

L. Fennema¹ & R. E. DeWalt². Historic Assemblage, Range Loss and Extirpation of *Acroneuria* Stoneflies in Illinois. ¹School of Life Sciences, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL 61820. ²Illinois Natural History Survey, 1816 S Oak St., Champaign, IL, 61820.

Historic *Acroneuria* (Plecoptera: Perlidae) specimens from the Illinois Natural History Survey and from other museums are being re-evaluated and their taxonomy updated. The assemblage consisted of six species.

Acroneuria abnormis, *A. evoluta*, and *A. perplexa* originally inhabited the largest streams, including the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, with *A. abnormis* also being found in somewhat smaller rivers. *Acroneuria internata*, *A. frisoni*, and *A. filicis* inhabited medium to small rivers and sometimes occurred in streams <5 m wetted width. Extirpations include *A. internata* and *A. perplexa*, while all other species have experienced severe range reductions. *Acroneuria frisoni* was widespread in Illinois, but now is relegated to extreme southern Illinois in the Shawnee National Forest. Most losses for all species occurred in the late 1940s through the early 1960s and resulted from agricultural modification, urbanization, and probably from indiscriminant pesticide (DDT) usage. Re-evaluation of the distribution of these species allows Illinois to add them to a list of species in need of conservation and allows aquatic biologists to know the extent of loss from pre-settlement times.

Dr. Scott A Grubbs

1. Continuing progress on the "Conservation Status of the stoneflies of the Glacial Till and Drift Plains" with Ed DeWalt and Don Webb. A revised proposal was submitted to NSF in January 2007. Collecting in 2007 will focus on revisiting sites mainly in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio where adequate historical data is available, and continuing the expansion of sites in Michigan and southern Wisconsin.
2. Continuing progress of the "Stoneflies of Talladega-Mount Cheaha region of Alabama" with Andy Sheldon. Collecting will continue through 2007, including an expansion into lowland streams.
3. Preparation of the "Nemouridae of eastern North America" book chapter with Richard Baumann. A target date for completion is summer 2007.
4. Launching a new study, "Stoneflies of the Northeastern Coastal Zone". This area is an E.P.A. Level-III Ecoregion in New England, and encompasses Rhode Island, most of Connecticut and Massachusetts, and the southeastern portions of Maine, New Hampshire, and New York. The northern Appalachians basically represent the boundary of this

region. Sampling started in summer 2006 mainly in eastern Connecticut and Rhode Island and at least two trips are planned for 2007.

Dr. Ken W. Stewart, University of North Texas.

1. The book "Stoneflies of Alaska and Western Canada" by K.W. Stewart and M.W. Oswood was recently published and is available from Caddis Press, P.O. Box 21039, Columbus, Ohio 43221.
2. Ken is working with Dick Baumann and Riley Nelson to describe two new *Capnia* species and clarify "What is *Capnia umpqua*?"
3. Dick Baumann visited Ken Stewart's UNT stonefly lab for a week in January 2007. The two "pseudoretirees" worked on organizing and further curating Ken's collection.
4. Ken continues his collecting and rearing of nymphs, for descriptions of additional species in genera whose nymphs are little known or to attempt description of all species within selected genera. Working with Bill Stark on *Sweltsa*, Eugene Drake on *Capnia*, *Calileuctra* and *Haploperla*, and Norm Anderson on the nymphs of Norm's intermittent Oak Burn stream in Oregon. Other genera being studied are *Taenionema*, *Strophopteryx* (with Jane Earle) and *Paracapnia*. A study of the stoneflies of Nunavut is in progress with Donna Giberson of the University of Prince Edward Island.

Luke Myers

I am continuing my research on the stoneflies of New York State particularly the Adirondack Park with Boris Kondratieff. If anyone has specimens please send them to Dr. Kondratieff
I am also describing the nymphs of *Cultus decisus decisus* (Walker) and *C. d. isolatus* (Banks).

Obituaries

GENE R. FIALA

Born: July 17, 1926

Burley, Idaho

Died: November 18, 2006

Gresham, Oregon

Gene Fiala was a friend, colleague and enthusiastic collector of stoneflies from 1983 to 2006. His many collecting excursions, usually with Lola, his wife of 60 years, resulted in the collection of thousands of stonefly specimens, most of which are deposited at the Brigham Young University Insect Collection.

