.00
Travel costs, 1998 grant	4,585.00
Allen Press page charges return of loan	289.21
Allen Press JQA 24(3)	7,790.00
Allen Press JQA 24(3)	8,812.19
Interest for Mortgage and Absolute Ethics	3,300.00
Refund charges from bank for use of credit system	2,884.84
Travel, members for int. congress (this quarter)	1,148.94
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 56,196.07</b>
<b>Amt in Checking</b>	<b>\$77,927.20</b>

### Funds held for CIDA

\$2,978.00

### Activity in Smith Barney Account

# 221 11904 14 14	
Balance in account, 4th quarter 1997	\$86,687.80
Amount in CD (maturity 10/06/1998)	5,000.00
Amount in CD (maturity 3/17/1999)	20,000.00
Amount in money market	6,434.20
Balance in account, Nov 30, 1998	\$117,458.70
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$117,458.70</b>

Total Assets \$80,380.90

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gail E. Stratton, Treasurer  
American Arachnological Society  
P.O. Box 2198, Oxford, MS 38655

permitted. If there is sufficient demand, a turtle watch for accompanying persons can be arranged during the meeting. Estimated cost: \$15.

8. Weekend excursion: Chacachacare (pp 165-170) This is the largest (about 409 hectares) and westernmost of the Bocas Islands, which extend to the west of northern Trinidad. It is also the driest part of Trinidad, with an average annual rainfall of less than 750 mm. A lighthouse at one end provides a fine view of the other Bocas Islands (Monos and Huevos), and on any reasonably clear day one can see the Paria Peninsula of Venezuela. Another point of interest is a natural salt pond with a salinity about three times that of ordinary sea water. The island is now uninhabited, but two abandoned buildings provide rough accommodation. You will need to bring your own bedding. The tentative plan is to go over early one day and return late the next day, allowing almost two full days on the island. Estimated cost: \$14.

REFERENCE Beebe, W. 1952. Introduction to the ecology of the Arima Valley, Trinidad, B.W.I. *Zoologica* (New York) 37:157-83.

### Excursions III: One-day excursions for accompanying persons during the meeting

Several arachnologists plan to bring other members of their households and make the AAS meeting also the occasion of a family vacation. We encourage this idea and are happy to facilitate. To make the visit more enjoyable for those who will spend little or no time in the meeting, we have planned a set of one-day excursions to take place on meeting days. In your registration form, please indicate which of these will likely be joined accompanying persons in your party. Concrete arrangements will then depend upon demand.

Page numbers in brackets refer to relevant pages in the *INSIGHT GUIDE TO TRINIDAD & TOBAGO*. Estimated costs per person are in US\$ and include transportation, food (if other than lunch) and any entrance fees.

1. Port of Spain city tour (pp 127-144)-The main stopping points on this tour will be the Emperor Valley Zoo, Botanic Garden, National Museum, and Fort George. The Emperor Valley Zoo is a well-run small zoo with an emphasis on neotropical land vertebrates. The Botanic Garden is adjacent to it, so that those with a lesser appetite for animals can proceed to the next stage at will. The National Museum — also known as the Royal Victoria Institute — is across the large Queen's Park Savanna from the first two. It includes historic exhibits and a small national art gallery. Especially notable in the gallery is a room devoted to Trinidad & Tobago's outstanding early artist, Michel-Jean Cazabon (1814-1888). If there are real culture-vultures in the group, a stop can also be made at one or two commercial galleries. Fort George, built in 1805, is of historical interest and provides a fine view of much of the city and the Gulf of Paria. Estimated cost: \$8.
2. UWI campus and Mt. St. Benedict (pp 158-159)-This option comprises a walking tour of the university campus,

followed by an afternoon trip up to Mt. St. Benedict, in the Northern Range just above St. Augustine. The afternoon segment includes a substantial (weather permitting) nature walk along good trails in well-developed secondary forest and terminates in afternoon tea at the Pax Guest House. Mt. St. Benedict affords some fine views over central Trinidad, and the Pax Guest House balcony looks across a valley onto the Northern Range, so that binoculars are recommended. Estimated cost: \$6.

3. Maracas Beach-This is the most popular beach in Trinidad, and much of the route is very scenic. Good beach facilities are provided, and the lunch will include the very popular shark-and-bake, a fried-shark sandwich with optional pepper sauce. Estimated cost: \$12.
4. Caroni Swamp (see page 6)-Estimated cost: \$12.
5. Mystery tour Some people like to make an excursion without knowing exactly where they are going. Let us just say that this tour will take in a number of interesting spots in northern Trinidad, will not be dangerous or unduly strenuous and will be conducted entirely on land by means of walking and motor vehicle. Estimated cost: \$7.
6. Leatherback Turtle Watch: Estimated cost: \$15.

