Invitation to the next (16th) International Symposium on Trichoptera

On the occasion of the 15th Symposium in New Brunswick (New Jersey, USA), I proposed holding the next Symposium at the

Prince of Songkla University, Surat Thani Campus,

in southern Thailand. - Surat Thani is situated 600 km south of the Capital of Thailand, Bangkok, and may be reached by train (10 hrs), bus (7 hrs) or plane (1 hr) from there. The Symposium is planned to be held in a hotel in the town. Several National Parks with a rich Trichopteran fauna and with islands of world reputation are near Surat Thani. This means plenty of sites for excursions. The proposed time for the Symposium is mid June to early July 2018 (7-10 days). A pre-symposium identification workshop is planned, and there are many sites in southern Thailand for a post-symposium excursion. Collecting in adjacent countries could be arranged on demand.

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A new food of *Lype* larvae (Psychomyiidae)

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There are several papers that describe the feeding of *Lype* larvae on submerged wood, many by Bernd Spänhoff, e.g. SPÄNHOFF & al. (2003). The association of *Lype* and wood is widely known.

On several occasions in 2006 and 2007, naked larvae of *Lype* were found amongst general pond net samples taken from fens dominated by the Great Fen Sedge (Cladium mariscus (L.) POHL. at Cors Erddreiniog and Cors Goch, both on the island of Anglesey in Wales, United Kingdom. It was initially assumed that the larvae had come from submerged timber, but none of that was found. Closer study revealed that the larvae were feeding within decaying leaves of the sedge.

Cladium leaves have a strong epidermis and are thick and with an extensive network of reinforcing cross walls. As a consequence, as they decay do not immediately collapse or disintegrate. After death leaves bend over into the water and eventually become detached. Over time the decaying leaves snap at weak points and eventually break into sections. The particular stands of the plant surround small pools with little water disturbance so there is a large amount of litter but it is not a consolidated mass on the bottom, but a network of dead leaves with plenty of water circulating between the pieces.

The *Lype* larvae do not make galleries on the surface of the leaf fragments but gain access to the internal parts where the leaf pieces snap. They feed inside the pieces and pupate there too.

Some larvae have been reared to the adult confirming that the species is *L. phaeopa* (Stephens). This proved difficult as the leaves which are decayed enough to support the caddis are by then so fragile that they do collapse when collected and the larvae become trapped and suffocate.

I have delayed publishing this note to see if this observation would be repeated at other sites. This has not been so. In 1992, Duncan Painter (PAINTER 1995) recorded larvae of *Lype reducta* (HAGEN) taken in normal pond-net sweeping from Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire, England, UK. These may have come from leaf letter. The larvae were not reared so may have been either *L. reducta* or *L. phaeopa* due to well-known problems in separating larvae of the two (WARINGER & GRAF 2011).

On 13.8.2009, Matthew Wallace found a *Lype* larva in a gallery on the outside of a decaying but very solid submerged lump of stem bases pulled from a dyke at Wicken Fen. We cannot identify the species of plant but it appears to be a Cyperaceae. Whilst this is not a classic wood it probably offers the same general feeding opportunities as the typical substratum.

References

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