Gene was born in Burley, Idaho and grew up in Pocatello, Idaho where he attended high school. His university training began at Idaho State University and he received a two year degree. He then obtained a BS in Civil Engineering from Utah State University and finally an MS degree in Hydrological Engineering at Colorado State University. Actually, his education was interrupted twice as he served in the Navy in WWII and in the Army during the Korean conflict.

His occupation as a “bridge” engineer led easily to his new avocation as a stonefly collector in 1983. He was visiting a colleague, Neil Barrus, in Coer d’Alene, Idaho, on a work project and saw Neil collect some stoneflies for BYU. After some contacts with entomologists at BYU and some training from Stan Jewett, Gene was hooked. He mixed his stonefly collecting with his job and his love of fishing for Steelhead and Salmon. This gave him multiple excuses to get out into the woods.

He collected throughout western North America both before and after his retirement. His favorite places were the Trinity Alps of northwestern California (Willow Creek drainage) and the Columbia River Gorge. He spent many hours at Wahkeena Falls and even took his family there each July 4th. These collecting efforts form the foundation of a study on the stoneflies of the Columbia River Gorge that is presently underway.

Gene was honored in (Nelson and Baumann 1990) with the naming of *Capuia filalai*, an interesting little species, from his collections in Humboldt County, California. Later on, (Baumann and Fiala 2001) he became the co-author for the new nemourid genus, *Nanonemoura* from the Columbia River Gorge. This monotypic genus was based on the species *Nemoura wahkeena*, that Stan Jewett described in 1954. Gene spent several years searching for this rare insect in the gorge, but it has still only been found in the Wahkeena Falls area.

Literature Cited

- Bauman, R. W. and G. R. Fiala. 2001. *Nanonemoura* a new stonefly genus from the Columbia River Gorge, Oregon (Plecoptera: Nemouridae). *Western North American Naturalist* 61: 403- 408.
- Nelson, C. R. and R. W. Baumann. 1990. New winter stoneflies (Plecoptera: Capniidae) from the Coast Range of California. *Pan-Pacific Entomologist* 66:301-306.
- R. W. Baumann, Provo, Utah, U.S.A.



The on-line journal, *Illiesia, International Journal of Stonefly Research* is accepting papers for Volume 3, 2007. It is being published by Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi, USA and the Slovenian Museum of Natural History. The journal publishes papers dealing with any area of plecopteran research. The Journal is published on the World Wide Webb and it is freely available to all individuals and institutions, and provides an alternative to excessively priced scientific journals. Before a paper is accepted for publication on the internet, it is subjected to rigorous peer review under the direction of the Advisory Board. Editors are Professors Ignac Sivec and Bill P. Stark. The Advisory Board includes Professors B. Kondratieff, S. Szczytko, K. Stewart, R. Baumann, C. R. Nelson, W. Graf, J. Brittain, and T. Shimizu. Any questions can be directed to illiesia@pms-lj.si

RECENT PLECOPTERA LITERATURE (CALENDAR YEAR 2006 AND EARLIER). Papers made available after 1 February 2007 will be included in the next issue. **If papers were missed, please bring these to the attention of the Managing Editor.** Dr. Peter Zwick is thanked for providing many additions to this present list.

- Adakole, J. A. and P. A. Anunne. 2003. Benthic macroinvertebrates as indicators of environmental quality of an urban stream, Zaria, northern Nigeria. *Journal of Aquatic Sciences* 18(2): 85-92.
- Albarino, R. J. and V. D. Villanueva. 2006. Feeding ecology of two plecopterans in low order Andean-Patagonian streams. *International Review of Hydrobiology* 91(2): 122-135.
- Anonymous. 2005. The publications of Dr. Bill P. Stark. *Perla* 23: 22-34.
- Anonymous. 2005. The publications of Dr. Richard W. Baumann. *Perla* 23: 17-22.
- Arimoro, F. O. and E. I. Osakwe. 2006. The influence of sawmill wood wastes on the distribution and population of macroinvertebrates at Benin River, Niger Delta area, Nigeria. *Chemistry and Biodiversity* 3 (4): 578-592.
- Armatys, P. 2004. State of knowledge of the entomofauna of the Gorczanski National Park. [Stan poznania entomofauny Gorczanskiego Parku Narodowego]. *Wiadomosci Entomologiczne* 23 (Supplement 2): 113-116. Polish.
- Arnscheidt, J. and K. Maedler. 2006. Acidification of headwater streams in the Erzgebirge region (Saxony, Germany): Biomonitoring with a