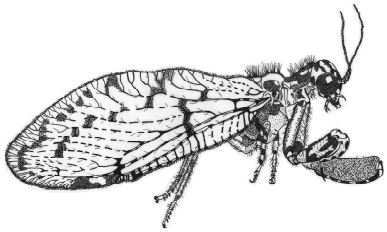
Lacewing News



NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEUROPTEROLOGY

No. 14 Spring 2012

Presentation

Hi all! Here's the 14th issue of *Lacewing News*. Only few words by me: let me suggest you to read the wonderful paper of Horst Aspöck (see http://81.10.184.26:9001/personen_add/Aspoeck_Ulrike_ENTAU_0019_0101-0260.pdf) devoted to our "Neuropterological lighthouse in the wuthering ocean of the beta taxonomy", Ulrike Pirklbauer (well known from most of us as Ulrike Aspöck), who on 2011, July 12th has reached her seventy Earth revolutions: now it becomes impossible to plan a "Who is Who in Neuropterology" edition dedicated to our beloved colleague… there is no game! Thanks to John, Michel, Viktor, Xingyue, and all the colleagues who spontaneously have sent a contribution for the present issue of Lacewing News.
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!

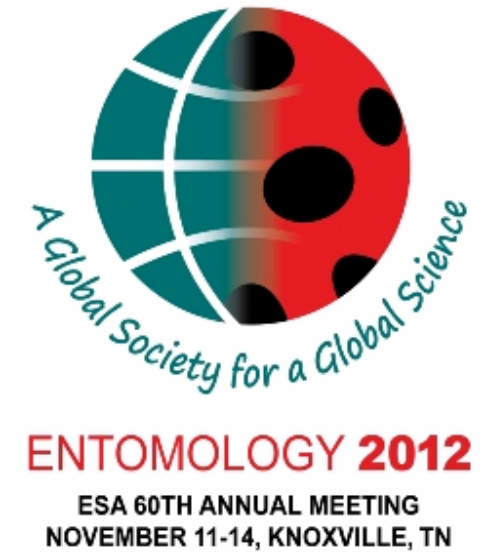
Poetic Neuropterology

"***Levity of Lacewings – The Mantispid***"
D. Keith McE. Kevan wrote this poetry during a break at a Colloquium on Neuropteroid insects at the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, December, 1988

One night I spied a mantis-fly
Midst leaves upon a tree.
The mantis-fly to me did cry
"Why spiest thou on me?"
So thus I did to her reply:
"Art thou Mantispidae?"
"I am" she said, "for I have fed
"When young on spider's eggs,
"But now, instead, for daily bread,
"Gnats catch I with my legs –
"My claws embedded `til they're dead –
With mantid spine-like pegs."
So I was right on yester night
She was a mantid-fly –
Mantispid slight, mantispid wight,
That reached toward the sky
And in my sight, her eyes quite bright,
Prayed to the Lord on High!

D. K. McE. Kevan (left)

From David E. Bowles
(too late to submit papers, but not too much to keep in touch… *Editor's note*)



http://www.entsoc.org/entomology2012

Hello fellow Neuopterists,

Dr. Atilano Contreras-Ramos and myself are organizing a Neuroptera symposium to be held at the Entomological Society of America meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, USA, November 11-14, 2012.

The theme of the meeting is “Sharing Insect Science globally”. We think this is an excellent theme for Neuropterists since we do all of those things well.

The deadline for submitting titles and securing a member symposium is (March 1). If you are interesting in giving a paper at this symposium on any aspect of the Neuropterida, please let Atilano and I know no later than February 24, 2012.

At earliest opportunity, please send us your tentative presentation title, and the estimated length of time you will need to deliver it. The final title is not due until late spring so you will have time to revise your title if needed.

The length of time allotted for presentations will depend on the number of speakers, but we will need those estimates when we request the symposium.

Based on symposia in previous years, 15-20 minutes for the presentation and questions is recommended.

Please forward this request to any colleagues whom you feel may be interested in presenting a paper in the symposium.

Thank you for your interest, and we look forward to receiving your presentation titles.

Sincerely,

David

Dr. David E. Bowles
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From WWW

Our president’s recent contribution, presented also during the last Symposium in the Azores, has found a larger audience thanks to Discover Magazine (http://discovermagazine.com/) which published on March 28th, 2011 this news entitled Spider-boarding insect preserved in amber. Well done, Michael!

