

AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

The Newsletter of the American Arachnological Society

NUMBER 61

May 2000

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*****PLEASE NOTE*****

Be looking for your ballot for the 2000 AAS election in the mail soon. Please do not delay sending your ballot.

--Dates & Deadlines--

- ◆ 2000 Transylvania University, Lexington, KY USA
- ◆ A.A.S. Research Fund 15 January, 2001
- ◆ 2001 Keene, New Hampshire USA
- ◆ 2002 Riverside, California USA
- ◆ 2003 Denver Museum of Natural History
- ◆ 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: 513/727-3450; E-mail: CADYAB@MUOHIO.EDU). Deadline for receipt of material for the Fall issue (Vol. 62) is 15 October, 2000. 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.

24th Annual Meeting of the American Arachnological Society

Lexington, Kentucky
15th-19th July, 2000

Hosted by
Transylvania University and University of Kentucky

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the American Arachnological Society will be jointly hosted by Transylvania University (James Wagner) and University of Kentucky (David Wise) in Lexington, Kentucky. Lexington is situated in the heart of the Kentucky Bluegrass, easily accessible by car or airplane. The meeting will take place on the campus of

Transylvania University. The banquet and auction will be at the Faculty Club of the University of Kentucky. Planned activities will introduce arachnologists to the culture of the Bluegrass (including worship of the Horse) as well as the fauna and landscape of the nearby Appalachian mountains. Meet new colleagues and reestablish connections with old acquaintances in the warm and relaxed atmosphere of Lexington's Southern hospitality.

TRAVEL

Lexington is situated at the crossroads of two major interstates, north-south 75 and east-west 64, and is within a day's drive of most of the eastern US. If you plan on flying into Lexington, the Bluegrass Airport (LEX) in Lexington is the most convenient being 6 miles from the campus. Average cab fare from LEX airport to Transylvania University is no more than \$15, tip included. Two other major airports are available — Cincinnati (CVG) and Louisville (SDF) — both an easy 75-minute drive from Lexington (there is no public transportation to Lexington from the airports in Cincinnati and Louisville). If you are already planning on renting a car while at the meeting, you may want to try CVG or SDF airport for cheaper fares, although be careful to check Lexington, because sometime fares are comparable, or are even less, into Lexington.

HOUSING FACILITIES

Modern dormitory rooms at Transylvania University will be available. The Poole dormitory has double-occupancy suite rooms where two adjacent suites share a bathroom. Rosenthal dormitory has a double-occupancy suite with its own bathroom and full fridge. Since housing on campus is limited to 125 people with double-occupancy, we cannot offer single occupancy rooms on campus.

Off-campus housing is available within walking distance for Hyatt Regency (859-253-1234), Radisson Plaza Hotel (859-231-9000), or Gratz Park Inn (859-231-1777). Within a 10 minute drive the Econo Lodge (859-231-6300) is offering a special rate of \$42.95 + tax for a single or double-occupancy room (mention you are part of the AAS meeting for this special rate).

PRESENTATION INFORMATION

We expect a large number of participants and want to avoid having concurrent sessions. Therefore, we ask that authors restrict themselves to making one presentation, either a poster or a talk (of course you can be co-author on many talks or posters). The talks will be 12-minute presentations with 3 minutes for questions. The auditorium at Transylvania University has a LCD projector that can project video (VHS format only) or computer Microsoft PowerPoint presentations. Slides and overheads can also be easily projected.

If you are planning on using a computer-based presentation we only have the software to project Microsoft PowerPoint presentations and our local machine is a PC. However, we can easily connect your own laptop, whether it is Mac or PC, to the projector, and you can run your own presentation software. If you are planning on giving a graphically intensive PowerPoint presentation, you can FTP your file to our local machine to avoid saving the presentation on multiple disks. Follow these steps to transfer your file:

1. FTP to Kaston.transy.edu (no WWW required)
2. Logon as ANONYMOUS using your own email as a password
3. Change to the Presentation directory. If you are using a command line FTP program type "cd presentation" without the quote marks to change to the presentation directory. If you fail to do this you will not have the permission to upload your file.
4. Change your file transfer mode to binary (type "bin" to change to binary mode if you are using a command line transfer method).
5. Type "put <your filename>" to upload your file. I would recommend that you give your file a unique name like your last name and NOT some generic name like AAS2000talk.ppt
6. You will only have permission to read and write files — you will not be able to delete or overwrite files.

Posters should be mounted on heavy stock and fit within a 4 x 6 ft. area. The official poster session with the author being available for questions will be Sunday afternoon 3-5 pm. The posters will remain up for the remainder of the meeting.