### Legalities

VISA Passport holders from any of the following countries do not need a visa to enter Trinidad & Tobago: USA, British Commonwealth territories in the New World, Members of the European Union, Brazil, Colombia, Suriname. Citizens of Venezuela may visit for up to two weeks (14 days) without a visa. A visa is required for a longer stay. For all other countries and territories in the New World, a visa is required. For countries and territories outside of the hemisphere, check with nearest Trinidad & Tobago diplomatic representative.

DRIVER'S LICENSE A valid driver's license from any other country is valid in Trinidad & Tobago until three months after arrival. In other words, if you are licensed to drive at home, you are automatically licensed to drive here. Just remember to bring it with you.

### Local costs

Local costs for most things will differ little from those in North America or the more expensive counties of Latin America. The Trinidad & Tobago dollar (TTS) is now worth about US\$0.16 and reasonably stable. US\$ cash and travelers cheques, as well as those of some other major currencies, are convertible at banks, including the on-campus branch of Republic Bank. The differential between buying and selling rates is modest.

Most items are subject to 15% sales tax (value-added tax, or VAT). If in doubt, ask whether prices are VAT-inclusive. The following are some examples of expenses that you may incur.

Unless you expect to make many overseas telephone calls, the best way is probably to buy a phone card for TTS20, \$30 or \$60 + VAT. Not all public telephones allow long-distance calls, but those that do allow direct dialing.

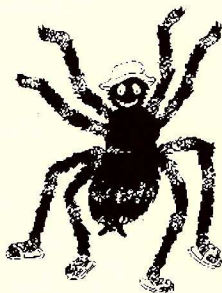
Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted in T&T. They can

also be used in the on-campus bank to withdraw cash, as well as in automatic-teller machines. Automatic teller machines also handle debit cards with the "plus" symbol on the back. Very few local businesses accept American Express. The Organizing Committee will facilitate fax transmissions at cost. The usual cost is about TTS7 per page to North or South America, TTS11 to western Europe. Trinidad has a fair public transportation system. Although there are buses, most public travel is by means of route taxis, which come in two forms: cars and vans. Route-taxi cars are distinguished by a license plate that begins with H, rather than P (for private). Route-taxi vans, known as maxi-taxis, ply many of the same routes. They are distinguished from private vans by the H license plate and a coloured band in the paint job. Route-taxi drivers are honest (although some provide a rather frightening ride), and fares are modest, e.g. TTS3-4 between St Augustine and Port of Spain. There are also ordinary taxis, externally indistinguishable from route taxis, whose cost is considerably higher and set by negotiation.

Car rental is another matter. Unlike in Tobago, we have yet to identify a reliable rental agency in Trinidad, so that one is advised to check that there is gas in the tank, the tires are adequately treaded, etc. We will make a reserved recommendation if you ask. Cost for a mid-sized car is in the range of TTS150-200 per day.

#### Miscellaneous notes:

1. We neglected to mention that driving is on the left-hand side of the road in Trinidad & Tobago, the "wrong" side to most of you. Just think of it as a quaint local custom, to which you are respectfully asked to conform. Most people very quickly get used to it.
2. To emphasize a previous point, lunch on meeting days is included in your registration fee. Breakfast and supper are extra, because those staying in the Pax Guest House will have breakfast and supper there. For the meeting period and the following week, we have use of the kitchen and dining hall in our on-campus dormitory. The Organizing Committee is confident that our cook, Yvette Padilla, will earn your approval. She knows, among other things, to let you decide individually whether you want meat and how much hot pepper is right for you. Your registration package will include a list of nearby off-campus eateries, with comments.



## C.I.D.A. Changes to International Society of Arachnology (ISA)!

Since the 1960's the de facto international organization responsible for arachnology has been CIDA, "Centre International de Documentation Arachnologique." CIDA organizes an international congress of arachnology every three years, and produces annually a list of the past year's publications in arachnology, an invaluable bibliographic resource. It has been headquartered in Paris at the Musée National d'Histoire Naturel. CIDA maintains a library there (CIDA members sent reprints to Paris) and attempts to respond to inquiries and requests for literature from its members and, as far as possible, the general public as well. Its mailing list comprises about 500-600 scientists in 58 countries worldwide.