From Michel Canard
<michel.canard@wanadoofr>

Rising power of applied topics in Neuropterology

From 1980, eleven international symposia gathered together worldwide specialists of Neuropterology. The proceedings of these symposia reflect of course the main research focus of the community. They were at first mainly concerned with basic disciplines — taxonomy, systematics, phylogeny, faunistics, chorology and biogeography — but they later emphasized more and more agronomic aspects of the research.

At least in Europe, the common green lacewings Chrysoperla carnea (Stephens, 1836) play the key-role in the matter. In the three first meetings (1980, 1984 and 1988), Ch. carnea appeared as a chrysopid, like others, without any special status. It is only from the fourth symposium held in Bagnères-de-Luchon (France, 1991) that contributions to applied entomology discussed the predatory impact of lacewings on harmful pests or undesirable arthropods. So applied neuropterology emerged and remains an important part of the Neuropterology.

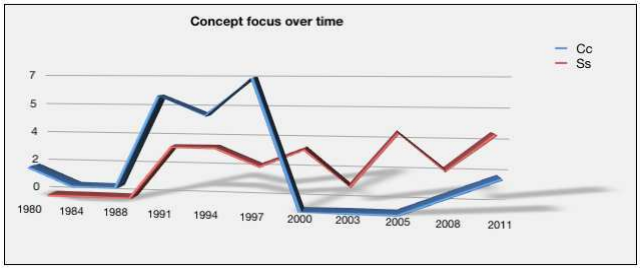
We may see below some aspects of the contents of the proceedings, showing:

– the numbers and the general objects of the contributions devoted to the common green lacewings, together with the relative author(s) and the target of each article. (Cc) indicates that the concerned chrysopids are Chrysoperla carnea sensu lato without more precision on the actual “song species” of the complex, (Ss) indicates that the constituting sibling species of the complex were identified and taken into account. When the papers were under the signature of co-authors, only the senior one is mentioned (Table I),
– that the ratio of papers discussing Cc or Ss is almost well balanced (25 vs 23) (Figure), It is curious how the focus changed over time, swapping from the sensu lato condition to the sibling species concept, with periods where the former was not discussed at all (2000-2005).
– the coming up of other species of Chrysoperla possibly used in biocontrol workings together with the relative author(s) and the studied topics (Table II).

The last meeting held in Ponta Delgada (Portugal, 2011) whose Proceedings are not yet published was analyzed as seen on the programme.

One may note the growing part taken by the Neotropical species Chrysoperla externa (Hagen, 1861), essentially due to the efforts of our Brazilian colleagues working in agricultural institutes for biocontrol of tropical noxious pests. This lacewing has ecological requirements not yet fully well defined such as the preferred habitat (substrate of vegetation) in which it is able to develop. It seems in first view to play a role similar with that of Ch. carnea sensu lato in Europe. Missing any ”winter“ diapause, it may be used all around the year.

Thanks are due to Andy Whittington for valuable comments and editing the text.



Numbers of papers referring to Chrysoperla carnea sensu lato (Cc) and to the sibling species complex (Ss) over time in the proceedings of the symposia of Neuropterology.

Table I.