SPECIAL EVENTS

A number of special events are planned during the meeting. We are planning a social event on Sunday evening (6-9:30 pm) at the Kentucky Horse Park (\$20). Enjoy a Kentucky style burgoo (taste it to believe it) dinner, clogging or square dancing, hayrides, 13 life-size figures from the terra cotta army of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang + 300 other pieces of extraordinary artwork valued at \$100,000,000. Visit the horse park website (<http://www.imh.org/imh/china/index.html>) for more information on the amazing exhibit Imperial China: The art of the horse in Chinese history that is included with this \$20 fee. We will have free bus transportation to this event.

The traditional banquet and auction will take place Tuesday, July 18th. The banquet is going to Kentucky buffet with prime rib, Kentucky hot brown (regional favorite), baked catfish, hush puppies, five vegetable medley, country green beans, corn pudding, marinated cucumbers and tomatoes, fresh fruit tray, carrot cake, bread pudding with bourbon sauce, and chocolate chip pie. Yum yum. All these fixin's for only \$20 for students and \$25 for regular registration.

The field trip planned is a series of hikes around the Red River Gorge Geological Area (\$20). This natural area consists of approximately 26,000 acres located within the Daniel Boone National Forest. The area offers many unique varieties of vegetation and the most natural rock formations in one concentrated area east of the Rocky Mountains. Visit this unofficial website <http://www.infinet.com/~dhooper/html/rrg.html> for some excellent pictures and information on hiking and camping opportunities at the gorge. The \$20 fee for the field trip covers transportation and lunch.

PLANNED SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 15 - Arrival and Evening Reception

Sunday, July 16 - Paper & Poster sessions; "Old Kentucky Night" at the Kentucky Horse Park

Monday, July 17 - Paper sessions; Informal evening of bourbon tasting, slides and videos

Tuesday, July 18 - Paper sessions, Business Meeting, Banquet, Silent and regular auction

Wednesday, July 19 - Field Trip to Red River Gorge

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 abstract should be received by the meeting organizer by the specified deadline (16 June, 2000), and the President-Elect must receive the abstract by **6 July, 2000**. 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 :

Brent D. Opell
Department of Biology
Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, VA 24061-0406

Phone: (540) 231-7445 FAX: (540) 231-9307

E-Mail - BOPELL@VT.EDU (Preferred submission method)

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: _____

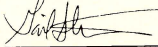
Total number of points by all three judges: _____

TREASURER'S REPORT

The American Arachnological Society Second Quarter Report July 15, 1999

Total Assets as of 1st quarter, 1999	98,480.87
Balance in Checking Account, Union Planters, 10 May 1999	10,772.92
Union Planters Bank, Acct # 8700018793	
Deposits	
Membership	2,288.00
Transfer from Michigan Bank	6,683.24
Sales, Congress Proceedings	40.00
Sales, Spider Genera	90.00
Interest	56.49
	subtotal
	9,137.73
Expenses	
G. Stratton, mailing back issues, ledger book	62.82
Co- Coll Dues Int. Soc. Arachnol	3,112.00
Co- Coll. Dues Arthropoda Selecta	807.00
Matt Greenstone, mailing expenses, Assoc. Ed	100.07
Todd Blackledge, 1st place award for paper	100.00
Ingi Agnarsson, runner up award for paper	50.00
Debit memo (membership)	90.02
Debit memo	3.00
	subtotal
	4,324.91
Balance	15,585.74
<hr/>	
Balance in CDs (Smith Barney)	20,000.00
Money Market	61,542.04
Money fund dividends	161.45
Balance in Smith Barney Acct. # 221-11904-14 -1	81,703.49
Total Assets	97,289.23

Respectfully submitted,


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

The American Arachnological Society Third Quarter Report Oct. 1, 1999

Total Assets as of 2nd quarter, 1999	97,289.23
Balance in Checking Account, Union Planters, 15 July 1999	15,585.74
Union Planters Bank, Acct # 8700018793	
Deposits	
Transfer from Money Market	40,000.00
Sales, Spider Genera	24.00
Refund, State of CA	15.43
Interest	15.14
Sales, Congress Proceedings	40.00
Sales, back issues	120.00
Credit memo	0.03
	subtotal
	40,214.60
Expenses	
Allen Press, Publication of JOA 27(1)	25,833.83
Miami of Ohio, Production and mailing of Newsletter	1,500.00
Co- Coll. Dues Arachnol. Sinca	660.00
Co- Coll. Dues Reue Arachnol.	319.00
Co- Coll. Dues Brit. Arachnol. Soc.	4,196.00
Co- Coll. Dues Arach. Soc. Japan	1,120.00
State of Cal. Filing Fee	10.00
Union Planters Bank, fee for appl. Merchant acct.	85.00
	subtotal
	33,523.83
Balance	22,276.51
<hr/>	
Balance in CDs (Smith Barney)	20,000.00
Money Market	22,700.98
Money fund dividends	41.03
Balance in Smith Barney Acct. # 221-11904-14 -1	42,742.01
Total Assets	65,018.52