In 1997, the President of CIDA, Dr. Norman Platnick, impaneled a committee to consider the basic constitutional structure of CIDA from two points of view: the need for a more standard international society devoted to arachnology, and the fall of the iron curtain in Europe (which had dictated some aspects of CIDA's structure). That committee produced a report in 1998 suggesting several constitutional changes that was forward by the Executive to the membership for vote.

The vote, which concluded in February 1999, was overwhelmingly positive, and thus effects the following changes. First, the name of CIDA will change to the "International Society of Arachnology." Its objectives are to "promote the study of Arachnology (except Ac-arology); to organize regularly an International Congress of Arachnology and/or other meetings or symposia dealing with more restricted arachnological disciplines; and to promote the communication of arachnological information among researchers through such publications (printed or electronic) as the Executive Committee deem most effective." Its elected officers are the President, Vice-President, and six Council Members, along with a Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary appointed by the Executive Committee, in other words, a fairly standard executive for a scientific society.

The President, and Vice President serve for three years, and councilors for six, the latter elected in staggered terms. Various other by-law changes make it easier to conduct society business electronically, and give the Executive more flexibility to direct Society

activities. Coincidentally, the Secetaire General of CIDA for many years, Dr. Jacqueline Heurtault, resigned her post at last year's CIDA congress in Chicago. The CIDA executive appointed Dr. Jonathan Coddington to succeed Dr. Heurtault, and he has agreed to continue to function as the Secretary of ISA. All arachnologists worldwide owe Dr. Heurtault great thanks for her years of service as Secetaire General. She often labored with very little help to produce the annual CIDA bibliographic list, as well as the triennial index of arachnologists worldwide, newsletters, and a staggering number of requests for information and publications. The President of ISA is Robert Raven, and CIDA's existing Vice-Presidents (Yael Lubin, Rainer Foelix, and Joachim Adis) will serve as councilors or Vice-President of ISA until a formal vote under the new by-laws can be arranged. Jonathan Coddington has agreed to serve also as Treasurer for the time being. ISA is now in the process of being incorporated in the United States as a tax-exempt scientific society. It has a bank account managed by the Treasurer, and its business address is the same as the Treasurer's as well (below).

Although ISA's specific goals are still under discussion by the Executive, the Society will certainly continue all of CIDA's major benefits. It will continue to coordinate and support triennial International Congresses (the next is in South Africa in 2001, hosted by Dr. Ansie Dippenaar) and the annual list of publications. The latter is being edited by Dr. Jean-Francois Cornic of Avignon, France, with help from Drs. Wilson Lourenço, Mark Harvey, and James Cokendolpher. ISA also intends to subsidize completely the publication of the Proceedings from annual congresses, which in the past has been the responsibility of the local organizers.

As far as possible, ISA intends to conduct business over the internet, i.e. a website where members can maintain their own address and contact information, learn about the activities of the society, and download society products. In short, valid DUES-PAYING members of CIDA are automatically members of ISA and will continue to receive all benefits of membership, with the addition of the Proceedings volume of the triennial International Congress. Dues continue unchanged at USD \$22.00 per year for regular members, and USD \$15.00 for students and retirees. Former arrangements to pay dues by proxy, e.g. via the AAS, BAS, or lump-sum checks by country continue unchanged. New subscribers should send their mailing address (and email

address, please) as well as a check in US dollars, or an international money order payable to ISA through a bank with US offices or a "correspondent relationship" with a US Bank, to:

International Society of Arachnology, c/o J. A. Coddington  
Smithsonian Institution, NHB 105 Washington, DC USA  
20560-0105 202-357-4148 fax 202-786-2894

Questions about ISA should be directed to Coddington, email preferred at: Coddington.jon@nmnh.si.edu, or at the above address.

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## A.A.S. ELECTIONS

The officers of our Executive Committee will be shifting around this September. President Ann Rypstra becomes Past-President and a Director, replacing Matt Greenstone. Fred Coyle will ascend to the Presidency, and Don Cameron ends his term as a Director. (We hope he remains as our Parliamentarian.) Thus, we will be electing a new President - Elect and Director this year. The Nominations Committee is working hard to identify suitable candidates for these important offices.

A ballot will be mailed to you soon along with biographies of the candidates and the minutes from the 1998 AAS Business Meeting.

Please take the few moments it takes to make your considered choices and send the ballot back! Every vote is important.

