Phorid Newsletter

Brian V. Brown, editor Drawing of *Apocephalus* sp. by Jesse Cantley Number 8 1 May 2000

This newsletter has been a long time coming! I have been extremely busy in the last year or so, but hope to re-establish more regular publication of the Phorid Newsletter.

In the last couple of years I conducted field work in Brazil, Colombia and Guyana, and visited the collection of Borgmeier in São Paulo. Hopefully I can report on these activities in more detail in the near future.

As always, I would appreciate any contributions, large or small, to the newsletter.

Five natural history notes on Neotropical phorid flies

by Brian V. Brown

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The life histories of phorid flies are extremely poorly known, especially in relatively unstudied tropical regions. To make such information more widely known, five unusual life history notes are summarized below. None of the observations represent completed studies,

but all are interesting and merit further investigation. Voucher specimens of phorid flies are deposited in the collection of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

1) The following information was sent to me by Dr. Phil DeVries (Milwaukee Public Museum). Dr. DeVries found a large snail, probably of the genus *Plekocheilus* (family Bulimulidae) near Añaga, Sucumbios, Ecuador (0.48 S, 76.38 W). It had a small swarm of phorid flies running on the surface of the shell and flying around it. He picked up the snail and put it in a plastic bag for further observations, noting that the animal had withdrawn and the flies had disappeared. The next day, he looked in the bag and found the snail alive and active, with the flies again present. He believes that the flies were hidden inside the shell, retreating there when the snail retracted. The snail itself was apparently healthy and uninjured. The flies were females of a species of *Conicera*.

2) Dr. Al Gillogly (Texas A&M University)

pointed out to me that specimens of the passalid beetle genus *Vindex* from Guatemala often have a phorid puparium under and near the base of the elytra. He demonstrated this to me with one specimen from Volcan Zunil, Guatemala, in which I found a puparium with a pharate adult specimen that keys to the genus *Johowia*. Like many phorids keying out to *Johowia*, however, this fly appears to be merely a *Megaselia* with extra supra-antennal setae. According to Dr. Gillogly, the beetles are not harmed by the presence of the phorid, which possibly is a true parasite rather than a parasitoid.

- 3) In 1992 when I visited Pakitza, Peru, I collected specimens of *Cryptophora coeca* Borgmeier and *Syntermophora microphthalma* Seevers in a foraging column and riding on the backs of termites of the genus *Syntermes*. Reports of such phoresy (transport of one species by another) in phorids are rare.
- 4) I collected specimens of *Pseudacteon conicornis* Borgmeier attacking fire ants, *Solenopsis saevissima* (F. Smith) (ants identified by Dr. Sanford Porter, Gainesville, Florida), in Brazil. The flies were attracted to aggregations of ants created by disturbing the nest mounds. At my collecting site, near Desengano State Park, Rio de Janeiro (21.87 S, 41.80 W), these flies were the most common *Pseudacteon* species attracted to fire ants. This is the first recorded host information for *P. conicornis*.
- 5) In March, 2000, Giar-Ann Kung and I collected female specimens of *Styletta crocea* Borgmeier attacking stingless bees in Amacayacu National Park, Colombia (3.82 S, 70.26 W). This is the first report of

the way of life of this species. Female flies landed near bees and curled their ovipositors anteriorly, between their legs, so that that ovipositor tip was below but in front of the head. They then walked rapidly towards the bees, attempting to oviposit in them. This is similar to the behavior shown by many *Melaloncha* species.

Some literature from the last 3 years

I have fallen behind in compiling the phorid literature, but below are at least some of the papers published in 1997, 1998 and 1999. As always, I appreciate receiving suggested additions or corrections to the list.

1997

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 Pseudacteon flies (Diptera: P flies (Diptera: Phorid flies (Diptera: Phoridae) parparasitoids parasitoids of Solenopsis fire fire ant fire ants

Phoridologists' Directory

The The following is a list of the names, addresses and interests The following is a list of the names, addresses list. Any additions, corrections or updates would be greatly appreciated. Thoselist. Any additions, corrections or their projects and interests at even greater length are welcome to do so.