Respectfully submitted,


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

The American Arachnological Society Fourth Quarter Report Dec. 31, 1999

Total Assets as of 3rd quarter, 1999	65,018.52
Balance in Checking Account, Union Planters, 1 Oct. 1999	22,276.51
Union Planters Bank, Acct # 8700018793	
Deposits	
Sales of back issues	45.00
Membership	14,896.00
Deposit, donation from Schlinger Foundation	1,198.00
Sales of Spider Genera	919.23
Return of Award to Merav Ziv	355.00
Interest	166.87
Credit memo	30.00
	subtotal
	17,610.10
Expenses	
Allen Press, JOA 27(2)	10,388.59
Cal. Acad. Sci. to Roth Fund	2,387.00
Honoraria, Managing Editor and Associate Editor	2,500.00
New York Ent. Soc. Renewal notices	409.41
Travel expenses for meeting (3 individuals)	949.88
Mailing expenses, Spider Genera	95.87
Mailing back issues	57.77
Bank Charge back and processing fee	37.00
Non-collected item	66.03
	subtotal
	16,901.05
Balance	22,985.56
<hr/>	
Balance in CDs (Smith Barney)	20,000.00
Money Market	23,037.05
Money fund dividends	13.05
Balance in Smith Barney Acct. # 221-11904-14 -1	43,050.10
Total Assets	66,035.66

Total Assets

\$ 66,035.66


Respectfully submitted,


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

The American Arachnological Society Final Report-1999 Dec. 31, 1999

Total Assets, 31 Dec. 1998	92,264.52
Balance in checking, 31 Dec. 1998	14,723.02
Chemical Bank South, Alibon MI, Acct. #075-964-7	
Union Planters Bank, Acct # 8700018793	
Deposits	
Membership (includes co-collected dues)	36,127.56
Interest (checking)	312.82
Donations	1,196.00
Income from 1998 International Congress	4,225.01
Total sales	1,320.23
Sales, source Unknown	12.00
Sales, Spider Genera	1,033.23
Sales, back issues	275.00
Refund, State of CA	15.43
Bank, Credit memos	58.46
Transfer from Money Market account	40,000.00
Return of student award	355.00
	Subtotal
	83,612.31
Expenses	
Allen Press (3 issues)	49,815.37
Allen Press JOA 26 (3)	13,592.95
Allen Press JOA 27(1)	25,633.83
Allen Press JOA 27(2)	10,388.59
Co-collected dues	10,214.00
Co-collected dues B A S	4,196.00
Co-collected dues ASJ	1,120.00
Co-collected dues, Rev. Arachnol	319.00
Co-collected dues, Arthropoda Selecta	807.00
Co-collected dues Acta Arachnol. Sinca	660.00
Co-collected dues, ISA	311.2
Newsletter	2,500.00
Postage (backissues, renewal notice calendars)	1,267.38
Renewal notices	1,175.56
Student research awards	3,000.00
Student paper awards	150.00
Honoraria	2,500.00
Filing fees	20.00
Bank Charges and debit memos	696.05
Travel awards for 3 individuals for Exec. Meeting	949.38
Vince Roth Fund (\$75 from donations sent to us, remainder from '98 auction)	3,272.00
	Subtotal
	75,349.77
Balance in checking account (Union Planters Bank)	22,985.56
Balance in CDs (Smith Barney) and money market	20,000.00
Interest earned in 199	23,050.10
Accrued interest	1,320.00
Money funds earnings	2,746.45
Dividends, 1998	145.18
Smith Barney Acct. # 221-11904-14 -1	\$ 43,050.10
Total Assets	\$ 66,035.66


Respectfully submitted,


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

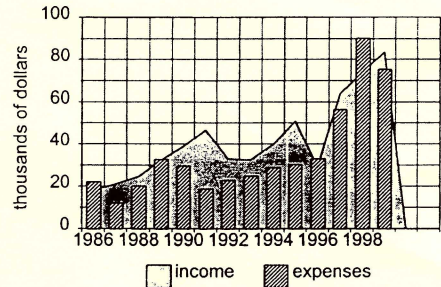
The American Arachnological Society First quarter financial report April 20, 2000