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## AAS MEETING YEAR 2000

The last A.A.S. Annual Meeting of the millennium will be held in Lexington, Kentucky, **15-20 July, 2000**. The meeting will be hosted by James Wagner, Transylvania University, and David Wise, University of Kentucky. The meeting will take place on the campus of Transylvania University, the sixteenth college in the United States and the first college west of the Allegheny Mountains, located in the center of Lexington in the heart of the Bluegrass.

More on this meeting will appear in Issue #60 of American Arachnology.

## ARACHNOLOGICAL NOTES

### The Contemporary Research of the Pseudoscorpion Fauna in the Czech Republic

by Václav Ducháč

Department of Biology, University of Pedagogy,  
Víta Nejedlého 573, CZ-500 03 Hradec Králové,  
Czech Republic

Lately, pseudoscorpions are alleged to be one of the poorly studied animal groups in the Czech Republic. Research on these arachnids in the territory of the Czech Republic began in 1790. J. Preysslser described the species *Chthonius tetrachelatus* in the surroundings of Prague.

In the 1870s, pseudoscorpions were investigated by Dr. A. Stecker and in 1901 Prof. A. Nosek published two papers on pseudoscorpion fauna. No attention was paid to the pseudoscorpions in the Czech Republic in the first half of the 20th century. Only in 1971 based on his own study, Dr. P. H. Verner published the determining key of Czechoslovakia's species.

The concrete faunistic data collected in the territory of the Czech Republic were first published by V. Ducháč in 1988 -- 1994. Since then the author has published another paper in which he determined new species for the Czech Republic, and studied the morphology of some of them. Three diploma papers have been worked out based on this subject at the Charles University Studničková 1968, Krásný 1993, Štáhlavský 1996. The finding of the new species *Chernes nigrimanus*, also published by Schmarda in 1995. The survey of all the hitherto knowledge about the pseudoscorpion fauna in the Czech Republic has been worked out by Ducháč (1997).

The research of pseudoscorpion fauna in the Czech Republic focuses on a few basic objectives and questions:

1. Making an inventory of the species living in the territory of the Czech Republic. Specific notice is given here to the biotope (e.g. tree cavities, rocks, etc.).
2. The relationship of each species to a particular biotope.
3. The geographical areas of the Czech Republic's species related to Central Europe and the whole continent.
4. Morphological specification of the Czech population, emphasizing the variability of the basic determining signs and its contingent impact on taxonomy and systematics.

At present, a few species are known in the territory of the Czech Republic:

*Chthonius tetrachelatus*, *Chthonius ischnocheles*, *Chthonius orthodactylus*, *Chthonius tenuis*, *Chthonius austriacus*, *Mundochthonius styriacus*, *Larva lata*, *Syarinus strandi*,

*Cheridium museorum*, *Apocheiridium ferum*

*Neobisium sylvaticum*, *Neobisium erythroactylum*, *Neobisium fuscimanum*, *Neobisium carcinoides*

*Lamprochernes nodosus*, *Lamprochernes chyzeri*, *Dendrochernes cyrneus*, *Pselaphochernes scorpioides*

*Chernes cimicoides*, *Chernes hahni*, *Chernes nigrimanus*, *Chernes similis*

*Allochernes wideri*, *Allochernes peregrinus*, *Dinocheirus panzeri*, *Chelifer cancroides*, *Mesochelifer resslii*, *Dactylochelifer latreillei*

It is necessary to emphasize finding the species *Larva lata*, *Mundochthonius styriacus*, *Syarinus strandi*, and *Allochernes peregrinus*.

The pseudoscorpion faunal research has been progressively developing in the Czech Republic during the past ten years, and it is hoped to continue in the following years as well.

### WHEELING BEHAVIOR OF *ARCTOSA* *SANCTAEROSAE*, (LYCOSIDAE), A CASE OF BEHAVIORAL CONVERGENCE

by HANK GUARISCO

P.O. BOX 3171; LAWRENCE, KS 66046

"Wheeling behavior" is a unique method of escape utilized by two species of giant crab spiders (*Carparachne aureoflava* and *C. alba*) (Heteropodidae) which live on the sand dunes of the Namib Desert. When confronted by predators, such as pompilid wasps, these spiders commonly flip sideways, partially tuck in their legs, then roll down the sand dunes like a wheel (Henschel 1990)! Several years ago, I observed this escape behavior while studying the white wolf spider, *Arctosa sanctaerosae* Gertsch and Wallace (Lycosidae) on the sand dunes of Santa Rosa Island, a gulf coast barrier island near Pensacola, Florida. Just after sunset, this nocturnal species emerges from burrows located in areas of the dunes that are completely devoid of vegetation. Following a night of observations, I returned to the dunes the next afternoon to photograph a captured individual in its natural environment. After placing the spider on a small dune, I observed a large spider wasp attack it. The spider immediately flipped on its side, tucked in its legs, and wheeled down the slope. The wasp did not immediately follow the spider. Instead, it flew higher and began to search the immediate vicinity.

