

BUPRESTIS

A semi-annual newsletter devoted to the dissemination of information about buprestids and students of this group

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Dear friends,

First of all I have to apologize myself again for the delay of our newsletter. As you can see, I moved from the village of Pfaffenhofen/Glonn (with a little bit more than 300 inhabitants) to Munich (where I am surrounded by more than 1 million people).

On the other hand this delay allowed me to give you more informations. In July BUPRESTIS would have been a small paper with perhaps 3 pages, now you will have something more to read and to discuss. Do you already count on this delay?

For our next BUPRESTIS I expect your news until 15 december, 1993.

Best wishes

Hans Mühle
Editor

A. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

Svata **Bily** is slowly continuing the revision of the American *Melanthaxia*. He is preparing a revision of *Philanthaxia* and the description of a new genus of the *Chalcophorini* from North Vietnam. He has still in press a revision of *Anthaxia-proteus*-group species.

Gianluca **Magnani** has practically finished a revision of the *Agrilus litura*-group. But for a better definition of the distribution of the species within this group (*litura*, *hemiphanes*, *curtulus*) he needs to see more material, especially from Central Europe, the Balcan peninsula and Turkey.

Then he is preparing - in addition to his latest paper- a catalogue on Buprestidae from Cyprus. Can you please send datas of your material?

Peng Zhong-liang sent me his latest news:

1. From last year I was appointed as administrative office chief of our station. I have to be much more busy now, because there are so many things to do to complete my administrative duties. But I will continue my buprestid studies although I have to slow down these activities. So I am furtheron interested in any exchange of *Buprestidae* and other beetles. Please write me.

2. I am now working on Chinese *Coroebus*. More then 20 species will prove to be new! But before I complete my work I have to examine more material. Anyone who owns *Coroebus* species, please send them for identification or exchange, any cooperation is very appreciated.

3. I am also working on the large book "Fujian Insects" to do the part of Buprestidae. I included nearly 200 species from this large province of South-East China.

4. The former book "Hunan Forest Insects" of which I wrote the part Buprestidae, was newly edited under the name "Iconography of Forest Insects in Hunan province China" and covers 1480 pages. Nearly 5000 forest insects are included and all figured. I can send copies, but the book is rather expensive, US \$ 100 plus 10 % for mail. Anyone who wants to obtain this book, please contact me.

Vladimir **Sakalian** is no working on ecologicalö and biogeographical problems of beetles in Bulgaria. But is still wants to continue the Catalogue of Bulgarian *Buprestidae* and he is interested in any new data about them.

B. SPECIES WANTED FOR RESEARCH OR EXCHANGE

C. REQUESTS FOR LITERATURE

D. FORUM

Shelley **Barker** wrote his news: I have just spent two weeks in Tasmania, unsuccessfully looking for a very rare species of *Castiarina* that has only been collected in the vicinity of Great Lakes in the Central highlands. The species is only known from the holotype, lodged in the B.M. and one other specimen in A.N.I.C. Both are females and I(have been attempting to collect a male so that I can place it in a species group. Collecting was made difficult by atrocious weather during the first week. It was very cold and rained most of the time.

Also I have just sent off the final version of a paper which will be published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia 117, in May of this year.

A *propos* of a formal journal publishing papers on Buprestids I would not submit my own papers to a unrefereed journal. Some of our colleagues seem to have an overinflated opinion of their own work from their

comments in the latest BUPRESTIS. If they write good papers, they will be accepted in good journals. Very few people submit papers that are not returned for major or minor rewriting before they are acceptable for publication in good quality journals. If the work is poor it won't get published no matter what subject it deals with.



Chuck **Bellamy** has been appointed as Senior Curator of Coleoptera at the Transvaal Museum in Pretoria. He will move to South Africa early next year and he promised to send more details and his new address for the January issue.

Then he writes: I have written reviews of both the HOLM&GUSSMANN revision of *Sternocera* and T.LANDER's book on *Chrysochroa*. These were recently published in the Coleopterists Bulletin, Vol.47 (2). Unfortunately, several major errors occurred and half of the review of LANDER's book was interjected into the review of HOLM, thus rendering both reviews worthless. They will be corrected and published again, one in September and one in December!



Svata **Bily** wrote the following lines: After having read the contribution of Roman **Holynski**, I guess that the truth is somewhere in the middle. I am a professional entomologist, but I have had also many troubles having asked the loan of types from various Institutions or private collectors. As a curator of one of the largest collections of Coleoptera in Europe I can understand why some museal authorities are so precautionous. We do have a lot of examples when we had not been able to get back our material from private collectors. For example: Our "colleague" Klaus **Hellrigl** has been keeping our *Scintillatrix* types for 13 years without answering any letters or any word of apology. Due to this fact, some of us cannot work with this genus and I.E.**Zykov** has not been able to finish his thesis (to say nothing of the troubles I do have in our Museum thanks to him). Regardless these facts we sent materials also to private workers but on the only condition: the person must be in contact with any Institution (and everybody is or can be that).

I do agree that private collections are usually tended better and more carefully than the material in the "public collections". But how many private collections (incl.types) have been destroyed by ignorant heirs and how many collections have disappeared abroad having been sold at the insect fairs! Is it unethical or not to ask private authors for one more sentence in a description of a new taxon (*After my death the type material will be deposited in the Museum . . .*)?

Finally (and I am extremely ashamed to say so, but it is a real situation): our Museum has not obtained any funds for postal fees for this year (and the same situation is expected for the next year too). I usually obtain 8 - 10 shipments of beetles for identification every month (very often from strange persons without "warning") and I simply cannot send them back on my account. So I have to ask anybody who wants to send material for study or who will send beetles for determination for the back postage. I only hope that you, who have visited our country before and know our economical situation, will understand this.



Byrd **Dozier** would like to state his views in regards to those of Roman **Holynski** and mine (Hans **Mühle**):

I would first like to say that I am not in favor of an individual retaining primary type material in his collection except temporarily while working on a ongoing project; and then the types should be already

donated to an institutional collection with temporary retention by the describer. I do agree very strongly with views on willing a collection to a museum so that there will be no problems at death with the wishes of ignorant heirs. I believe that the problem of loan of material to individuals for study by many museums even when the individual is a recognized expert in the field and the growing practice of charging a fee to work at the museum should not be tolerated by the entomological community.

The only way to stop some of these practices is to somehow inform the museums that engage in these practices that as a group we do not condone such behavior in the scientific community. I would also like to propose that in the future that primary type material not to be deposited in these collections until they change their policies.

Please let me know your views on this.

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To continue the database information, Vladimir **Sakalian** writes: I am working on database of Bulgarian *buprestids*. It comprises the following data: name of species, bibliography of Bulgarian *Buprestidae*, horizontal and vertical distribution in Bulgaria, recent geographical distribution, seasonal activity and habitat distribution in the country, larval and adult host plants and type of trophic specialization. I am using the 'Framework IV' program.

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I have received a letter from Miroslav **Snizek** who offers to sell *Eurythyrea oxiana* from Turmenistan, caught 1992.

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Rick **Westcott** wants to ask if any of our readers has an electronic mail (E-mail) adress, such as INTERNET, BITNET, etc. This is a very convenient way to communicate.



Some of you moved and didn't inform me about their new adress. So the last issue came back. Perhaps you know where they went to. It is:

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E. PUBLICATIONS

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