Total Assets, end of 1999	\$ 66,035.66
Balance in Checking Account, 31 Dec. 1999	\$ 22,985.56
Union Planters Bank, Acct. # 8700018793	
Deposits	
Interest (through April)	271.19
Membership (includes co-collected dues for other societies)	17,084.00
Sales, back issues	50.00
Sales, Spider Genera	174.00
	Subtotal
	\$17,579.19
Expenses	
Allen Press JOA 27(3)	9,429.00
IRS Penalty for late filing	1,834.61
Research Awards (7 awards)	4,785.00
California Academy of Science,	
Donation of proceeds from sales of Spider Genera to Vince Roth Award	1,033.23
Postage/PO Box rental	278.90
Charges for collection	12.00
Bank charge, return of check	146.00
Bank charge, return of check	88.70
	Subtotal
	\$17,579.19
Balance	\$22,957.31
<hr/>	
Activity in Smith Barney Account	
# 221-11904-14	
Balance in account, 4th quarter 1999	\$43,050.10
Amount in CD (maturity 3/05/98)	20,000.00
Amount in money market	23,890.24
Dividends and interest, this quarter	93.19
Balance in account, March 31, 2000	\$43,963.52
Total Assets:	\$66,920.83

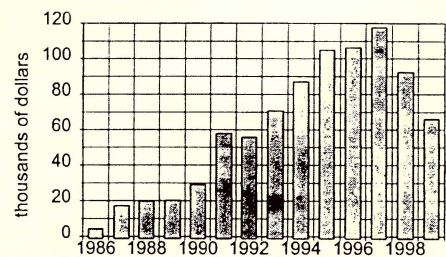
Respectfully submitted,


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

1986-1999



AAS Total Assets 1986-1999



2000 MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Transylvania University and the University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky
July 15-19, 2000

This form could be used, or you may register online at KASTON.TRANSY.EDU/AAS2000.HTML (no WWW needed).

**Registration and abstract submission through the website
is preferred !**

** Please note that after registering via the website, payment must be sent (via regular post) before 16 June or suffer late fees. **

Personal Information

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Country: _____ Zip code/country code: _____

e-mail: _____ Phone & FAX: _____

Registration Fees

_____ AAS Member (\$50)

_____ Non-Member (\$80 – registration includes 1-year membership to AAS)

_____ Student (\$35; same for Member or Non-member)

_____ Non-participant guest (\$15) (Pay this fee if your guest plans to partake in the Saturday reception and snacks for breaks between talks, but will not be attending the sessions.)

Name of guest: _____

_____ Late registration (add \$10 after 16 June; no late fee for non-participants)

Events

Kentucky Horse Park Social (\$20), Sunday evening 6 - 9:30 pm. Buffet dinner, entertainment (clogging or square dancing), free hayrides, tour of horse barns and paddocks, beautiful horses, International Museum of the Horse, including the spectacular visiting exhibition, Imperial China: The Art of the Horse in Chinese History (with 13 life-size figures from the terra cotta army of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, and much more). Cash bar

_____ Banquet and Auction, Univ. of Kentucky Faculty Club, Tuesday evening (\$25; Students, \$20)

_____ Field trip to Red River Gorge, Wednesday, 8 am -5 pm (\$20 – includes bus ride and box lunch)

Tee Shirts

Number of shirts (\$12 ea.): _____ Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-large

Housing Information

_____ Will be staying off-campus

_____ Dormitory double occupancy (\$15/day/person)

Person you prefer as a roommate: _____

Please indicate the dates you are planning on arriving and leaving. The official registration and welcome reception are planned for Saturday, July 15th from 4-7pm at the Brown Science Center at Transylvania University. Please estimate the your time of arrival and departure as closely as possible.

_____ Saturday, July 15 _____ Sunday, July 16 _____ Monday, July 17
_____ Tuesday, July 18 _____ Wednesday, July 19 _____ Thursday, July 20

Dining Information

Regardless on where you are staying, a flexible meal plan is available for on-campus dining. Full meal coverage is \$11.50/day that covers all-you-can-eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner cafeteria meals. Or you may choose to pay for individual meal tickets at a cost of \$3.75 for breakfast, \$4.50 for lunch, and \$5.25 for dinner. Note: Meal tickets are nonrefundable.

Please indicate the number of meal plans or tickets you would like.

_____ Full meal plan
_____ Breakfast tickets (\$3.75) _____ Lunch tickets (\$4.50) _____ Dinner tickets (\$5.25)

Note: There will be two other major summer student programs occurring at Transylvania University during our meeting. The dining staff warns that the meals in the cafeteria will not be diverse and may not agree with an adult palate. Our recommendation is that you restrict your meal tickets to the breakfast meal and eat off campus during the other meals. A variety of dining options are available within walking distance from the campus, and many more within a 10-minute drive. A detailed map of local bars and dining establishments (with reviews) will be available in your registration packet.

Payment Totals

Registration: \$ _____
Events: \$ _____
T-Shirts: \$ _____
Field Trip: \$ _____
Housing: \$ _____
On-Campus Meals: \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please make your check payable to Transylvania University, for "AAS Meeting".