Henschel (1990) discovered that *C. aureoflava* covered a distance of 10 meters in 10 seconds by wheeling, compared to more than 60 seconds when running. This behavior also blurs the spider's outline and leaves less of a trail for a predator to follow. Field observations indicated that wheeling behavior was statistically more effective than running to escape pompilid wasps (Henschel 1990). Selective predation pressure, especially wasp predation, may be a driving force in the evolution of wheeling behavior in phylogenetically unrelated spider species which occupy similar open dune habitats. An unidentified salticid also found in the Namib Desert is capable of wheeling (Henschel 1990). The present observation extends our knowledge of this unique escape behavior to *Arctosa sanctaerosae*, a member of the Lycosidae.

Two captive colonies of the white wolf spider are being

maintained, one by the author at the University of Kansas and another by Robert Suter at Vassar College. We hope to unravel various biotic and abiotic factors involved in wheeling behavior.

Reference: Henschel, J. 1990. Spiders wheel to escape. South African J. Science, 86:151-152.

Paul Selden writes --

I hope to take on one (or more) graduate students to start in September 1999, to study for the PhD degree, in arthropod paleobiology, especially Chelicerata/arachnids and early land colonization, or arachnid systematics/biodiversity/biogeography. There is a good chance of funding for a good UK student through NERC, and a number of possibilities for overseas students through the University of Manchester, EU, etc. funds. (Excellent degree results and recommendations are necessary to get this).

For further information follow links via the url below, or contact the Departmental Secretary at the address below or email: Elaine.Lock@man.ac.uk (mention my name).

Dr. Paul A. Selden, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Univ. of Manchester, Manchester, M13 9PL, UK; Phone: ## (44) 161 275 3296 / ## (44) 1625 582758; Fax: ## (44) 161 275 3947 / ## (44) 1625 582758; Website: [HTTP://QUERCUS.GE.MAN.AC.UK](http://QUERCUS.GE.MAN.AC.UK)

Proceedings of the 17th European Colloquium of Arachnology Edinburgh 1997 ISBN 0 9500093 2 6. For contents see: [HTTP://WWW.SALTICUS.DEMON.CO.UK/BAS/PUB-INDEX.HTML](http://WWW.SALTICUS.DEMON.CO.UK/BAS/PUB-INDEX.HTML)

Rick Vetter writes:

The US postal service will issue a set of Insect and Spider stamps later on this year sometime (I don't know when) and there will be 4 spiders on the stamps. The artwork is sufficiently good that I can see that the spiders are a black widow, *Argiope aurantia*, *Gasteracantha canceroides*, and *Habronattus americanus*.

#### Vince Roth Fund for Systematics

The Vince Roth Fund to support work in arachnid systematics is accepting donations. This was developed by American Arachnological Society, The California Academy of Sciences, and Barbara Roth. We hope for this to become an endowed fund providing support for individuals working in arachnid systematics for many years to come. Contributions to this fund are tax deductible and can be sent to Gail Stratton, Treasurer of AAS, P.O. Box 2198, Oxford, MS 38655.

#### Arachnology ListServer News

Richard Adams; E-mail: (RNA7@ABER.AC.UK). has been maintaining the Arachnology listserver at

MAJORDOMO@CHEMIE.DE.

The new archive, recording all mails to the list from 27<sup>th</sup> February onwards, is at:

[HTTP://WWW.CHEMIE.DE/BIOLOGY-LISTS/ARACHNOLOGY/](http://WWW.CHEMIE.DE/BIOLOGY-LISTS/ARACHNOLOGY/)

#### In The Next Issue ...

- Abstracts from AAS Meeting, Trinidad & Tobago
- Results of AAS Election
- More on the 2000 AAS Meeting, Lexington KY
- Submit items for Vol. 60 by 15 September, 1999

THE BIOLOGY OF CAMEL-SPIDERS (ARACHNIDA, SOLIFUGAE) by Fred Punzo, University of Tampa, FL. The Biology of Camel-Spiders is the only work available that deals exclusively with Arachnida, Solifugae. Beginning with an introduction to Solifugae, this work covers folklore surrounding this group, functional anatomy and physiology, life history, ecology, behavior, phylogeny, biogeography, and taxonomy, as well as field techniques and laboratory rearing methods. Extensive coverage is also devoted to natural history, habitat preference, diet composition, dispersion patterns, mating and hunting behavior, and burrowing activities, as well as diel/seasonal patterns of activity. The book also discusses the biology of Solifugae in relation to other major groups of arachnids and points out the importance of solifuges to desert communities.

