

# BUPRESTIS

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

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Dear friends,

It is never too late for good and interesting news. This newsletter is a mirror of our work, we are often too late, sometimes too early and very seldom we find ourselves on the right places during the best time.

The new deadline for the next issue of BUPRESTIS will be 15. June 1998.

Best wishes

Hans Mühle  
Editor

## A. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

Shelley **Barker** retired from the University of Adelaide and is now installed at the South Australian Museum. His first task has been to organise the *Cisseis* collection. He has also most of the *Cisseis* collection of ANIC, Canberra and is working now on this material. The first thing he found is that the genus is much larger than he suspected. The last revision of *Cisseis* was published by H. J. CARTER in 1923 and the work is not without its problems.

The work towards the revision of *Castiarina* is proceeding slowly. He had already a completed final draft of the text but the illustrations are still unfinished.

## B. SPECIES WANTED FOR RESEARCH OR EXCHANGE

Chuck **Bellamy** writes: I need your help in collecting samples of buprestids into nearly pure ethyl alcohol for my plan to investigate DNA and molecular systematics. I collected a number of things in Australia recently and will collect more in the next season in southern Africa and elsewhere I might go this year. There are a number of lineages to target as significant, but most importantly is that the specimens need to go directly into the alcohol and not risk contamination with other specimens or chemicals; labels on the outside. Keeping the specimens as cold as possible will prolong the life of the DNA. I want to do this at the higher levels because the project is likely to be very expensive, so I really only need examples of the higher taxa, esp. some of the tribes and subtribes found in distant habitats and localities. Larger specimens need to be broken apart between the thorax and abdomen to expose the thoracic muscles to the alcohol. For more information, please see:

<http://www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/bups/bupdna.htm>

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Patrick **Bleuzen** asks for help to finish the revision of the genus *Colobogaster* and the Actenodini of the World (except *Belionota*):

I am searching again various males, which I do not have or know and of which I would need to draw the genitalia.

New World Actenodini: There are 92 valid or new taxons of which the males of 26 are still unknown, among them are: *auronotataus*, *jamaicensis*, *reichei*, *goryi* etc.

*Colobogaster*: 40 taxons, already valid or new, are known, of these the males of 9 species are unknown: *aureoviridis*, *cupricollis*, *eximius*, *nickerli*, *pizarroi*, *quadriimpressus*, *seabrai*, *incisifrons*.

African Actenodini: The males of 7 of 39 taxons are still unknown.

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Pedro Coello **Garcia** likes to exchange Spanish buprestids for other Palaeartic ones.

## C. REQUESTS FOR LITERATURE

### D. FORUM

Chuck **Bellamy** sent the following reports:

#### Visit by Svata BÍLÝ

Dr. Svatopluk BÍLÝ visited South Africa from November 8 until December 20, 1997. Svata's visit was sponsored by the Foundation for Research Development, Pretoria and allowed us to complete three papers and conduct field work into several interesting sites and habitats including Kruger National Park. The revision of *Brachelytrium*, which we have been planning since 1990, is now finished and only awaits me retyping it! A resurrection of *Agrilaxia* and a new genus for the African species is complete and will be

submitted to a local journal. Svata was able to visit Erik HOLM's small hotel facilities and to endorse our idea to hold the next international meeting there. More information on this will follow!

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### **Trip to Australia**

On December 28, I landed in Perth, Western Australia for the long-promised return trip to the land down under after 18 years since my first trip. I was met at the airport by Magnus PETERSON, who would be my guide and companion for the next six weeks.

We stayed in the Perth area for several days, keeping ourselves busy by acquiring the needed items for the trip to the east, collecting in local habitats, pushing the local bureaucrats to grant the needed collecting permit for W.A. and meeting the local buprestid collectors. The collectors I met in the Perth area included Mark GOLDING, Paul HUTCHINSON, Keith KERSHAW, David KNOWLES, and Michael POWELL. One amazing aspect I witnessed was the great cooperation between most of these colleagues in that they all cooperate and contribute to one large collection. A lesson is available here for more cooperation and less self interest!

During those first few days I was lucky to collect specimens of the following genera: *Astraeus*, *Castiarina*, *Cisseis*, *Diadoxus*, *Germanica*, *Melobasis*, *Synechocera* and *Xyroscelis*.

We started towards the east on until late in the evening of Jan. 2, leaving late in the evening and driving out into the so-called wheatbelt, an extensive area that has been cleared of much original vegetation for growing wheat. Thereafter came the so-called goldfields, an area of much prospecting activity but which is generally more environmentally friendly than agriculture. At our first stop on Jan. 3, I demonstrated the effectiveness of the beating sheet technique on *Allocasurina* plants and collected a few examples of the broadly distributed *Astraeus* (*Depollus*) *polli*; thereafter we had a running debate on collecting by beating or by collecting by hand.

