



# FLY TIMES



OCTOBER, 1991 - No. 7

This issue of the Fly Times includes an updated version of the Directory of North American Dipterists. As noted in earlier issues, please check your entry and submit corrections or an update of your current projects to the editors.

The next issue of the Fly Times will appear next April and contributions should be sent by March 31, 1992 to:

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## NEWS

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### North American Dipterists' Society Informal Conference - Reno, Nevada, Dec. 10, 1991

The next meeting of the North American Dipterist's Society (NADS) will be on Tuesday, 10 December 1991, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Reno, Nevada. As at previous meetings, NADS will meet as an Informal Conference during one of the evening sessions (7:00 - 10:00 PM). The co-organizers of this year's meeting, Greg Courtney and Neal Evenhuis, have combined the formats of the last two [ESA] conferences, by scheduling a mini-symposium on Diptera phylogenetics, followed by a less formal "Business Meeting." "Formal" presentations will include the following topics (and speakers):

- 1) Phylogenetic relationships of the Nymphomyiidae. (G.W. Courtney)
- 2) Systematics of the Nearctic species of *Stegopterna* (Simuliidae). (D.C. Currie)
- 3) Phylogenetic relationships of the superfamily Asiloidea, with special reference to the Bombyliidae. (D. Yeates)
- 4) Phylogenetic relationships and hosts of *Apocephalus*, subgenus *Mesophora* (Phoridae), parasites of cantharoid beetles. (B.V. Brown)
- 5) Beach flies and phylogeny. (W.N. Mathis)
- 6) Problems with *Phthitia* (Sphaeroceridae). (S.A. Marshall)

In addition to the usual mix of informal discussion and debate, the "Business Meeting" will cover several important matters; in particular, reports are expected from Art Borkent (re. the forthcoming book *Phylogenetic Relationships of the Diptera*), Steve Marshall (re. the Third International Congress of Dipterology) and Chris Thompson (re. Diptera names). Attendants are encouraged to bring news about the past year's research, travel and/or collecting; those who wish to present slides of flies, travel, or other matters of Diptera are advised to contact one of the organizers before the meeting. Looking forward to seeing you at Reno.

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More Diptera Available for Study!!

Sid Camras has recently sorted 90 drawers of Diptera to family at the Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago). This material is available on loan by request. There are many specimens from the Philippines and the Neotropics, as well as Indo-Australasia (especially New Guinea).

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North American Dipterists' Society Meeting:  
May 31 - June 2, 1991

The second field meeting of North American Dipterists' Society took place at the Southwestern Research Station of the American Museum of Natural History this spring. About thirty enthusiastic dipterists took part in this highly successful meeting. Although collecting was spotty for some, I think that most of us enjoyed to opportunity to spend some time in the beautiful area around Portal, Arizona. The highlight of the outdoor portion of the meeting was Brad Sinclair's capture of a new species of the genus Asymphyloptera Collin, a genus known previously from Australia and South America only.

The formal part of the meeting consisted of a wide variety of talks, listed below, and a brief business meeting. The most important item of business we discussed was the future of these field meetings. Originally we planned to hold a field meeting every year, with the first one taking place in 1989 at Archbold Station in Florida. We agreed, however, that no meeting would take place in years when there is an International Congress of Entomology, such as the Bratislava meeting in 1990. At the Arizona meeting this year, we voted almost unanimously to continue the pattern of holding field meetings every second year. Therefore the next field meeting will take place in 1993, in an as yet undetermined location.

There was some discussion about possible sites for our next meeting. There are three criteria that a site must provide: 1) it must have some good habitat nearby for collecting, 2) it must have reasonably priced accomodation and food, and 3) it must have facilities for formal meetings. Two possible sites are being considered (but other suggestions are welcome, particularly if they are accompanied by a volunteer to organize the meeting):

1) Temple Hills Camp outside of Colorado Springs, Colorado. This site hosts the Rocky Mountain Entomological Conference each year. It is in the mountains (nearby elevations are 6000-9000 feet) and provides accommodations and good meals for \$16.50 per person per day (1991 prices). The best time for the meeting would be some time in July. I thank George Byers very much for providing this information.

2) Highlands Biological Station in western North Carolina. Costs at this station are about \$4.00-\$7.00 per night, but this does not include meals or bedding. Nearby are restaurants and bed-and-breakfast houses where meals can be purchased, or you can cook your own at the station.

I suggest that we vote on the site at the Dipterists Informal Conference at the ESA meetings in Reno this fall. Anyone who will not be at the meetings, but who wants to register a preference, can write or phone me. Once we decide on which site to hold the meeting, someone will have to volunteer to be the organizer.

The second item of business was the idea that a field meeting could be held in the tropics at some time in the future. Most participants agreed that such a meeting would be extremely desirable, as long as the costs were kept down. With great pleasure, I can announce that Dr. Monty Wood has agreed to host this meeting at his beautiful farm in Costa Rica. Tentatively, the 1995 field meeting will be held at Finca Canada, Monteverde, Costa Rica, Central America. Organizers will be Monty and myself.