**Contents:** Preface. 1. An Introduction to the Solifugae. 2. Functional Anatomy and Physiology. 3. Neurobiology. 4. Life History Parameters. 5. Ecology. 6. Behavior. 7. Phylogeny, Biogeography, and Taxonomy. 8. Field Techniques and Laboratory Rearing Methods. References. Index. ISBN 0-7923-8155-6 May 1998 312 pp., Hardbound \$135.00 For more information or to order contact: Kim Wood, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 101 Philip Drive, Norwell, MA 02061, ph: (781) 871-6600, fx: (781) 871-6528, e-mail: [kwood@wkap.com](mailto:kwood@wkap.com)

Laura Leibensperger writes:

Dear Arachnologists,

As you may remember, the MCZ collections were closed down since September 1997 during major renovations to our collections area. I am happy to report that we have been up and running since 1 May, 1998 (more or less ...). Collections (type and general) are available for loan, and we are able to accommodate visitors.

Sincerely, Laura Leibensperger - MCZ Invertebrates

The electronic list for latiamerican arachnology is up and running. To subscribe, send a message to "listproc@net.usp.br" with the following words: SUBSCRIBE ARACNO-L YOUR NAME. After receiving the first message you will be able to send your contributions. The address for postings is: "aracno-l@net.usp.br". The main goal of the list is the development of arachnology in latin America. We are waiting your subscription. Thank you, Ricardo Pinto da Rocha ([ricrocha@usp.br](mailto:ricrocha@usp.br)).

## 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 provence), Postal code, Country \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate Membership Dues Enclosed:

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

Snip or Photocopy & 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* three, and the newsletter *American Arachnology* two times a year.



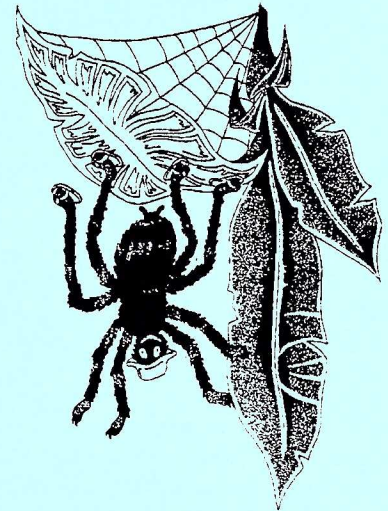
# American Arachnological Society

## 1999 Ballot

and

## Minutes of the 1998 A.A.S. Business Meeting

**PLEASE NOTE:** Ballots should arrive in Oxford, Ohio, USA on or before  
**23 JUNE 1999**



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

AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Miami University

**American Arachnological Society**  
**Minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Business Meeting,**  
**The Field Museum, Chicago, IL**  
**3 July, 1998**

1. The 1998 Business Meeting of the American Arachnological Society was called to order by President Ann Rypstra at 16:15 on 3 July, 1998. President Rypstra welcomed everyone and conveyed a reminder from Bea Vogel that the AAS was founded in 1973, making this the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Society. Bea thought the Society should congratulate itself, and the assembled members showed their agreement with hearty applause.

A motion was made and seconded to waive reading of the minutes from the 1997 AAS Business Meeting. The motion passed unanimously. It was also moved and seconded to accept the Minutes with minor corrections. This also passed unanimously.

Archivist Lenny Vincent made a call for materials (photos, tapes, correspondence, field notes), and stated that he now has materials from Vince Roth. Lenny mentioned that there are other materials in the Smithsonian Institution. He also asked for any ideas from members concerning the archives and their use.

2. Elections- President Rypstra introduced Jon Reiskind, Chair of the Nominations Committee. Jon acknowledged work by the other committee members, Lenny Vincent and Rich Bradley. Sixty-four ballots were returned, and Reiskind mentioned that mailing ballots separately from the Newsletter increased their return. Jon announced that David Wise was elected as Director (in a close count), and Alan Cady was re-elected as Secretary. The By-Laws change (removing the Associate Editors from the Executive Committee and keeping the General & Managing Editors) passed with one abstention. President Rypstra thanked the Nominations Committee, and the Membership acknowledged those elected and the Nominations Committee.

