

# BUPRESTIS

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

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Dear friends,

I wish you to have a fine collecting season and expect for our next BUPRESTIS your news until 15 june, 1995

Best wishes

Hans Mühle  
Editor

## A. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

Svata **Bílý** continues on the revision of the Oriental *Anthaxia* group by group and prepares the world catalogue of *Anthaxia* together with M.KAFKA (coeditor C.L.BELLAMY). He has started the revision of Mexican *Agrilaxia* and 3-4 shorter papers with descriptions of new species of *Anthaxia* from the Palearctic and Oriental region. The revision of Nearctic *Melanthaxia* also continues but slowly. Any material of the world *Anthaxia* is appreciated for determination.

Adrian **RUICANESCU** is studying first of all the buprestids of Romania. He works to contribute to the faunistical, biological, ecological and geonomial knowlegde of this family, and is especially interested in the genus *Agrilus*. He speaks English and French and understands written texts in German.

## B. SPECIES WANTED FOR RESEARCH OR EXCHANGE

Chuck **Bellamy** writes:I have begun a study of the Neotropical genus *Acherusia* as I find that COBOS' revision is somewhat lacking. There will be at least one new species from Mexico, so I should like to borrow any material of this genus. Also the subgenus that COBOS created, *A.(Nelsonila)* is apparently invalid as he failed to designate a type species as required by Art.13b of the ICZN.

## C. REQUESTS FOR LITERATURE

## D. FORUM

Chuck **Bellamy** sent a Catalogue update:

Friends, the plans for the next catalogue of buprestids of the world are coming together. My wife and I have been adding in data as time permits. We have a complete bibliography so far for OBENBERGER, KERREMANS, THÉRY and COBOS. A number of taxa have been added and this is continuing slowly. I have had specific offers of assistance by Magnus PETERSON for some Australian taxa. Svata BILY is considering to add his developping catalogue of *Anthaxia* in my catalogue rather than to publish it separately. Mark VOLKOVITSH has offered to help with both Old World *Acmaeoderini* as well as provide English copy for all Russian publications since 1926.

I would like to ask that you all please consider carefully that I am preparing this catalogue for all of us. Any one that wants to help is welcome. It would be most helpful if you could all remember to send copies of your publications so that the catalogue will be as complete as possible.

The plan by the publisher is to offer both bound copies as well as an electronic version. The electronic version would be updated each year, and would be available to all as a yearly update.

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Another comment by Chuck **Bellamy**:

To return to the topic of holotypes being retained in private collections, what do we do about the situation where our colleagues send us material for identification and request that anything that we might describe should have the type returned to them. Subsequently, between the time of last correspondence and the publication of the description, this colleague has stopped working on buprestids, or no longer continues the

correspondence. I retain the specimens until the publication has appeared, but after that time I prefer to return all specimens to the proper place(s). So in this situation, I have published a paper describing a new taxon and stated that it would be deposited in a specific collection, but I have not had any news or reply from this colleague for many years and do not simply want to send a holotype in the mail to the last address I had. Do I then publish a note saying that I have had to change the collection of deposit? Do I retain it indefinitely hoping that I will eventually hear from this person? Certainly the specimen will be safe in the Transvaal Museum, but that is not where the publication says that it has been placed. Since this is a real situation, what should I do?

Several of you have sent me material of *coroebines* from different areas and indicated a desire to collaborate on the description, and/or have said that if there is anything new amongst the specimens, that I should return the type to your collection. Most who have done this live in countries that have well-established and important collections, e.g. Japan, Czech Republik, Austria, etc. Is there any reason to keep these types closeted away and increase the risk to them when they could be safely placed in one of your country's large public museums?

What do we do or think about a colleague who becomes involved in a joint project, ostensibly assisting a younger colleague in completing a paper describing a new taxon that was collected by others, and who then keeps the holotype in his own collection? This too is a real situation!