- Brian V. Brown

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Papers Presented at the 1991 Dipterists'  
Society Meeting

Introduction to the Station - Dr. W. Sherbrooke, Southwestern Research Station.  
Update on Diptera programs at the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, United States  
National Museum - Lynn Carroll  
*Heteropogon* Loew of the Texas Hill Country (Asilidae) - Riley Nelson  
Treeholes, termites and tabanids - John Burger  
Diptera and endangered species programs - Chris Maier  
Review of Dominican and Chiapan amber Diptera - David Grimaldi  
Crane flies: three families or one? - George Byers  
Feces feeding by Diptera - John Stoffolano  
Nematode eyeworm development in the face fly (Muscidae) - Jim O'Hara  
Commensal Diptera in Australian pitcher plants - David Yeates  
Higher classification of bee flies (Bombyliidae) - David Yeates  
Attraction and larviposition by wild *Cephenemyia* (Oestridae) females onto baited deer  
models - John Anderson

- Late fall, early winter black fly (Simuliidae) attacks on horses and animal models in Northern California - John Anderson and Wee Yee
- Systematics of Nearctic *Coproica* (Sphaeroceridae) - John Swan
- The Diptera of the Galapagos Archipelago - Brad Sinclair
- Trophic ecology of Chloropidae of a freshwater marsh - Ben Foote
- Notes on a new flightless crane fly (Tipulidae) from Ecuador - Chen Young & Jon Gelhaus
- The strange case of *Dasylechia*, a truly remarkable robber fly (Asilidae) - Steve Bullington
- New studies on ant-phorid interactions - Don Feener
- Life history, immature stages, undescribed male and classification of *Rhynchomicropteron* (Phoridae) - Brian Brown

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And Your Name????

The Biosystematics Research Centre (Agriculture Canada) in Ottawa, Ontario has recently been combined with the Land Resource Research Centre under the new name "Centre for Land and Biological Resources Research". The old BRC forms one of two divisions in the new centre, and is now referred to as the Biological Resources Division (BRD).

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redacted Far Side, 11/20/1990

redacted Far Side, 4/25/1990

**Report on the Black Fly Workshop — Brandon University**

By Doug Currie & Peter Adler

An informal workshop on black fly cytogenetics and systematics was held at Brandon University, Brandon, Manitoba from August 7 to 13, 1991. The workshop was organized and hosted by Fiona F. Hunter, who was ably assisted by student Steve Bergin. It was attended by Monty Wood (Biosystematics Research Centre), Peter Adler (Clemson University), and Doug Currie (University of British Columbia).

The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to exchange ideas, and to work directly on projects of mutual interest. In addition to sorting collections of black flies from western Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories, much progress was made towards resolution of the *Simulium venum* Macquart group, *S. tuberosum* Lundström complex, *S. johannseni* Hart group, and the Nearctic *Stegopterna* Enderlein.

Time passed all too quickly, and more than one round-table discussion was interrupted by the dawn's early light! We would like to extend our thanks to Fiona and the Department of Zoology for their hospitality, and for making available their excellent facilities.

Books and Publications

Weismann, L., I. Orszagh and A.C. Pont (eds.). Proceedings of the Second International Congress of Dipterology. Cost = ??.

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Distribution for all remaining countries:

SPB Academic Publishing, P.O.Box 97747, NL-2509 GC The Hague, The Netherlands

Catalogue of Palaearctic Diptera. Volume 7. Dolichopodidae - Platypezidae. 1991. Eds. A. Soos and L. Papp. Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam. 291 pp.

This volume continues the coverage of the Palaearctic fauna, treating the families Dolichopodidae, Lonchopteridae, Phoridae, Opetiidae and Platypezidae.

Crosskey, R.W. 1990. Natural History of Blackflies. Wiley. 711+ ix pp. Price: \$180.00 US.

This monumental publication is the culmination of the authors long and distinguished career as an authority on the Simuliidae. Having recently retired from the Natural History Museum (formerly British Museum, Natural History), Dr. Crosskey continues to publish actively on black fly systematics. The book is a much needed synthesis of the massive literature on the Simuliidae, which expands at a rate of some 300 publications a year. Although intended mainly for those with a general interest in black flies, it seems unlikely that anyone but the most devoted disciple would purchase the book at the suggested price. However, with more the 1200 scientific citations and clear illustrations, the book would make a fine addition to any dipterists library. Following is a summary of the contents.

Part I — *Introduction to Blackflies*: Reference List of Main Facts; The Historical Setting of Present Knowledge; The Taxonomic Background; Prehistory and Geographical Distribution.

Part II — *Life in the Water*: Elements of Larval Structure and Function; Larval Development and Feeding; Larval Anchorage and Movement; The Lotic Environment and Larval Habitats; Development on Other Aquatic Animals - a Special Ecology; Natural Enemies of the Aquatic Stages; The Pupa and Adult Fly Emergence.

Part III — *Aerial Life*: Elements of Adult Fly Structure and Function; Sexual Meeting and Mating; Flight and Migration; Host Animals, Biting and Bloodsucking; Maturing and Laying the Eggs; Natural Enemies of Adult Blackflies.

Part IV — *Blackflies and Mankind*: Pests of Man and Domestic Animals; Blackflies and Human Disease.

For those who have not yet sent in a synopsis of their interests for the Directory of North American Dipterists, the following form is provided. Please restrict yourselves to no more than 20 words when listing the titles of your major projects and the animals you work with.

The completed form may be sent to Dr. J.M. Cumming, Biosystematics Research Centre, Agriculture Canada, Research Branch, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C6, Canada.

Should any of you like to expand on your interests and projects, feel free to send in a contribution that can be inserted into the next newsletter as a separate item.

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