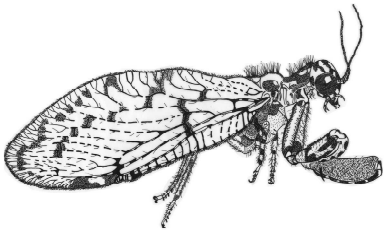
Association for International Neuropterology 1994

Lacewing News



NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEUROPTEROLOGY

No. 13 Autumn 2011

Presentation

After a long pause, hello to everyone. Following Atilano, the previous editor of our newsletter, I'll try to organize a couple of issues every year. According to suggestions received during the last Symposium in Ponta Delgada, I intend to add several sections of *Lacewing News* devoted to spreading the knowledge of each other's work in progress with a special focus on young researchers.
This issue will arrive you probably before issue n.12, concerning what has been decided during the X International Symposium on Neuropterology (Slovenia 2008), which is "under construction" by Atilano. My plan is to send you next issue of *Lacewing News* during next spring. So don't hesitate to send me any suggestions, ideas, proposal, information, for the next issue! Please send all communications concerning *Lacewing News* to agostino.letardi@enea.it (Agostino Letardi). Questions about the International Association of Neuropterology may be addressed to our current president, Dr. Michael Ohl (Michael.Ohl@mfn-berlin.de), who is also the organizer of next XII International Symposium on Neuropterology (Berlin 2014). Ciao!

Welcome address by the President of the IAN

On the occasion of the general assembly meeting of the IAN in Ponta Delgada, Azores, in June 2011, I was elected as the new president of the IAN. This is a great honour for me, and I very much appreciate that the members of the IAN have expressed their confidence in my willingness and abilities to help supporting the IAN and its work. The IAN is a small community of enthusiastic people, who share the common interest in a fascinating, although also small group of insects. Communication among neuropterologists should be much easier than in larger communities, but it is also much more difficult to find people to take over the responsibilities to setup and maintain communication structures and other activities within the association. A potentially attractive source of information for IAN members and other people interested in neuropterology is the

Lacewing News, which, for several reasons, has been published quite irregularly over the years. The current issue is no. 13, and is has been put together by Agostino Letardi in the tradition of the spirit of past *Lacewing News* as a platform for our enthusiasm for communication, which permeates through our community since its foundation. Since the number of potential authors for the newsletter is limited, I strongly suggest neuropterologists to send in any kind of submissions that are or may be relevant to the IAN and neuropterology, including updates on projects, student opportunities, recent collecting efforts, opinion and methods pieces, notes and photos from the field, from museum visits, and from meetings, and just about any other content you can think of. A new section, which I will open myself in this issue, is the 'Who is Who in Neuropterology', where shorter or longer biographies of neuropterologists can be presented. This will give readers some nice information about the background of our colleagues and how they finally ended up as neuropterologists. However, biographies of historical neuropterologists are also welcome. So send in whatever you have! If we all contribute, *Lacewing News* will develop toward a vivid communication platform for neuropterologists all over the world and hopefully remain an entity that facilitates consociation.

Michael Ohl (michael.ohl@mfn-berlin.de)

International Association of Neuropterology

General Assembly Meeting, Ponta Delgada, 15 June 2011

The meeting was opened by John Oswald, President of the International Association of Neuropterology.
The President commended the efforts made by the Organizer of the XIth International Symposium, Dr Maria da Anunciaçao Mateus Ventura, the support of the University of the Azores and of the Government of the Autonomous Region of the Azores, and he praised the assistance provided by Hotel Camoes and by the travel agency responsible for the post-symposium tour in Portugal.
The President asked the participants to remember the neuropterologists who died since our previous meeting: Pr. William Elbert Bickley (1914-2010), Pr. Harley Procter Brown (1921-2008), Pr. Thomas Eisner (1929-2011), all from the US, Pr. Rafael Martins-Neto from Brasil (1954-2010), Dr. Eugene Monroe from Canada (1919-2008), and Pr. Giorgio Celli from Italy (1935-2011).
Minutes from the Piran meeting (2008) were approved.
The treasurer indicated that the cash available to the Association is of the amount of 3823,13 Euros.