I hadn't thought about it before the trip, but upon arrival suddenly decided that a plan to eventual cooperate in a project that would look at buprestid DNA would certainly benefit from the collection directly into nearly pure ethanol for the eventual molecular assay. I had been collecting carabids for a U.S. colleague for over two years, so knew that I should miss an opportunity to collect from some of the buprestid lineages found so disjunctly in Australia. After a few days, this became one of the prime motivating forces of the trip, luckily as it produced the most steady positive results too, hah! So, for most of the trip and many of the stops, what we collected often went firstly into alcohol and subsequently caught specimens will be the museum specimens.

To finally see the mallee habitats of W.A. and drive through, past or see on the map the many place names made famous by the many specimens spread around by Keith CARNABY was worth the wait and the cost of the trip. As it was still early for the big species, we made good progress east crossing the delightful Nullarbor plain into South Australia by Jan. 6, and being met by very unseasonal rain continued through to western New South Wales at Broken Hill and then went straight through to Taree and Geoff WILLIAMS' wonderful home on Jan. 8. We stayed with Geoff and his family until the morning of Jan. 13. During that time, Geoff took us to several of his favorite spots and we were fortunate to collect *Paratrachys australia*, *Maoraxia littoralis*, *Meliboeithon intermedium*, *Helferella manningensis*, *Chalcotaenia lamberti*, *Habroloma* sp., *Pachycisseis bicolor*, etc.

Thereafter a drive south to Sydney and a stay with one of Magnus' herpetology colleagues for a week. This gave us the chance to spend several days working in the Australian Museum, and the first surprise of the museum part of the trip (which you'll have to wait for a publication on!). Papers were copied, duplicates of some CARTER papers obtained, and a list of the primary types was made. In Sydney, we made contact with Mark HANLON, who took me to his home one day to see his collection and on another day took us to collect south along the southern N.S.W. coast. That day I added *Stigmodera macularia* to the alcohol vials, lost one specimen of *Temognatha vertebralis* (*suturalis*) and collected a short series of *Castiarina gordonburnsi*, that named by Shelley BARKER for Gordon BURNS, the host of my first Australia trip in 1980.

After leaving Sydney, we drove to Canberra for four days at the Australian National Insect Collection, C.S.I.R.O. and to meet John LAWRENCE, Andrew CAULDER, Tom WEIR and my friend from Pretoria, Rolf OBERPRIELER. John demonstrated the interactive beetle identification programme he is developing. We

worked in the collections, again listing the types and searching for the hidden treasures and did indeed find a couple. We also went through the collection pulling all of the *Agrilus* specimens for shipment to G. CURLETTI! We met with the editor of the Zoological Catalogue of Australia series and agreed on a contract to write the buprestid portion of a planned volume. The first step is a checklist and bibliography which I am compiling now using the recent Platypus database programme from CSIRO, that will thereafter be upgraded to the full catalogue which Magnus will join me on. This checklist project is due by June 1, this year, so between that and the world catalogue, I am quite busy in the evening hours.

We left Canberra on Jan. 24 enroute to Adelaide and camped along the road after a spectacular sunset following another unseasonal storm. On January 25 we started the day collecting *Melobasis* along the road at our first stop. Later we found an area where the mallee was in flower and the ground littered with the elytra of *Temognatha heros*. I managed to collect one live specimen! Down the road, Magnus found *Hypocisseis* hidden on the lower stems of one plant but this one I could not put in alcohol.

We spent two days working at the South Australian Museum where we met Shelley BARKER and Eric MATTHEWS. Shelley showed us what he has been working on, discussed the progress towards the completion of the *Castiarina* volume and took us to lunch. I found several interesting new synonyms from types held in SAM and possibly even a new genus from Groote Eyland, off the coast of the Northern Territories. Shelley and I agreed to consider one or two small cooperative papers dealing with aspects of the large *Cisseis* complex.

Thereafter the long trip back and hopes to encounter a good season of "Temogs". Alas, this was not to be, but we did manage to collect interesting things, usually in very small numbers, along the way, including what is most likely a single specimen of a new species of *Agrilus*, but we will have to see what Gianfranco decides once the specimens are sent to him.

Back in Perth, we visited the Western Australia Museum and worked on the same things that kept us busy along the way. I enjoyed Perth very much, finding it to be the Australian equivalent to San Diego, my last U.S. home base. It was a great trip and I am very grateful to all those we met along the way for their help and hospitality. I'm sorry that we didn't get to meet all of those colleagues but some things were not in my control. I am especially grateful to Magnus for the time and investment it took for him to make this trip with me.

Several papers are underway, one dealing with the issues of new synonymy and new combinations and another with new taxa of Australian coraebines and another new *Maoraxia*.

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### **World Catalogue Update!**

The news on the world catalogue is that it continues to grow, almost on a nightly basis. I have nearly completed adding all information (taxa and references for many of the more prolific authors of the past: OBENBERGER, KERREMANS, THERY, COBOS, KUROSAWA, etc.). There are issues of priority and stability that must be solved prior to the catalogue being complete, so several papers have been published and others are now in press on subjects such as original authorship of genus-group names, many cases of homonymy, type species designation and the DEJEAN catalogue names. I have been assisted recently by tremendous contributions from Lorna MITCHELL, Entomology librarian, The Natural History Museum, London and Stephen GOTTWALD, from his visits to the museums in Berlin and Paris.