I am always looking for new journals to publish in and especially those that have reduced or absent costs. I am seeing more and more journals that have made it prerequisite on authors hoping to publish in these journals that they must deposit holotypes of all new taxa in public collections. I have recently written to the Secretary of the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature and asked that the Commission consider adding to the new version of the ICZN Code a provision making it a rule rather than just a recommendation that types must be placed in public collections.

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South Africa seems to be a stimulating region. Here are more notes by Chuck **Bellamy**:

I have prepared a complete bibliography of the publications of Charles KERREMANS. This will eventually be published and also made part of the complete buprestid bibliography for the world catalogue. Anyone who would be prepared to review this list in terms of needed corrections or additions should please write for it.

With the recent amalgamation of the buprestid collections of the Transvaal Museum, the University of Pretoria (Erik HOLM) and my research collection, the museum now possesses arguably the best collection of *Acmaeodera* in the world. The collection has good representation from all areas of the world and is particularly rich in taxa from Africa and North America (including Mexico). As we would like to continue to build on this foundation, I would like to encourage exchange for additional taxa with anyone of you who might be interested.

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One of the most significant issues with the world catalogue, when viewed from that produced by OBENBERGER, is whether or not put limits on the listings and citations. Should every single listing of a species be made or should the catalogue list only those literature mentions that are

taxonomic in nature? When I look through the pages under many of the European or Palaearctic species I am amazed at the length and number of citations under some species of *Agrilus*, *Anthaxia*, *Trachys*, etc. One problem with adding all of these listings will be that to be completely accurate and thorough I would probably have to see each of the publications and I doubt that I would be able to do that in any reasonable period of time. Since one feature of the catalogue will be a reasonable complete bibliography of world buprestids since LINNAEUS, each and every title will have to be verified and that might only be accomplished at one of the few large and mostly complete natural history libraries in London or Paris. Thus, in order to accomplish much of the work needed on the oldest and most cited taxa and references, I must ask for someone in Europe to assist me in compiling and reviewing the listings for many of these taxa. I am heartened by the proposed contributions by several of you already and am beginning to feel that this will really be a team effort.

For anyone wishing to contribute or help review, I am slowly preparing the bibliography and especially concentrating on the citations of the most prolific authors, i.e. OBENBERGER, THÉRY, and KERREMANS. Since these three, more than anyone else, often produced more than one and often many publications in the same year, it is important to assign year date and letter abbreviations to their publications for the abbreviated references in the text. For example, papers written by OBENBERGER in 1935 would be listed in the same order presented in JELINEK's 1977 bibliography as 1935a, 1935b, etc. Those by THÉRY will follow the order presented by the bibliography that DESCARPENTRIES and I published a few years ago. And with the KERREMANS' bibliography probably most complete, I have a list and chronological order for his papers to follow. Therefore, anyone who wants to contribute a set of catalogue listings for a group of species or a particular genus, etc, should utilize the same set of references that is now being developed, both to save you the time of preparing a complete reference list and to save me the time to organize your listings with my reference list. Please let me send you the reference listings for these three authors before you do too much that may have to be changed later.

Once again, I do appreciate those of you who have already promised to assist or contribute parts of the catalogue. With the terms of the contract with the publisher now reasonably well understood and set, I propose that each contributor will receive a copy of the completed catalogue which will be paid for from the royalty money paid to me. I am only contracted to receive 10 % of the sales of this work and one authors copy, so I feel that by buying copies for the contributors from my 10 % I will be compensating everyone who helps in the most appropriate way. However, this opinion may not be shared by all and if any of you would like to contribute, but hope to receive more for their efforts, I will be happy to consider your individual requests. One feature of this particular publisher is that he has asked for and I have agreed that it is important to help keep the catalogue current. Therefore I have agreed to produce an annual update. Since the catalogue will probably also be issued in CD Rom format, each copy purchased of the electronic version will be as current as possible. Then hard copies will, of course, have to have the annual updates kept together as appendices. Eventually as price and technology are available, the catalogue can be expanded to one where the taxa can be illustrated with scanned photographs of adults, larvae, host plants, etc.