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The following new officers were elected to serve through the end of the next symposium: Michael Ohl, President; Liu Xingyue, Vice-president; André Prost, Secretary; Dominique Thierry, Treasurer.
The 12th International Symposium of Neuropterology will take place in Berlin at the Museum für Naturkunde, in the summer of 2014 under the overall responsibility of Michael Ohl. A proposal to organize a future Symposium in Lavras (Minas Gerais, Brasil) was welcomed by participants.
It was noted that there has been no recent issue of the newsletter of the association. With his

agreement, the Board appointed Agostino Letardi to take over this important task.
The President informed the Assembly of three financial decisions made by the IAN Board: (1) a contribution of up to 500 Euros will be made, if needed, to support the organization of the 12th Symposium, (2) the IAN will sponsor three travel assistance awards of 300 Euros each for scientists with demonstrable need to attend the 12th Symposium, and (3) the IAN will contribute 50 Euros to support the activities of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.
The next meeting of the German working group on Neuropterology was announced for information.

A personal view of the XI International Symposium on Neuropterology by the organizer, prof. Maria da Anunciaçao Mateus Ventura

The 11th ISN was held in Ponta Delgada (São Miguel Island – Azores) starting at June 12th and ending at June 15th. More than 30 participants attended with several oral communications and posters, on diverse subjects such as: Databases; Taxonomy and Systematics; Phylogeny and Evolution; Physiology and behavior; Biology and Ecology; Conservation and Pest Control.

As usual, the IAN board had its meeting during the event, profiting the lunch breaks, and several important steps were taken towards a more participative association, namely concerning the organization of its highlight event, the symposium that occurs every three years. The next edition will take place in Berlin, and will be hosted by our colleague Michael Ohl from the Natural History Museum of Berlin.
After the symposium, there were two organized trips, one on the island of São Miguel at June 16th, and the other in mainland Portugal, starting on June 16th and ending on June 22. Due to logistical problems, the participants had to choose between tours, but everyone enjoyed its adventure. The local tour included a whale-watching experience, followed by a meal at a restaurant in Furnas, where a dished cooked in the volcanic calderas was served, and had great success among participants. Afterwards we visited to the local where the meal had been cooked, and the beautiful scenery that surround the place, located next to Furnas Lake. The day ended with a tour along the north coast of the island, with a last stop at the tea factory of Porto Formoso, and a cup of tea watching the sunset in the sea.

The mainland tour covered the north and central parts of Portugal, and had a major purpose of collecting Neuroptera specimens. Thus, the organization of the symposium got all the necessary permits to capture the insects of the Neuroptera order, in various parks and protected areas. In fact, participants aim to publish the results of this trip in the forthcoming proceedings.
All information on the various activities elapsed during and after the symposium, can be obtained on the site built for that purpose in http://www.neuropterology2011.com/. The organizing committee thanks all contributors and participants for making it possible to hold the symposium in the Azores, and is pleased to

have overcome all obstacles on to reach a high degree of satisfaction and quality.

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board 2011-06-15, Ponta Delgada

- The Board examined the duties and functions of the officers of the Association.
- Officers are collectively responsible for developing scientific goals for the next symposium, and for improving the balance between subjects/disciplines to be discussed. Officers of the Association have the responsibility to assist the designated Organizer of the Symposium to improve the scientific quality of the presentations, to suggest topics for participants, to invite presentations if appropriate, and to advertise the venue of the meeting within the scientific community. Officers must coordinate any such activities with the Symposium Organizer, and carry out the activities in such a way that they do not interfere with the practical organization and implementation of the symposium, which is the primary responsibility of the Symposium Organizer.
- The Officers shall keep a record of the meetings, collect the minutes and maintain institutional memory, and make it available to the neuropterology community through appropriate channels (e.g. as an internet accessible resource)
- The secretary shall maintain a list of Members of the Association, of Board Members, and of those eligible for Board functions
- A reasonable expectation for each member of the Board is to submit, when requested, every year a contribution to the newsletter in relation with his personal research field, and to inform the editor of the newsletter of any forthcoming publication
- The Board approved new rules of procedure concerning its membership during and between international Symposia, as follows :