3. Membership Report- President Rypstra introduced Norman Platnick, Membership Secretary, who stated that AAS membership has jumped after remaining steady for a number of years. He recited the membership numbers as 489 individual and 133 institutional. Norm was thanked by Rypstra for his many years of service as Membership Secretary.

4. Future Meeting Sites- The President introduced President-Elect Fred Coyle. He reviewed the future meeting sites as: 1999- The University of the West Indies in Trinidad hosted by Chris Starr; 2000- Transylvania University in Lexington hosted by David Wagner and Dave Wise; 2001- Keene State College hosted by Karen Cangialosi; 2002- University of California-Riverside hosted by Rick Vetter; 2003- Denver Museum of Natural History, hosted by Paula Cushing; 2004- University of Oklahoma, hosted by Doug Gaffin. Anyone wishing to host meetings should contact President-Elect Fred Coyle. Chris Starr cautioned not to fill meeting dates too far in advance possibly allowing Brazilians to host a meeting soon.

President-Elect Coyle then described the judging schemes for the student paper and poster awards. He thanked the Chairs for the two judging teams, Karen Cangialosi (papers) and Jon Reiskind (posters), and asked members for advice or suggestions about future student competitions. President Rypstra thanked Fred and the judging crew. She noted that having many active students and meeting venues for the next 5 years are good signs for the future.

5. Report on the Journal of Arachnology- General Editor James Berry remarked that the new editor system is working well. He remarked about the lost JOA mailing, and described rising publishing costs relative to income from dues. The Journal is getting larger, mainly from longer articles, but Society income barely covers publishing costs.

Robert Suter, then described the index for JOA volumes 11-25. It will be

all electronic, with the web address published in the Newsletter. (Note- this index is available at < <http://vassun.vassar.edu/~celt/suter/spiderform.html> > -Ed.)

Managing Editor Petra Sierwald stated that Journal of Arachnology policy is all manuscripts must be submitted in the English language. Chris Starr expressed his hope that perhaps something could be done so this policy is not necessary.

General Editor Berry recognized the other editors and thanked them for their work (Managing- Petra Sierwald; Associates- Gary Miller & Bob Suter; Proceedings Editor- Brent Opell). Ann Rypstra thanked Jim for all his work, and the membership demonstrated their appreciation too. President Rypstra stated the Society is looking for a "webmaster" to build and maintain an AAS website. She made a plea for suggestions and recommendations.

6. Treasurer's Report- Treasurer Gail Stratton distributed the year-end 1997 and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 1998 financial reports to those present. She pointed out that these accounts show no Congress activity, and the balance as of 19 June 1998 was \$118,448. The Society also had provided \$15K in support of travel for Congress attendees. Gail said \$2,397 was raised by the auction, and she thanked all who donated materials. Betsy Berry who organized the event, and George Uetz, who helped separate bidders from their money with his skillful auctioneering. Gail echoed Jim Berry by stating the Society's income is close to expenditures, and since our dues are low, perhaps a small dues increase may be in the future. Jerome Rovner recognized Gail's long service to the Society, and President Rypstra pointed-out the extra fiscal work generated by the Congress which Gail has been handling.

7. Research Awards- President Rypstra reported a delay in the Student Research Awards due to logistic problems, and that there is now one deadline date for Student Research Awards, 31 October. Ann said that Elizabeth Jakob is stepping down after 2 years of service, and that Deborah Smith will be taking the reigns of the Research Awards Committee.

The President mentioned the Vince Roth Fund for systematics research is housed at the California Academy of Science and administered by Charles Griswold. All contributions should be made through Charles. If this fund reaches endowment size, support for systematics research by students could be made available, probably via the existing Research Awards Committee.

Barb Roth mentioned that Vince's copy of Bonnet's book should be someplace where it is accessible to students, or perhaps it could be sold with the proceeds going to the Roth Fund. Jon Reiskind stated that the Roth spider family key brings in about \$1,200 annually, and that also could go into the Roth Fund. President Rypstra said the Executive Committee will consider both ideas.

8. Norman Platnick, former CIDA President, spoke to those present about the reformation of CIDA to the International Society of Arachnology (ISA). A full description of changes in the Constitution, By-Laws, executive structure, and services will be voted on by CIDA members.