You all know that Shigeru ENDO is the editor of JEWEL BEETLES. It is published by KITTYO-KAI Society and is devoted to the study of all aspects

of systematics and biology of the Buprestidae of the world. The membership is US \$ 30.00 a year and includes the subscription of JEWEL BEETLES.

Furtheron he writes: I am getting to publish a picture book on the *Buprestidae* of South East Asia. I am looking for a collaborator interested in the fauna of SE Asia and working on SE Asian species in each museum and personal collection of the world. Of course I would be very happy to make collecting trips in SE Asia together.

I love rain forests and the insects of the tropical region. Before cease of their life we may stop the collapse and avoid the catastrophe. Please tell me whatever you know about the *Buprestidae* of South East Asia and your opinion how to stop the disaster of tropical rain forests.



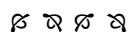
Mark **Volkovitsh** has sent me a long letter: First of all there is the correction of his E-mail address. The correct spelling is: **vmg@zisp.spb.su**.

Then he continues with our well known problem:

I am afraid that the discussion on the retention of type specimens in private collections or museums is absolutely useless, as this problem has no legislative basis. We can offer only our recommendations which must not be executed. Each of us knows that sometimes it is much easier to get material from private collections than from some museums. I can add that the collections of our Institution are always open to any visitor, but material can hardly be mailed because of the bad financial situation, insecure postal service and complete disorder in our laws (but all colleagues are welcome to St.Petersburg). It is obvious that the large State Museums are most preferable for holotypes being safely kept and easy of access but nobody can force a private owner of holotypes to put them there.

The same is true for our publications to be submitted to refereed or unrefereed journals. It is completely for each author to decide. I suppose each of us is interested that his work will be accessible to other investigators. There is no problem with many well known national or international journals which are in any large library. But who knows for example how long CRYSTAL or similar journals will be published and in how many libraries they are? I have published some papers in PROCEEDINGS OF ZOOLOGICAL INSTITUTE ..., but by time I learnt that these publications are hardly available for some colleagues because they are lacking in many libraries and they are published in Russian. This is the reason why I now try to submit my papers to well known English journals, although I fear that their quality turned worse because of my poor English. On the other hand I have troubles being translated in English or French. But I doubt all of us will agree to publish their descriptions (and keys! Hans MÜHLE) in English and in well known journals exclusively.

The suggestion of Roman HOLYNSKI to organize the buprestology meeting in Hungary next year is very suitable for me and other Russian colleagues, but I suppose not to our American or Australian friends. I think we should discuss the best time for the meeting. For me and some others I know, May and June are always very busy. May be it would be better to meet in late summer or early fall (August/September)?



In April-May 1994 I have made a collecting trip to Israel together with some colleagues from Zoological Institute. This trip was very interesting and fruitful. We had been travelling from Elat on the Red Sea to Mt.Hermon on the Syrian border (43 localities totally). The most

abundant material was collected in the Southern and Central Negev, Dead Sea Area, Mt. Hermon, Golan Heights and Har Meron (Upper Galilee). In total about 94 buprestid species were collected, including some new ones. *Acmaeoderini* and *Anthaxiini* were the most numerous groups that is characteristic for spring season. Unfortunately I have collected only a few species of *Buprestini*, *Psilopterini*, *Sphenopterini* and some other groups which, I suppose, are flying later. I am very thankful to Svata BÍLÝ, Manfred NIEHUIS and Hans MÜHLE who helped me with the determination of my material and I hope the results of this trip will be soon published.



Our picture gallery is continued with a photo showing Professor André BAUDON and his wife.