Participants from abroad must enclose a cashier's check payable in U.S. dollars

Send Payments to:

Prof. David H. Wise, Dept. of Entomology, S-225 Ag. Sci. Bldg - North, University of Kentucky,
Lexington, KY 40546-0091

ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 16 JUNE (via regular post) TO AVOID LATE FEES

CALL FOR PAPERS

Abstract Submission

Type of presentation: Talk (15-min) Poster Not presenting

Check below if you want to enter the Student Competition (talk or poster):

Student Competition

Note: In order to avoid concurrent sessions, we must restrict each participant to making one presentation. You can be a co-author on more than one talk or poster, but can only be the presenter for one (either talk or poster, but not both).

Circle the category that best indicates the topic of your presentation:

Anatomy/Physiology Behavior Evolution Population Ecology Community
Ecology Systematics/Taxonomy

Your Last Name (Presenter): _____

Title of presentation: _____

First author's last name: _____ First: _____

Institution: _____

Second author's last name: _____ First: _____

Institution: _____

Third author's last name: _____ First: _____

Institution: _____

Abstracts should be limited to a 250-word maximum. Presentation title, authors' names and affiliations are to be excluded in word count. Do not list your full address. Please prepare your Abstract using the following example as a guide to format (asterisk indicates presenter):

Spiders of the bluegrass: Why are they blue?

James Wagner (Transylvania Univ.), David Wise* (Univ. of Kentucky) and Juraj Halaj (Univ. of Kentucky)

Commies are read, spiders are blew, if your reeding ahead, my spell check ought two

Please type your abstract in 11-pt Arial font. We would prefer a Rich Text Format (*.rtf) file of your abstract. It is preferred that you e-mail your abstract as an attached file to David Wise (dhwise@pop.uky.edu), or submit through the website. Alternatively, you may include this on a 3.5 inch diskette with this registration form.

Please check one of the options: Abstract e-mailed as attachment to dhwise@pop.uky.edu

3.5" diskette included

Paper copy included (please send a paper copy only if you cannot send a diskette or an e-mail attachment)

Abstracts must be received by **16 June** to be included in the program.

DO YOU HAVE SLIDES OR VIDEOS OF ARACHNIDS TO SHARE ON MONDAY EVENING?

Slides Video

If regular post is used, please mail registration forms, payment, and abstracts to:

**Prof. David H. Wise, Dept. of Entomology, S-225 Ag Sci Bldg - North, University of Kentucky,
Lexington, KY 40546-0091**

Estimated Spider Numbers

Norman I. Platnick Division of Invertebrate Zoology
American Museum of Natural History Central Park
West at 79th Street New York NY 10024

About ten years ago, I prepared a handout for a CIDA Congress providing estimates of the numbers of currently valid species and genera in each of the spider families. Those numbers were very rough estimates; at the time, it was not possible to take into account fully the numerous synonymies, transfers, and designations of nomina dubia published since 1940. Nevertheless, the rough estimates proved useful on several occasions (e.g., Bond, J. E. & B. D. Opell, 1998, Testing adaptive radiation and key innovation hypotheses in spiders, *Evolution* 52: 403-414; Coddington, J. A. & H. W. Levi, 1991, Systematics and evolution of spiders, *Ann. Rev. Ecol. Syst.* 22: 565-592).

A similar table is presented here that provides another snapshot of this moving target, taken at a point in time that includes all the literature available to me and published through the end of 1998 (and no literature published since then). These numbers are much more accurate than those prepared a decade ago, but they are still only estimates, as comparisons have not yet been made between the catalog volumes by Roewer and those by Bonnet.

Work on that task has already begun, with the hope of having a complete, Clerck-to-date catalog available on CD-ROM and the Internet by the time of the 2001 ISA Congress in South Africa. Until then, some information is already available on the web (e.g., the complete contents of my first catalog volume, now out of print, can be found at <http://research.amnh.org/entomology/platnick/spidercat/index.html>). Over the coming months, sections of the full catalog will be made available on line (as text files only), as the drafts get completed. Database versions will be on the CD and will later be implemented on the web as well.

Like all snapshots in time, these counts are already outdated. So far in 1999, for example, three changes have occurred in the list of families. There is one name change, from Heteropodidae to Sparassidae — see Jäger, P., 1999, Sparassidae - the valid scientific name for the huntsman spiders (Arachnida: Araneae), *Arachnol. Mitt.* 17: 1-10. And two families have been added, the Phyxelididae and Zorocratidae — see Griswold, C., et al., 1999, Towards a phylogeny of entelegyne spiders (Araneae, Araneomorphae,

Entelegynae), *J. Arachnol.* 27: 53-63.

