

American Arachnology

Number 16

October 1976

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AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY # 16

American Arachnology is the newsletter of the American Arachnological Society and is sent twice a year to all AAS members and subscribers.

Contributions to American Arachnology--as well as announcements, exchanges, requests, etc.--should be sent to the Editor, B. Vogel, 6323 21st Ave. N. E., Seattle, WA 98115.

Back issues of AA are available for \$4.00 for numbers 1-10, 50¢ each for numbers 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or other single issues. Orders should be sent to Nan Lawler, 1753 Grand Avenue, Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

Good News!

The Journal of Arachnology is still alive, and reportedly back in production. Oscar Francke, who moved to Lubbock this summer is a new Assistant Editor and helping remove the log jam. Last minute report is that one issue (vol. 3, no. 2) is in Austin being printed, a second issue will be sent to Austin as soon as proofs are returned by authors, a third typeset and a fourth edited and ready for typesetting. We are optimistic about the Journal's future.

The Overload Response

American Arachnology began as a line of communication between isolated workers. Many of us thought 15, even 10, years ago, that each was the only one working on spiders. The main disadvantage of isolation is lack of stimulation from others with similar ideas and interests. There is no question that arachnology took a great leap forward when we began to pool our intellectual resources. Collectively, we've come a lot further than we would have singly.

But, while a certain amount of information coming from others stimulates one's work, what happens when too much information comes flooding in? In my case, the circuits get jammed, work grinds to a halt, mail piles up, unanswered, and even unread. I suspect this happens to a number of my colleagues, judging by the response lag.

Is there such a delicate balance between enough communication and too much? Perhaps there is. How do we achieve the balance of keeping information flowing throughout the network without overloading the circuits and blowing fuses? The future of the Society may be in jeopardy because of communications breakdowns. Perhaps we are not functioning as a communications network, but overloading a few major trunks. Is there a way to diffuse the pathways, and still permit adequate flow of information? Establishing a membership secretary is an attempt to reduce one overload.

How do you re-set a blown fuse? How do you elicit a response from a non-communicating member? Well, as one who has felt overloaded several times in the past couple of years my best advice is "try again." Don't just say "to hell with 'em," but after a decent month write again (not just me, your basic non-respondent). Write a 3rd time. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with a yes-no check list of items you need answered. It either embarrasses or relieves, but usually gets action. If all else fails, phone. It's cheap after 11 pm or before 8 am. Differences in time zones don't make these hours as impossible as they first sound. Keep your call short. Above all, don't give up. If communications break down, the Society won't survive.

Bea Vogel, Editor

1977 Meetings

- 1 American Arachnological Society, Eastern Section: June 24-26 at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723, Fred Coyle and John McCrone, hosts.

- 2 Seventh International Congress of Arachnology will be at Exeter, England, 27 June to 4 August. The International Congress is held every 3 years. Exeter is southwest of London, and the Congress will be held in the University of Exeter. The meeting includes 4½ days of papers and discussion and 2 days for excursions. If you are interested in attending and have not previously expressed your interest, correspond immediately with:

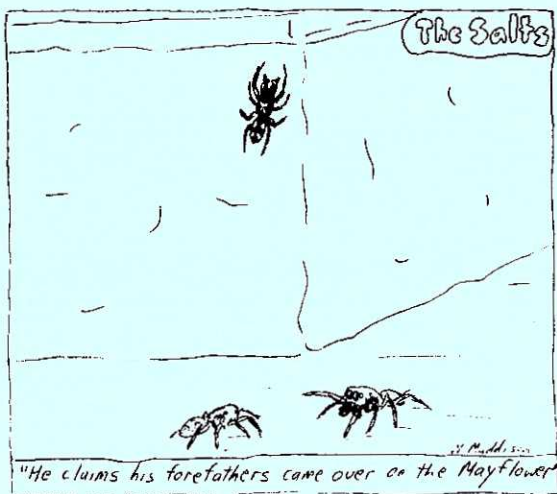
Dr. J. M. Anderson
Hatherly Laboratories
Prince of Wales Road
Exeter EX4 4PS, ENGLAND

- 3 AAS, Western Section: August 18-20, Provo, Utah, Donald Allred, host. An all-day mite workshop has been tentatively scheduled to be held the day before the meeting.

Details of the AAS meetings and preregistration forms will be included in the next newsletter, if not mailed out by the hosts before.

New Feature

The cartoons are supplied by Wayne Maddison and eagerly and happily received by the Editor. More will appear in future issues of the newsletter.



1976 Meetings

AAS, Western Division, Meeting San Francisco, 19 June 1976

Treasurer's Report: (1) Mel Thompson reported a current balance of \$7179.42, about 3/4 of which he is presently maintaining in a savings account. The Society received, as income from dues, between June 1975 and June 1976, \$3948, and in addition it collected \$3040 as dues for the BAS and the CIDA and dispersed it to those societies. We collected \$1058 for reprints ordered and paid \$1580 for reprints. Operating expenses (postage, stationery, etc.) amounted to \$1050. No money was spent on the Journal itself. Paper stocks had been bought in advance, and there has been no publication since last summer. (2) The Society is officially a non-profit organization (federal) now, since the three years' probation period has ended.