Rules of procedure

- Governance of the International Association for Neuropterology (the "Association") is vested in its Officers and Board of Directors (the "Board"). The Officers of the Association are its current President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Officers are voting members of the Board. The non-Officer composition of the Board may vary at and between Symposia, and consists of Members determined by function and by invitation of the President. The following Function Board Members shall be voting members when present at physical meetings of the Board: (1) the immediate Past President, (2) the current Newsletter Editor, and (3) the organizers of the current (or next) and two immediately preceding Symposia. The President may, at his/her discretion, invite a small number of additional individuals to participate in physical meetings of the Board. Invited Board Members may be selected for any of several purposes – to provide perspective based on prior service to the Association or acknowledged scientific contributions to Neuropterology; for the sake of increasing geographical representation of the Board; for the purpose of maintaining a balance between professional corpora (academic institutions, museums, research institutions, etc.) and non-affiliated scientists; for the purpose of providing specialized expertise on matters before the Board; or for other purposes that enhance the Board's ability to responsibly conduct the business of the Association.
- Between Symposia, the business of the Association will be conducted by a Standing Committee of the Board (the "Standing Committee"). The Standing Committee shall consist of the Officers, the immediate Past President, the current Newsletter Editor, and up to four additional members selected by the full Board, if practicable, or by the Officers.
- An ad hoc physical meeting of the Board may be convened by the President at any time,

when need arises, and must be convened at least once at every Symposium. Between Symposia, the business of the Association may be conducted via digital communications among the members of the Standing Committee. Important and/or controversial matters affecting the Association shall be voted upon at a physical meeting of the Board (when convened at a Symposium, or elsewhere), or by the Standing Committee (between Symposia). Decisions binding upon the membership and Association shall require at minimum a simple majority of votes cast by the voting members present at any physical meeting of the Board (when convened at a Symposium, or elsewhere), or the members of the Standing Committee (between Symposia).

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board, 16 June 2011

- There is a need to compile a set of by laws and rules of the Association. Some of them were published in the Journal of Neuropterology. An historical record of past symposia is available in the proceedings of the Xth international Symposium, Piran, 2008, prepared by Pr Horst Aspöck. The Board decided that the responsibility for this task will rest with the President and the Secretary.
- Appointment of Members of the Standing Committee established by decision of the Board meeting of 14 June 2011: it was decided that the Standing Committee will consist of the four officers of the Association to be elected during the General Assembly, of the Past President, of the editor of the newsletter, and of four members of the Board. The Members designated to serve for the period 2011-2014 are Pr Horst Aspöck, Pr Dusan Devetak, Michel Canard, and Maria Ventura. (unanimity)
- On the subject of enforcement of dues, it was decided not to collect dues until the Board can show that the money is used for the Advancement of Neuropterology. The President was requested to determine the respective roles of the Secretary and the Treasurer in the collection of dues. The Board requested that procedures be developed between the International Association of Neuropterology and the Organizers of the next symposia to set up differential symposium fees for Members and non-Members of the Association. The Treasurer confirmed that the Association has 33 paying Members as of 2011.
- It was decided that a contribution of a reasonable order of magnitude, e.g. 500 Euros, would be made available in principle to the organizers of the next symposium if needs arise. The purpose of this contribution shall be approved through electronic consultation of the Standing Committee. (unanimity)
- It was decided to contribute 50 Euros to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.
- It was decided to set a procedure to award three travel subsidies of about 300 Euros each for people who plan to attend a session of the International Symposium of Neuropterology and who can demonstrate a critical need, such as students, scientists from developing countries or institutions in financial crisis, and members of the Association with demonstrated needs.