- **Jeffery K. Barnes**, Biological, Biological Survey, Rm.3132, Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY, 12230, U.S.A. Telephone (518) 486-2004. Email jbarnes2@museum.nysed.gov.
- ForbesForbes P. Benton, CEPLAC/CEPEC/SECEN, CEPLAC/CEPEC/SECEN, Caixa, CEPLAC/CEPEC/SECEN, Brazil.Brazil.Telephone (073) 214 3250. FAX (073) 214 32Brazil.Telephone (073) 214 3250. FAX (073) 21 NaNaturalNatural history, identification and faunistic surveys of Brazilian Phoridae. Elucidation of phorid liNatural history, i Behavioral interactions between parasitic species and their hosts.
- BrianBrian V. BroBrian V. Brown, Entomology Section, Natural History Museum of Los ExpositionExposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 9Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90007, U (213) (213) 746-2999. (213) 746-2999. E-mail bbrown@nhm.org. Interests: Taxonomy, evolution,: Taxonomy, evolution biogeographybiogeography and natural history of world Phoridae. I have a long-term project thiogeography and natural history decapitating genus Apocephalus, but I am, but I am also working on a revision of the bee-parasitizing, but I am also working on a revision of the bee-parasitizing, but I am also working on a revision of the bee-parasitizing, but I am also working on a revision of the bee-parasitizing.
- Matthias BMatthias Buck, Dep, Dept. Environmental Biology, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, C 2W1.2W1. Email mbuck@evbhort.u2W1. Email mbuck@evbhort.uogue2W1. Email mbuck@evbhort structure; ecology and biology of small saprophagous (especially necrophagous) Diptestructure; ecology and biology of sandand buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion. Other interests are and buried vertebrate and invertebrate carrion.
- R.R. Henry L. Disney,, Dept. Zoology, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 3EJ,3EJ, Unite3EJ, United Ki3EJ, United Kingdom. Telephone 0223 336654. FAX 022 rhld2@cam.ac.uk.rhld2@cam.ac.uk. Interests: Biology, taxonomy, phylogenetic reconstr: Biology, taxonomy, phylogenetic revising Termitoxe niinae, including Alamira and Perissa.
- **EwaEwa Durska**, Polska Akademia Nauk, Muzeum i Instytut Zoologii, 00-679, Polska Akademia Nauk, Muzeum Poland. *Interests*: Phoridae of Poland
- **DonaldDonald H. Feener, Jr.**, Department of Biology, University of Uta, Department of Biology, University U.S.A.U.S.A. U.S.A. U.S.A. Telephone U.S.A. Telephone (801)U.S.A. Telephone (801) U.S.A. Telephone

Patricia Patricia J. Folgarait, Unidad de Investigación en Interacciones Biológicas, , unidad de Investigación en Interac

IInvestigaciones, Investigaciones, Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Roque Saenz Peña 180, 1876 Berna Buenos Buenos Aires, Argentina. Telephone: 54-1 Buenos Aires, Argentina. Telephone: 54-1 365-7100, expfolgarait@unq.edu.ar.pfolgarait@unq.edu.ar. Interests: 1) Ant- parasitoid interactions, in particular for a: 1) Ant- parasitoid of ant pests, a control of ant pests, and 3) effects of phorids in structuring ant communities. I am currently doing rephorids of Solenopsis and Camponotus but I am also interested in phorids of leaf-cutter ants.