New Business: (1) The AAS has been invited to become an associate member of the Association for Systematics Collections. (Dues will be \$25.00 a year for the Society.) As provided for in the by-laws (Art. II, Sec. 12), the executive committee has been polled and it recommends the Society's affiliation. (It will not be official, however, until a membership vote is taken. At that time it will be passed by default unless 10% of the membership votes negatively within a month after the ballot mailing.)

(2) The multiple tasks and frustrations of the secretary's job have become excessively burdensome, and in an effort to relieve the pressure, the executive committee acted to separate the duties of the office. The present elective secretary will act as corresponding secretary who will take care of matters pertaining to answering general inquiries, maintaining Society "archives," and mailing the newsletter, dues notices, etc. The secretary heretofore has also maintained the membership list and addresses and responded to all matters concerning dues and memberships, a task hereafter to be performed by an appointive membership secretary. (Although the officer was appointed by the executive committee as an interim measure, it is proposed to make it a permanent elective office by appropriate amendment of the by-laws. Norman Platnick accepted the appointment to act as membership secretary.)

(3) The executive committee also recommended changes in the election of officers to provide for a greater continuity. It was recommended that the office of vice-president be changed immediately to that of president-elect so that the present vice-president will assume the presidency for the succeeding term of office. Further it was recommended that the president-elect, the treasurer, and one board member be elected in the odd-numbered years (i.e., '77, '79, '81, etc.) and in that year the outgoing president-elect would become the president for two years and the outgoing president would automatically become a board member for two years. On alternate years (i.e., even-numbered years) the secretary and the third board member would be elected. (The present by-laws provide that an officer or board member may be renominated, but may not serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.) The foregoing will provide for gradually changing officers, two new ones being elected each year and five members of the executive board with at least one year's experience continuously.

(4) The Western division considered three invitations for their 1977 meeting and voted by a large majority to accept the invitation of Donald Allred at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. Details will be announced later. The International Congress of Arachnology will convene next year in Exeter, England, and AAS meetings should, if possible, avoid conflicting dates.

(5) A suggestion was made from the floor that the Society offer its expertise to the California Academy of Sciences to recommend uses and priorities for the Frizzell Fund for Arachnological Research which the Academy controls. Although the Academy is under no obligation to accept the Society's offer, and it was not known how it might react to the suggestion, a committee of Pat Craig (chairman), Bea Vogel, Herb Stahnke, and Norman Platnick was appointed to formulate guidelines if and when the Academy indicates that such would be welcome.

(6) The Journal of Arachnology, quality publication that it undeniably is, is fraught with problems. The principal symptom of its troubles is its late and erratic publication schedule. No member of the Journal staff was in San Francisco, but Bob Mitchell reported by phone that two issues were ready for press, although their dates of publication were indeterminate. Many aspects of the Journal were discussed:

cost, logistics, editorial and compositor policies, initiating page charges, along with others--all defying any ready resolution. A call was issued for anyone with the technical knowledge who could offer help.

(7) Suggestions regarding meetings were offered from various sources. Stan Williams advocates the arranging of credit or non-credit short courses to be offered in conjunction with meetings. Other suggestions centered on the practicality and interest in work-shops and field trips during the meetings. There was a question regarding the advisability of formulating a pattern for meetings to follow. The by-laws say that "the membership shall be informed of the date, time, and place of the annual general meeting at least three months prior to the meeting" with no other stipulations. It was generally agreed that other than the announcement already provided for, because of the differences in the institutions where meetings could be held, the host should determine the character of the meeting with which he is concerned.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35, whereupon the hosts served cheese and wine in quantity sufficient to homogenize the membership present.

AAS, Eastern Division, Meeting Carbondale, Ill., 31 July 1976

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Joe Beatty, the host, chaired a brief business meeting. The minutes of the Western Division meeting were read to the members attending.

(1) The Eastern Division considered two invitations for their 1977 meeting with no consensus in favor of either. (This matter has since been resolved--see page 2.)

(2) The changes in the election of officers proposed by the executive committee was discussed. The provision for continuity of president-elect to president was approved in general, but some objection was expressed regarding the advisability of one individual serving as an officer for six consecutive years, i.e., president-elect to president to board member.

(3) An extended discussion of the Journal and its problems included recommendations to initiate page charges and employ an assistant editor among other things. No member of the Journal staff was present nor was there anyone who could give authoritative information about the status of the Journal. A motion (resolution) was passed recommending that the executive committee appoint a "fact-finder" or "expediter" and authorize up to \$1000 of Society funds to send him to Lubbock as a means of getting the Journal operational again.

CHANGES

NEXT 3 PAGES

PROPOSED REVISIONS--CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The Executive Committee has proposed several changes to provide for greater continuity, as explained in the minutes of the Western Division meeting. The actual changes are presented here for clarity.

The complete text of the Constitution and By-laws follows on the next three pages. Words, phrases, and sections to be deleted are crossed out: ~~delete~~ Words, phrases, and sections to be added are underlined: additions