**ADVENTURES IN NAMAQUALAND**  
by Rick Westcott

At the end of August my good friend and fellow buprestologist, Chuck BELLAMY, offered me the opportunity to join a beetle collecting expedition with the Transvaal Museum (Pretoria) to Namaqualand in South Africa. I obtained my ticket with but a day to spare, leaving for Johannesburg on September 8. (What **ever** was I thinking of by heading into a early winter?!) The route was from Portland via Denver, then direct from Washington Dulles Airport with a fueling stop on Ilha do Sal, Cape Verde - not much to see here; it seemed barren and windswept. I arrived the evening of Sept. 9, rather the worse for wear; slept like a log that night but lay awake all the next. The effect of jet lag are slow to wear off me. Prior to departing for Namaqualand, which is in the NW Cape Province below Namibia, I attended a meeting of all the natural history museums in South Africa. This was held at the National Museum in Bloemfontein, capital of the Orange Free State. I was the only outsider - way outsider! It was an interesting experience and fine hospitality, for which I am appreciative.

We departed on our camping expedition late Sept. 12 in two vehicles loaded with plenty of food, water and beer (sodas for Chuck!), spending the night at a youth hostel in Kimberley (of diamond fame). It is very

dry that time of year in most of the country, which has a monsoon climate. However, not so in much of the Cape area, which has a Mediterranean climate. Most of Namaqualand is referred to as "semi-desert", probably to distinguish it from such areas as the Kalahari and Karoo. Surely in Namaqualand we saw more and a greater variety of vegetation. Near Clanwilliam we were in an extension of the fynbos, rather reminding me of chaparral in Southern California. The plant diversity was astounding and in the scenery beautiful.

Our camps were mostly on farms or mining company property. The farmers were mostly Afrikaners and were very cordial, being interested in our work. One operated a very nice vineyard in the Olifant River Valley - I thought I was in California! The primary goal of the expedition leader, Sebastian ENDRÖDY-YOUNGA, and his assistant, Ruth MÜLLER, was pitfall trapping for *Scarabaeidae* and *Tenebrionidae*. For Chuck and me it was *Buprestidae* - what else!? We spent the next two weeks beating about a relatively small area, largely because Oregon-like coastal weather confined us to spending eight days camped in only three localities. Unfortunately, one of these was adjacent to a wash loaded with ticks, and of course that was where we needed to beat *Acacia koroo* for bups! The weather was at its worst during one storm that blew down my tent during the night - what a soggy mess! Fortunately I was not in it, the landowner having taken pity upon us and cleaned out a room in his outbuilding. Well what did I expect with half the trip taking place during winter?

Nevertheless, the variety of *Buprestidae* was good (Chuck said the best of his five trips!) and we even experienced one 34° C day - delightful! Among the highlights of my adventure in South Africa were a dead cobra, a meerkat, a Namaqua chameleon (the only ground-dwelling true chameleon), kokkerbooms, dried currents, "Weet-Bix" /every breakfast - yum!), "Castle Milk Stout" (every dinner - hiccup!), Rose's (Chuck's wife) and Ruth's cooking (certainly not mine!), flamingos, strange succulents, *Xenogalbella*, beautiful flowers, tortoises, fine cameraderie, odd sounding (and looking) orthopterans that would stridulate raucously during the cold nights (usually below 10° C), communal weaver bird nests and colorful tufted buprestids - not necessarily in that order. Unfortunately the world-famous Namaqualand wildflower display was much below par, curtailed by hot dry "berg winds" before our arrival. We seemed to get mostly cold wet winds!

On the soggy cool morning of Sept.28, after I beat some acacias in a tick-infested wash at Wildeperdehoek Pass, we departed northeastward, via Springbok and Pofadder, to Augrabies Falls National Park in Bushmanland, where the Orange River forms one of the six largest waterfalls in the world. It must be based on volume in the best of years, as the falls are only 58 meters high. Nevertheless, it was spectacular and our only camp with flush toilets and showers. Here we got a cold dry wind! Despite dry conditions we saw pretty birds, some small antelope (eg.klipspringer), colorful rock lizards, a couple of strange tenebrionids . . . and clouds of black flies that did not bite us! We also had an interesting experience in off-road driving, but you will have to ask Chuck for details! From Augrabies a 960-kilometer haul across the Kalahari and on to Pretoria completed our 4355-km odyssey on Sept.29. Mine ended Oct.4 after the final 16,000 kilometers to home in Salem.



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