- **MauroMauro Gori**, Via, Via Del Cronaca, Via Del Cronaca 19, 50142 Firenze, Italy. Telephone 055/700588. *Inter* fauna; life histories.
- **Tadao Tadao Gotô**, Central Forest, Central Forest Research Lab, Central Forest Research Lab and Training Center, Bangkok, 10900 Thailand.
- **DavidDavid H. Kistner**, California State University, Chico, CA, 95929-0, California State University, Chico, 898-5116.898-5116. FAX (916) 898-6804.898-5116. FAX (916) 898-6804. *Interests*:: Mostly interested in Plansects or preying on social insects. I am interested in all biogeographic reinsects or preying on social insects. I am interests. I aminterests. I aminterests. I aminterests. I aminterests. I aminterests or preying on social insects. I am currently of the upper Sacramento River, based on cantara spill collections.
- VictVictorVictor A. Kolyada, Department of Entomology, Zoological Museum of the Moscow S, Depa University, University, 6 HerzenUniversity, 6 Herzen Str. Moscow 103009, Russia. *Interests*: Taxonomy of the itsits fauna in the Palaearctic Region. Interested in exchanging for determined specimens from the Palaearctic Regions. Also interested in collecting methods.
- Guangchun Liu, Ecological Laboratory, Department of Biology, Ecological Laboratory, Department National University, Pusan 609-735, South Korea. TelephoneNational University, Pusan 609-735, South 581-2962.581-2962. Email liu@bugs.bio.pusan.ac.kr. *Interests*: Taxonomy of phorids; Chine: Taxonomy of phorids associated with mushrooms in China.
- **MarinaMarina Michailovskaya**, Laboratory o, Laboratory of Insect, Laboratory of Insects, Gornotaezhnaya District, District, District, Primorye District, Primorye District, Primorye Territory, District, Primorye Territory, Taxonomy of phorids; Far East phorid fau na, including Primorsk iy kraiy, Chabarovskiy Taxonomy of phorids; Far East phorid phorids associated with dead animals.
- **LloydLloyd Morrison**, Zoology Department, University of Texas, Zoology Department, University of Texas, Au. (512)(512) 471-2825. FAX same(512) 471-2825. FAX same as telephone. E-mail lmorrison@mail.utexas.e ofof of phorid parasitoids (genus *Pseudacteon*) on ant foraging and interspecific competition (genus *Solenopsis*);); ant); ant); ant has species-specific ityspecies-specificity of *Pseudacteon* phorids; introduction of Southphorids; introduction as biological control agents a gainst the imported fire ant, *S. invicta*.
- Mikhail B. Mostovski, Arthropod Laboratory, Palaeontological Institute, 123, Profsoyuznaya Moscow, Moscow, 117647, Russia. Telephone (095) 467-2340. FAMoscow, 117647, Russia. Telephone rasna@glas.apc.org. *Interests*: Phorid fauna of former USSR.
- **E.E. Hugh E. Hugh A.E. Hugh A. Oliver**, 172 Upper Dinsdale Road, Hamilton, New Zealand. Telephone 84 7954 64 7 838 5085. *Interests*: New Zealand phorid taxon omy and natural history.

- MattMatt Orr, Department of Biology, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA, 94132, U.S.A.U.S.A. E-mail morr@sfsu.edu Interests: Influences of phorids on: Influences of phorids on ant foraging ecology, especant taxa of interest include Atta, Solenopsis, and Linepithema.
- SanfordSanford D. Porter, USDA-ARS, CMAVE, 1600 SW 23 rd Drive, P.O. Box 14565, Gainesville, FL, 32604,32604, U.S.A. Telephone (352) 332604, U.S.A. Telephone (352) 374-5914. F. sdp@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu.sdp@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu. Interests::: Ant-parasitizing: Ant-parasitizing: Ant-parasitizing ph growth and development of larvae and pupae, host specificity, responses of ant hosts, biocontrol.
- Sabine Prescher, Hinter der Masch 26, 38114, Hinter der Masch 26, 38114 Braunschweig, Germany. Te 92.92. *Interests*: Palaearctic Phoridae, espec: Palaearctic Phoridae, especially ec: Palaearctic Phoridae, especially ecology of v Phoridae of agricultural landPhoridae of agricultural land with oilseed rape and peas; 2) of caverns in Germany andPhorid Switzerland.
- GarnetGarnet SuGarnet Suck, Ins, Institut für Biologie, Medizinische Universität zu Lübeck, Ratzeburger A 2353823538 23538 Lübeck23538 Lübeck, Germany. Telephone (+49) 0451-500-4110. F23538 Lübeck, Gersuck@molbio.mu-luebeck.de. *Interests*: Anything about phorid flies, especially *Megaselia scalaris*.
- **AthaydeAthayde Tonhasca**, Universidade Estadual, Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense, Centro de Ciên Agropecuarias, Agropecuarias, Avenida Alberto Agropecuarias, Avenida Alberto Lamego, Agropecuarias, A Phorida attacking leaf-cutting ants.
- Walther Walther Traut,, Institut für Biologie, Medizinische Universität, Institut für
- Holger Holger Triltsch, Federal Biological Research, Federal Biological Research Center f, Federal Biological IntegratedIntegrated Plant Protection, Stahnsdorfer Damm 81, D-14532, KleIntegrated Plant Protection Telephone Telephone 033 203/22423-5, /48Telephone 033 203/22423-5, /48 300. Telephone 033 203/2242 Enderlein Enderlein as parasites of Coccinellidae, especially Coccinella septempunctata L.; factors which determine the degree of parasitization; distribution in cereal fields and farmland.
- **Sven-OlofSven-Olof Ulefors**, Färgerivägen 9, 38044 Alsterbro, Sweden. Telephone 46-223-19541. *Interests*: Canadian species of *Megaselia*; separation of *M. pulicaria*-group species.

AxelAxel Froese and Bill Robinson have both informed meAxel Froese and Bill Robinson have both infor