However, I still require your recent papers, so please help me make this as complete as possible. I apologize for falling behind in my correspondence and mailing my papers to some of you, but this will be corrected as time permits. I simply do not have the time to write to each of you each time I see a new publication listed, so I hope that you understand.

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**Fourth Edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature: notice of new provisions. Bull. Zool. Nomen. 54(4):216-218.**

This recent paper discusses the progress towards a new version of the Code, to be published and effective on January 1, 1999. The most significant change reported in this work is found under "Proposals of new names" and is repeated in full:

"3. When the name-bearing type of a species-group taxon proposed after 1998 consists of a preserved specimen or specimens, the proposal will be required to include a statement naming the public institution (not private collection) in which the name-bearing type will be deposited."

I hope that this will end the debate about the deposition of holotypes, but I'm sure it will not! However, the code will soon give us reason to invalidate proposals that do not adhere to such provisions and I will not add names to the catalogue (for subsequent versions) for those names or authors that violate these new rules, once they are in force.

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### **Second International Buprestid Meeting, Pretoria, South Africa, November 1999.**

There have now been more than ten people who have expressed interest, either directly or indirectly, about having the meetings in South Africa. These people have been informed or followed developments posted on the internet, where this discussion is available under:

**<http://www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/bups/bupmeet.htm>**

Many of our colleagues have enough commitments for this year that we've decided to suggest the meeting be held in November 1999. During his visit, Svata and I visited Erik HOLM and the three of us agree that Erik's accomodation, the small resort facility **Die Ring** about 25 km west of Pretoria, will be the perfect place for the meetings. Loads of place to stay, at various prices for accomodation and loads of bush to collect in before and after each day of formal presentations. With enough interest, we can have the place all to ourselves and Erik will either take us (some of us) or allow us to take his 10-seat Landrover for post-meeting collecting trips. Within a few hours drive from Erik's place, are several very different and varied habitats and many beetle will await our arrival.

Travel to Johannesburg international airport is available via an increasing number of carriers, either from Europe, Asia, Australia, South America or either New York or Miami, in the U.S. Economic accomodation is available close to the museum and following our formal meetings, we can decide on small day collecting trips and/or a group trip to one or two more distant sites.

As with many parts of the world, collecting is coming under more intense scrutiny from provincial, national and international authorities. For now, there are no national collecting or export permits needed. Apparently all nine South African provinces have some type of collecting permits required but the organizers of these meetings will make certain that permits are in hand for all post-meeting trips. More information on collecting permits in South Africa can be read at:

**<http://www-tm.up.ac.za/coleop/permit.htm>**

I have already started to investigate potential funding or subsidy for impoverished potential delegates, so we hope to offer something for all. At this point, the local research funding body, the Foundation for Research Development, has indicated that funds are made available for two plenary speakers. There are other programmes that favour cooperative arrangements with the EU, former eastern block countries, Russia, etc.

There are several levels of accomodation available at Erik's place, from very economical to moderately priced. We can have them cater the meals for us so that we will all share the same cuisine each meal and then simply pay for the total.

I need to know from you whom would be willing and able to attend. We have a year and a half to plan this, so help me do this properly. If you can, read the web pages and send me email:

**[bellamy@tm.up.ac.za](mailto:bellamy@tm.up.ac.za)**

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Patrick BLEUZEN did not disappear from the buprestidologists' world, he sent us the following letter:

**Dear colleagues,**

it is now after a long period of silence that I want to come back to you.

During the last four years professional, financial and familiar problems forced me to stop entomology for a while and I had to sell most of my insect collection ( the greatest part of buprestids to our colleague NEEF DE SAINVAL).

This financial necessity was very painful for me and my entomological morality was almost extincted. I also had to move and in my new home I had not the necessary room to continue the entomological work. Until last autumn the rest of my collection, my literature and the references and all the notes where locked up in boxes and not accessible.

Since one year I am working again as reporter of animals and this gave me the chance to travel all around the world to all continents.

For the entomology I would need more room, a little bit more money and after all more time. The next six months I am in Africa and Amazon, but after the end of May I will be at home again and if you want you can write to my new address.

Before my next depart, January 15, I am working again on my already very advanced revision of the Acenodini of the World and on genus *Colobogaster*. In this paper about thirty species will be described. Do not hesitate to send me photos of your buprestids in order to see whether it will be interesting for this work.

I want to thank all of you who had been so kind to borrow me their material and who had been so patient with me. I will give back as soon as possible all the material, which I do not need for my further studies.

All of you being interested in Cerambycidae I will inform that after my paper on Prioninae (Science Nat N.21), beside the work on buprestids, I am preparing a paper on the New World Callipogonidini.

During my reports on animals in tropical countries there is always some time for collecting. I hope that in future I can do something nice for my buprestologist colleagues.

Finally I want to excuse myself again for the long silence and I want to thank you so much for your collaboration in the past, for now and in future.

Patrick Bleuzen

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Shigeru **Endo** is looking for manuscripts for the journal **Jewel Beetles**. Publishing in this journal is free and the authors will receive 25 copies or reprints. Colour picture are always welcome.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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