The Board stressed that

- subsidies should be contributions toward the total costs of the participants --- awards cannot cover the full cost of participation
- The need to put a review process in place was discussed, but a decision on the technical details was postponed.
- Awardees will be expected to make a presentation at the Symposium
- Students and scientists who receive financial support for their research from a specific project should not be eligible, or be given lower priority, as such project approaches include in principle a provision for the dissemination/valorization of the results of the research; there was considerable discussion on this topic, and a variety of differing views were expressed.

Nouvelles frontières

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I have started my work with neuropterans as a student for my diploma when worked on the Neuropterida fauna in Kozjanski Regional Park in Slovenia. We have found a few new species for Slovenia as well as some interesting species. After finishing my diploma I have started to work as a young researcher at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Maribor under the mentorship of Prof. Dr. Dušan Devetak.

Currently I am working on my PhD. Main research at the moment is behavior of the antlions (Myrmeleontidae) focused on the unique prey capture strategy. We are interested in all aspects of predatory behavior, especially pit construction and prey capture. Not all of the antlions are pit builders and only sparse information is known about behavior of non-pit-builders.
We are searching for the behavior variability among different antlion species. Most of the antlions that we are observing originate from Slovenia but we also have a few specimens from Greece and Macedonia.
A great experience this year was collecting neuropterans in the Jasen Natural Park, located in the north-western areas of Macedonia. The park includes unspoiled nature with the lake Kozjak and forests spreading on different altitudes; the difference between the highest and the lowest altitude there is 2100 m.

We collected antlions and other neuropterans from morning till night every day and have been very successful (figs. 3 & 4). We have found a lot of species of neuropterans, more then we expected and many of them are recorded for the first time for Macedonia.

Antlion larvae originating from Macedonia have been used as a subject for behavioral experiments. I have also spent ten days in May in northern parts of India where I have collected a few antlions. Maybe not enough for any important research, but maybe that will be a

story, too. We hope that our research will contribute to the knowledge of antlions unique behavior.

Year 2011 has been important in different perspectives for me; one of them is participation on the XI. International Symposium on Neuropterology in Azores, where I have met for the first time a lot of important and interesting people working with neuropterans.

From Pierre Tillier

PROJECT OF MAPPING OF THE ANTLIONS OF FRANCE (NEUROPTERA MYRMELEONTIDAE)

The Antlions (Myrmeleontidae) are well known to all entomologists and naturalists. However, these insects have been little studied in France. Until recently, the knowledge about distribution of myrmeleontid species was incompletely known, and often based on old data for some of them.
These last three years, numerous new data were collected and we initiated a project of mapping, which will be published in 2012.
We would appreciate to receive any data (old or recent) to complete the knowledge about distribution of the 22 species which occur in France.

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From David E. Bowles

At the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America (ESA) held November 13-16, 2011 in Reno Nevada, Drs. Atilano Contreras-Ramos and David E. Bowles organized and moderated a symposium titled "Americas Neuropterists Meeting". The concept of this particular conference was to bring together a diverse assemblage of entomologists from throughout the Americas who are interested in the Neuropterida in order to share recent research findings with each other and the broader ESA membership. Ten excellent and informative presentations were given on a broad variety of topics relating to the Neuropterida. There is a long history of convening informal meetings for Neuropterists at the ESA meeting, but this represents the first attempt to specifically designate the conference as a meeting for the Neuropterists in the Americas. The conference included speakers from Brazil, Mexico and the United States. Following are the presentations given at the meeting with author contact information:

- The green lacewing genus Chrysopodes (Neuroptera:Chrysopidae). Catherine A. Tauber, cat6@cornell.edu, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY.

- Progress and challenges for the production of Chrysoperla externa at commercial scale. Brigida de Souza, brgsouza@den.ufla.br, Universidade Federal de Lavras, Brazil.