Despite their many shortcomings, comparisons of the two tables do show some changes over the past decade, some representing healthy progress, others more dubious. Even with the deductions of older synonyms and nomina dubia, the number of species currently considered valid has increased by almost 7%, up from 34,083 in the earlier table. The numbers of genera have increased as well (by over 12%, up from 2967); however, almost 40% of that increase reflects just the net gain of some 140 linyphiid genera. Well over 40% of the currently recognized linyphiid genera are both monotypic and unjustified by any cladistic analysis; hence the additional linyphiid genera may represent more of an increase in entropy than an advance in classification. That situation should be contrasted with the only larger family, the Salticidae, where a 6.6% net gain of species has been accompanied only by a 4.5% net gain in genera, and fewer than 30% of the currently recognized genera are monotypic. Overall, about one-third of currently recognized spider genera are monotypic, indicating an enormous task still ahead in deducing their interrelationships.

This work was supported by grants from the National Science Foundation (BSR-8921692 and DEB-9503286).

ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF SPIDER GENERA AND SPECIES (DECEMBER 31, 1998)

	Genera		Species	
1. Liphistiidae	2	75	54. Nesticidae	9 192
2. Atypidae	3	32	55. Theridiidae	73 2208
3. Antrodiaetidae	3	27	56. Theridiosomatidae	12 71
4. Mecicobothriidae	4	8	57. Symphytognathidae	6 34
5. Hexathelidae	11	78	58. Anapidae	34 144
6. Dipluridae	25	175	59. Mysmenidae	24 96
7. Cyrtacheniidae	19	120	60. Pimoidae	1 21
8. Ctenizidae	9	111	61. Linyphiidae	543 4101
9. Idiopidae	20	266	62. Tetragnathidae	57 978
10. Actinopodidae	3	41	63. Araneidae	164 2797
11. Migidae	9	84	64. Lycosidae	96 2241
12. Nemesiidae	37	316	65. Trechaleidae	12 67
13. Microstigmatidae	6	12	66. Pisauridae	51 339
14. Barychelidae	43	298	67. Oxyopidae	9 411
15. Theraphosidae	105	851	68. Senoculidae	1 31
16. Paratropididae	4	7	69. Stiphidiidae	9 41
17. Hypochilidae	2	11	70. Neolanidae	1 3
18. Austrochilidae	3	8	71. Psecridae	4 22
19. Gradungulidae	7	16	72. Zoropsidae	2 13
20. Filistatidae	17	107	73. Ctenidae	38 437
21. Sicariidae	2	121	74. Ageleidae	42 499
22. Scytodidae	5	144	75. Cybaeidae	10 135
23. Periegopidae	1	2	76. Desidae	38 181
24. Drymusidae	1	9	77. Halidae	2 3
25. Leptonetidae	15	174	78. Amphinectidae	28 148

Genera	Species	Genera	Species		
26. Telemidae	7	20	79. Cycloctenidae	5	36
27. Ochyroceratidae	13	139	80. Hahniidae	26	216
28. Pholcidae	40	610	81. Dictynidae	48	538
29. Plectreuridae	2	29	82. Amaurobiidae	65	584
30. Diguettidae	3	15	83. Titanocidae	5	44
31. Caponiidae	11	67	84. Nicodamidae	9	29
32. Tetrablemmidae	30	124	85. Tengellidae	5	17
33. Segestriidae	3	105	86. Miturgidae	26	364
34. Dysderidae	23	484	87. Anyphaenidae	53	504
35. Oonopidae	55	439	88. Liocranidae	44	288
36. Orsolobidae	28	175	89. Clubionidae	18	507
37. Archaeidae	3	17	90. Corinnidae	55	677
38. Mecysmaucheniidae	7	23	91. Zodariidae	49	549
39. Pararchaeidae	1	7	92. Cryptothelidae	1	10
40. Holarchaeidae	1	2	93. Homalonychidae	1	3
41. Micropholcommatidae	8	33	94. Ammoxenidae	2	12
42. Huttoniidae	1	1	95. Cithaeronidae	2	6
43. Stenochilidae	2	12	96. Gallieniellidae	3	18
44. Palpimanidae	14	110	97. Trochanteriidae	6	33
45. Malkaridae	4	10	98. Lamponidae	1	17
46. Mimetidae	12	155	99. Prodidomidae	26	157
47. Eresidae	10	104	100. Gnaphosidae	114	1921
48. Oecobiidae	6	104	101. Zoridae	11	71
49. Hersiliidae	7	141	102. Selenopidae	3	157
50. Deinopidae	4	57	103. Heteropodidae	86	899
51. Uloboridae	19	240	104. Philodromidae	29	500
52. Cyatholipidae	15	40	105. Thomisidae	163	1993
53. Synotaxidae	13	64	106. Salticidae	510	4663
Total		3330	6446		
			36,446		

Centruroides exicaulida and in the venom resistance of *Onychomys torridus*.