9. New Business- Norm Platnick presented a gift to the Congress host, Petra Sierwald, and President Rypstra recognized Petra and all the work necessary to conduct such an event. These recognitions of Petra and her staff were met with extended applause of appreciation from the Membership. Petra Sierwald passed on the AAS Bell to the next meeting host, Chris Starr.

A movement to adjourn, was made and seconded, and President Rypstra adjourned the meeting with "Vote with your feet" at 17:05.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan B. Cady Secretary

**The American Arachnological Society**  
**First Quarter Report- 1999**  
**May 20, 1999**

**Total Assets as of 31 Dec. 1998** **\$92,264.52**

**Balance in Checking Account, Chem. Bank, 31 Dec. 1998** **\$10,434.15**  
 Chemical Bank South, Albion MI. Acct. #075-964-7

**Deposits**  
 Membership (includes co-collected dues) 178.00  
 Interest (checking) 36.44  
**subtotal** **\$214.44**

**Expenses**  
 New York Ent Soc (renewal notices) 766.18  
 Research awards (5 awards) 3,000.00  
 US Post Office (mailing back issues) 173.74  
 State of CA (filing fee) 10.00  
 Debit, charge for credit card 20.00  
**subtotal** **\$3,969.92**

**Balance** **\$6,678.67**

**Balance in Checking Account, Union Planters, 31 Dec. 1998** **4,288.87**  
 Union Planters Bank, Acct # 8700018793

**Deposits**  
 Membership 18,785.56  
 Back Issues 30.00  
 From Congress 4,225.01  
 Source Uncover 12.00  
 Interest 37.68  
 Credit memo 23.86  
**subtotal** **\$23,114.11**

**Expenses**  
 Allen Press JOA 26-3 13,592.95  
 P.O. Rental 52.36  
 Newsletter, Miami of Ohio 1,000.00  
 Postage, back issues 51.75  
 Cal Academy of Science, Vince Roth Fund 875  
 Zool. Dept, Field Museum (postage, managing editor) 673  
 Debit memos (deposited checks returned) 385  
**subtotal** **\$16,630.0**

**Balance** **\$10,772.92**

**Balance in both checking accounts combined** **\$17,451.59**

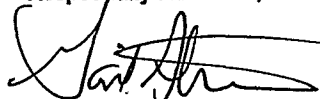
**Balance in CDs (Smith Barney)** **\$20,000**  
 and money market **\$61,029.28**  
 Interest earned in 1998 = \$3,481.21

**Balance in Smith Barney Acct. # 221-11904-14 -14** **\$81,029.28**

**Funds held for Int. Soc. Arachnol. (CIDA)** **\$2,978**

**Total Assets** **\$98,480.87**

Respectfully submitted,



**Gail E. Stratton, Treasurer**  
**American Arachnological Society**  
 P.O. Box 2198, Oxford, MS 38655

# AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

The Newsletter of the American Arachnological Society

NUMBER 59

April 1999

**18<sup>th</sup> European Colloquium of Arachnology, 12-17 July, 1999, High Tatras, Slovak Republic.**

**Themes:** Zoogeography and faunistic, ecology and biology, taxonomy, physiology, and a special workshop on spider biodiversity in wetlands.

**Preliminary registration:** ~200 participants from 27 countries with 98 papers and 28 posters!!!

**Registration fees:** \$250 (student = \$200)

**Paper and poster abstracts:** due before 15 April, 1999 (e-mail submission), 3.5" disk or hardcopy submissions due by 31 March, 1999.

For more information see the meeting's web site at:

<http://nic.savba.sk/sav//inst/uzac/arachn.htm>

## JOURNAL OF ARACHNOLOGY ELECTRONIC INDEX

An electronic index now exists for the Journal of Arachnology from 1983 - 1997. Many people have worked to produce this valuable resource.

Note that the main search keywords are:

**SCORPION, SPIDER, HARVESTMAN, MITE**

Any word or taxon that is in a title may be found with a search of the Index.

The address is:

<http://vassun.vassar.edu/~celt/suter/spiderform.html>

Thanks to Bob Suter for the electronic implementation!! (Dept. of Biology, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY 12604-0334)

SUTER@VASSAR.EDU

[HTTP://FACULTY.VASSAR.EDU/~SUTER/SUTER.HTML](http://FACULTY.VASSAR.EDU/~SUTER/SUTER.HTML) )

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CUSHING, P.  
ZOOLOGY-DENVER MUS. NAT. HIST.  
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Department of Zoology  
Miami Univ. - Middletown  
4200 E. Univ. Blvd.  
Middletown, Ohio, 45042