- Update on green lacewing pheromone research (Chrysopidae: Chrysopa spp.). Jeffrey R. Aldrich, Jeffrey.Aldrich@ars.usda.gov, USDA-ARS, Invasive Insect Biocontrol &

Behavior Laboratory, Beltsville, MD, Kamalesh Chauhan, USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD and Qing-he Zhang, USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD.

- Genome size in populations of Chrysoperla rufilabris, Shawn Hanrahan, shawnhanrahan@tamu.edu, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

- Preliminary analyses on the phylogeny of the antlion genus Paranthaclisis, with notes on the taxonomy of the group. Ben Diehl, b-diehl@tamu.edu. Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

- Neuroptera of Baja California, Mexico. David Faulkner, dkfaulkner41@cox.net, San Diego, CA.

- Current status of the taxonomic studies of Neuroptera in Brazil, Renato Machado, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, rjpmachado@neo.tamu.edu,

- Current knowledge of the Coniopterygidae of Mexico. Atilano Contreras-Ramos, acontreras@ibiologia.unam.mx, Instituto de Biologia, UNAM, Mexico.

- Larval Megaloptera of Thailand: a preliminary assessment. David E. Bowles, david_bowles@nps.gov, US National Park Service, Republic, MO.

- The Lacewing Digital Library: updates and opportunities. John D. Oswald, j-oswald@tamu.edu, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

There were a maximum of 24 people in attendance. The presentations were followed by a brief discussion session and a group luncheon. David Bowles and Atilano Contreras-Ramos agreed to organize another symposium for next year's ESA meeting to be held in Knoxville, Tennessee, November 11-14, 2012. If anyone is interested in participating in this symposium, please contact David Bowles to discuss topics for presentations (david_bowles@nps.gov, or davidbowles@missouristate.edu). A general call for papers will be announced in late December or January. Although the 2012 conference will also be designated as Americas Neuropterists Conference, we will consider papers from researchers located in any area of the world and on any topic relating to the Neuropterida.

Who is Who in Neuropterology

Michael Ohl

I was born in Oelde, a small city in Westfalia right in the middle of (then) west Germany. However, my family origin is in northern Germany in the Kiel area on the Baltic sea coast, where, for several reasons, I later lived twice in my life again. As a nice anecdote, when my 19-year-old mother first met my father in Kiel, she lived in an apartment in Kiel in a large apartment block in the 'Westring'-street. Some neuropterologists might remember that this was also the address of Peter Ohm, who lived in his apartment in the Westring from 1965 until his death. When I met Peter decades later in his apartment for the first time, I realized that he lived next door to my mother's place, where my life probably began. Another anecdote has also to do with Peter Ohm: I lived in Kiel for six years to study biology at the Christian-Albrechts-Universitaet. Although I never met Peter Ohm during that time, many professors in biology, who knew Peter Ohm quite well as a zoologist and director of the Zoological Museum in Kiel, suspected that I am Peter's grandson because they mixed up his and my family names. So I indirectly got in contact with neuropterology frequently and very early in my life.

My serious plan of becoming a professional biologist, preferably as an entomologist, dates back to the age of six. This is the age where I also developed another characteristic, which persists until today: my love of books. When sex years old, I became seriously ill, and I was isolated from my family for several weeks in a

hospital. There was nothing to do for me than to read books on animals but also quite popular books on biology, which, for reasons unknown to me today, were available in the hospital. When realizing how fascinated I was, my parents constantly brought more books on biology to the hospital. When I left the hospital several weeks later, my reading abilities were perfect and my zoological knowledge above average. The sparetime of my childhood and youth was almost equally divided between insect and spider collecting and the local library. Unfortunately, I never managed to get in contact with a professional entomologist at that time, which would have been one of my dreams deep in the countryside.

After receiving the 'Abitur', the general qualification for university entrance, I had to do the (then still existing) compulsory military or an alternative, civil service. I served for two years in a school for handicapped children, which was a wonderful experience I don't want to miss.