Ms. Sara Tallarovic, \$560 Oregon State Univ. Sexual differences in metabolism in scorpions as an indicator of energetic investment in courtship.

Ms. Margaret Janowski-Bell, \$500 Univ. of Mo. Genetic structure and the effects of habitat fragmentation on tarantula populations of *Aphonopelma hentzi*.

A.A.S. ELECTIONS

We will be running an election this year for Director and Secretary. The Nominations Committee is working hard to identify candidates for these important offices.

A ballot will be mailed to you soon along with biographies of the candidates, and the minutes from the 1999 AAS Business Meeting.

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

A.A.S. Research Awards

Deborah Smith (Chair of Research Awards Committee) has given notification of the A.A.S. research awards for the 1999 round. The awards totaled \$4770.

Mr. Lorenzo Prendini, \$800 UCT, South Africa Systematics and biogeography of the southern African burrowing scorpions.

Ms. Florencia Fernandez Campon, \$800 Univ. of Tenn Effects of environmental factors on the cooperative prey capture of *Parawixia bistrata*.

Mr. Boyan Petrov, \$500 National Museum of Natural History, Sofia, Bulgaria Polymorphic species complexes in pseudoscorpions: a case study involving species of *Roncus* in the eastern Balkan Peninsula.

Dr. Steven Reichling, \$800 Memphis, TN Conservation and species inventory of the Theraphosidae of Belize.

Ms. Ashlee Hedgecock Rowe, \$800 North Carolina State Univ. The evolutionary significance of geographic variation in venom and venom resistance: a study of adaptive variability in the venom of

Arachno-Auction or

Comb Your Closets

The annual Arachno-Auction which usually takes place at the Annual Meetings has been named the Vince Roth Auction in honor and memoriam of the founder of the auction and greatest contributor for this occasion. This event has produced significant funding for arachnological research, and always provides fun and sometimes exciting suspense when the bidding gets heated over a rare volume.

Once again we are urging everyone to search your storage, sweep-away the cobwebs (be sure they're unoccupied first), and purge your bookshelves to find books, curios, T-shirts, and other objects for bidding at the Roth Auction. If you plan to contribute items, please notify James Wagner or David Wise (meeting hosts) to enhance coordination of this event. It is good to know that materials you donate will probably go to another arachnophile.

ARACHNOLOGICAL NOTES

SIXTEEN-EYED SPIDERS: NATURE VS. NURTURE

In a recent issue of the JOA, Garb (1999) described a thomisid spider in which the cephalic portion of the carapace was duplicated on the anterior opisthosoma. She offered several possible causes, all relating to the role of homeotic genes in development. Such explanations were not available at the time when 14- and 16-eyed theridiid spiders were reported by Kaston (1968). He attributed these aberrations to "embryonic duplication of a portion of the head region." Garb's genetic basis for eye set duplication in spiders may not suffice for all cases. What appears to be such an anomaly also may arise due to an event during the growth process of the spider. Evidence for this was found by Savory (1928), who described "the apparent possession of sixteen eyes" in a linyphiid. Importantly, the extra set of eyes was reversed (with regard to anterior-posterior orientation), thereby providing him with the basis for an explanation. "The part of the cast caput bearing the eyes must, at the time of the last moult, have turned over and stuck to the new cuticle while the latter was still soft." Savory's observation should be kept in mind on those very rare occasions when one finds a spider with an extra set of eyes. For example, it is possible that an anomaly somewhat resembling that shown in Garb's figures could result from an abnormal ecdysis, in which the cephalic portion of the old cuticle adhered to the opisthosoma during its slow movement toward the posterior. In such a case, the seemingly sixteen-eyed spider would be the result of a bad experience rather than a bad gene.

Garb, J.E. 1999. Unusual phenotype suggests role for homeotic genes in arachnid development. *J. Arachnol.*, 27:539-541.

Kaston, B.J. 1968. Remarks on black widow spiders, with an account of some anomalies. *Entom. News*, 79:113-124.

Savory, T.H. 1928. *The biology of spiders*. Sidgwick and Jackson, London.

Jerome S. Rovner: Department of Biological Sciences, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701-2979 USA

Martin Kreuels writes:

At present, AraDet has more than 10,000 arachnological publications at its disposal. Publications from 10 arachnological periodicals are regularly added to this library. Anyone needing publications from the library can order them from AraDet at a cost of 0,10 DM (0,05 EURO) per page plus postage.