I then moved to Kiel to study biology and philosophy. I was always mainly interested in the systematics and phylogeny of insects, and the University of Kiel has an historical strength in these areas. However, this was almost just history when I came to Kiel. Adolf Remane, one of the founders of the modern homology concept, worked in Kiel for a long time, but he was dead since about 20 years at that time. So when I started to work seriously on aculeate Hymenoptera, nobody in zoology was willing to supervise me. Just by chance, I met Rainer Willmann on a meeting of the German speaking phylogenetists in Kiel, who has published on Neuroptera, but who is better known for his fundamental papers on Mecoptera phylogeny. Althought primary a paleontologist then, he was willing to serve as my official supervisor. Meeting Rainer was a stroke of luck for me, because when I finished my diploma thesis, he was offered a professorship as the successor of Peter Ax at the University of Goettingen. So I followed Rainer to Goettingen to continue my research on the phylogeny and taxonomy of sphecid wasps. I lived in Goettingen for three years, and shortly before receiving my Ph.D., I was offered a permanent position as a curator in entomology at the Museum fuer Naturkunde at the Humboldt-University in Berlin, where I am still today. For some reasons, I became responsible for the Neuropterida and not for the Hymenoptera collection, and this was the beginning of my 'lacewing affair'.

From one day to another I was sitting next door to one of the most important historical collections in Neuropterida worldwide, accompanied by a large neuropterological library in my office, and this is probably the best start for an enthusiastic young entomologist to step into the world of lacewings! So even I continued working on sphecid wasps, I chose Mantispidae as my second research focus, which appeared to be small enough to overlook the diversity but large and complex enough to set up a serious research programme. As a first step, I started to compile a list of all published names in Mantispidae, which was partly available in John Oswald's Lacewing Digital Library. However, a complete and revised catalog has not been published since the late 19th century, and my personal catalog of names ended up as my Annotated Catalog of the Mantispidae of the World, published in 2004. Not surprisingly, the catalog has revealed numerous open questions in mantispid taxonomy, and this was the starting point for many revisionary projects, most of which are still ongoing. Mantispidae are a fascinating and challenging group, as are all Neuropterida, and I am spending more and more of my research time on them. Some of my current projects are a revision of the wasp-mimicing genus *Euclimacia*, revisions of some other Southeast Asian genera like *Mimetispa* and others, a genus-level phylogeny of mantispids (in collaboration with Shaun Winterton), and a genus-level revision of African mantispids (in collaboration with Louwtjie Snyman). I also have a couple of undescribed fossil mantispids from Burmese and Baltic amber and from copal deposits on my desk, which await description. Besides that, I am very much interested in the theoretical and historical foundations of biological systematics, and I am also working on a couple of projects here.

Since a few years, my family and I live on a small historical farm very close to Berlin, and my four children between two and 15 years guarantee that I don't spend too much time working on insects. However, I have many future projects on Mantispidae and perhaps other groups in Neuroptera in mind, and I am looking forward to them and to many productive collaborations with other neuropterologists.

Recent Literature on the Neuropterida (2011)
Organized by Agostino Letardi & A. Contreras-Ramos

Alasady, M. A. A.; Omar, D. B.; Ibrahim, R. B.; Ibrahim, Y. B. 2011. The survey of green lacewings and occurrence of Apertochrysa sp. (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae) on various plants in Malaysia. *Journal of Entomology* 8(3): 240-249.

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Machado, R. J. P.; Rafael, J. A. 2011. A new species of Fillus Navás (Neuroptera: Ascalaphidae) from the Brazilian Amazon Basin. Zootaxa 2907: 22-28.

Massouroudini, A.; Michel, B. 2011. A new species of Palpares Rambur (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae) with an identification key to the species of West Africa. *Zootaxa* 2792:33-40.

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Biological sketches

Dichochrysa prasina (Burmeister, 1839) - Chrysopidae

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Picture of the semester

Nemoptera sinuata Olivier, 1811 - Greece

http://www.flickr.com/photos/acdprt/5984443648/sizes/o/in/photostream/

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

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