Contact address: AraDet, Dr. Martin Kreuels, Alexander-Hammer-Weg 9, 48161 Muenster, Germany, e-mail: info@AraDet.de

Tel: 02533 / 933545, Handy: 0171/5075943, Fax: 02533 / 934449

E-Mail: info@aradet.de

Homepage: <http://www.aradet.de>

Pat Miller reminds us:

Back issues of many of the earlier volumes of the *Journal of Arachnology* are available. The cost is \$15.00 for each number (AAS will pay shipping costs). Write or email Pat Miller to find out which numbers are still available. Please be willing to send a check or money order for payment.

During the school year (August - May), Pat can be reached at: prmiller@nwcc.cc.ms.us; P.O. Box 5354, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Senatobia, MS 38668

In the summer, from May-Aug each year Pat can be reached at: pmiller@olemiss.edu; 956 Highway 7 N Abbeville, MS 38601

WHAT USE, IF ANY, IS THERE FOR AGING ARACHNOLOGISTS?

Deceased arachnologists are of enormous use for our own careers—they provide an endless rationale for our own work. We are needed—because Simon so often misunderstood the descriptions of Thorell—and Chrysanthus made wrong synonymizations.

But what about arachnologists not yet deceased? They are certainly less useful, being apt to talk too long, and are able to criticize our innocent excessive pride in our own achievements, claiming that they are biased or not well thought out. Still, they provide some useful background.

A new use for aging arachnologists was invented by Song Daxiang and his colleagues, who produced the volume "The Spiders of China" (1999), consisting of beautiful drawings of spiders, mainly copied from papers of other arachnologists, without acknowledgment of the source. As Song Daxiang apologizes in a loose note attached to the book, he had no time ... "to give explanation of figures copied from other arachnologist's work."

Why so shy, Dear Daxiang? After all, "borrowing" (ed. change) is one of the oldest human activities, practiced

long before the Chinese invented everything valuable and important in mankind's civilization. If anything makes it noble, such a long tradition certainly does. Besides, you have "borrowed" (sic.) our drawings in the best interest of us, the readers, because they certainly look good.

Jerzy Proszynski

Vince Roth Memorial Research Fund

A research fund has been established to honor Vince Roth and to provide funds for work in arachnid systematics.

Name of the fund:

Vincent Roth Memorial Fund for Arachnid Systematics

Qualifications: The fund supports research in arachnid systematics, including laboratory and field research, travel for fieldwork and museum study, and publication costs. The Fund is administered by the California Academy of Sciences. We hope to soon make awards from this fund, however, in the meantime, we welcome donations.

Contributions should be made out to "The California Academy of Sciences" with a note that the check is for the "Vincent Roth Memorial Fund for Arachnid Systematics".

Donations may be sent at any time to:

Ms Julie Parinas
Dept. of Entomology
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

Linda Rayor writes:

The ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING will be held 5-9 August 2000 in Atlanta, GA, co-hosted by Morehouse College and ZooAtlanta. Along with contributed talks and posters, the meetings will include special symposia on 'Dispersal Behavior' and invited papers on 'Comparisons between Primates and Cetaceans'. Plenary speakers include Chris Boake, Hugh Drummond, & Dee Boersma. For further information see <http://www.animalbehavior.org/ABS/Program/>

Linda S. Rayor Chairman, Public Affairs Animal Behavior Society

In The Next Issue ...

- Abstracts from AAS Meeting, Lexington, Kentucky
- Results of AAS Election
- Info on the 2001 AAS Meeting, Keene, New Hampshire
- Submit items for Vol. 62 by 15 October, 2000

TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Mark Judson writes:

An obituary of Jocelyn Crane has just been published in the Journal of Crustacean Biology. Although it concentrates on her work on crabs, it does mention her work on spiders. The reference is: Boyko, C. B. (2000) Jocelyn Crane (11 June 1909-16 December 1998): a biography and bibliography. J. Crust. Biol., 20(2): 415-419.

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).

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Members receive the *Journal of Arachnology* three, and the newsletter *American Arachnology* two times a year.

AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

The Newsletter of the American Arachnological Society

NUMBER 61

May 2000

American Arachnological Society Website !

The A.A.S. has moved even further into cyberspace by implementing their own website. It may be accessed via the address:

<http://science.holycross.edu/departments/biology/kprestwi/AAS/>

The website shows membership info, Annual Meeting Link, officers, announcements, minutes of meetings, newsletters, honorary members, a bulletin board, instructions to JOA authors, an electronic JOA index, graduate study, a photo gallery, and links to other arachnological sites.

We all thank Ken Prestwich for his fine job building and maintaining the site, and Holy Cross for sponsorship.

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

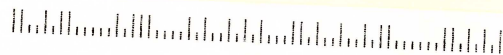
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