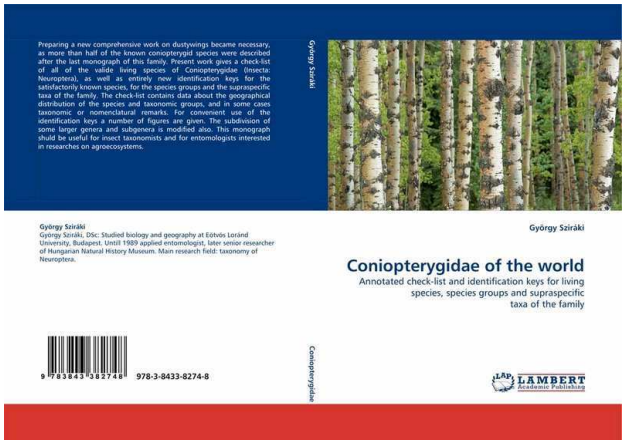
Year	Place	Nomenclature	Distribution Ecology	Biology Physiology	Food consumption	Pesticides Antagonists	Biocontrol Rearing	Round table Working-group
1980	Graz			BULLINI…(Cc) DUELLI (Cc)				
1984	Hamburg			DUELLI (Cc)				
1988	Berg en Dal			DUELLI (Cc)				
1991	Bagnères-de-Luchon	SÉMÉRIA (Ss) THIERRY…(Ss)		CIANCHI…(Cc) DEVETAK (Cc) DUELLI (Cc) PAULIAN (Cc)			ARNAOUTY…(Cc) PAULIAN (Cc)	THIERRY…(Ss)
1994	Cairo		PAULIAN (Cc) THIERRY…(Ss)		ARNAOUTY…(Cc) McEWEN (Cc)	VENTURA…(Ss)	ARNAOUTY…(Cc) PAULIAN (Cc)	DUELLI (Ss)
1997	Helsinki	THIERRY…(Ss)		DODDS…(Cc) LEMESLE…(Ss)		SENIOR…(Cc) SHUJA…(Cc)	ARNAOUTY…(Cc) McEWEN…(Cc) PAULIAN (Cc) PAULIAN (Cc)	
2000	Budapest		PAULIAN (Ss)	MOULOUD…(Ss)			THIERRY…(Ss) TROUVÉ…(Ss)	
2003	College Station TX, USA	JOHNSON…(Ss)						
2005	Ferrara	CANARD… (Ss)	MOCHIZUKI (Ss) THIERRY…(Ss), VENTURA…(Ss)					
2008	Piran				MENDES…(Ss)	BOZSIK (Cc) BOZSIK (Ss)		
2011	Ponta Delgada	THIERRY…(Ss)	MENDES…(Ss)	PANZITTA…(Cc) FOIS…(Ss)		TEIXEIRA…(Ss)	NAVE…(Cc)	

Table II.

Year	Place	Species	Topics	Authors
1994	Cairo	*sinica* *externa* & *mediterranea*	food consumption/*Myzus, Anagasta* eggs comparison of fecundities	ARNAOUTY… CARVALHO…
1997	Helsinki	*externa* *mediterranea* *mediterranea*	food consumption/*Alabama* eggs rearing diapause	CARVALHO… CARVALHO… CARVALHO…
2000	Budapest	*externa* *mediterranea*	population dynamics/Citrus rearing	SOUZA… CARVALHO…
2003	College Station TX, USA	*externa* *externa* *externa* *sinica*	predation capacity/*Myzus* predation capacity/*Bemisia* predation capacity/*Rhopalosiphum* diapause	BARBOSA… AUAD… FONSECA… XU…
2005	Ferrara	*externa* *nipponensis*	wing morphology general biocontrol	de FREITAS… MOCHIZUKI…
2008	Piran	*nipponensis*	head markings in rearing	MOCHIZUKI…
2011	Ponta Delgada	*agilis* *externa* *externa* *externa* *sillemi* *externa* *externa* *externa*	toxicity of essential oils cytogenetics storing eggs use in greenhouses/roses biocontrol/*Aphis gossypii* releasing eggs/*Aphis gossypii* hybridization with *Ch. pallida*	TEIXEIRA… LOPES… AMARAL… ANTUNES… COSTA… COSTA… FOIS…

From John D. Oswald

Small Bugs – Big Books: a review of the "Coniopterygidae of the World" by György Sziráki, 2011



Why is it that the smallest insects seem to have the longest names and find themselves embedded in the biggest books? Whatever the answer (or answers) may be, the observation certainly seems to holds true for our smallest neuropterans, the coniopterygids, or dustywings. Over the past 40 years, these small and rather inconspicuous insects have been the focus of considerable taxonomic work, and several rather large publications. 2012 marks the fortieth anniversary of the 1972 publication of one of the most monumental monographs of the Neuroptera – the rather unassumingly-titled "A revision of the family Coniopterygidae (Planipennia)", by our late and fondly-remembered colleague Martin Meinander. While all major revisionary monographs have an important affect on the systematics of their focal groups, Meinander's revision had a particularly profound impact within its taxonomic domain as it synthesized nearly all of the then-available information on a little-known group of relatively small and obscure insects that had attracted few previous workers, and no real champions. The foundation provided by Meinander in 1972 made possible a flood of new descriptive work – now that there was some reasonable chance that one could tell if the specimens one had in hand belonged to a previously described species, or were new – and precipitated the need for the second "big book" on coniopterygids about 20 year later: Meinander's 1990 "The Coniopterygidae (Neuroptera, Planipennia). A check-list of the species of the world, …". Now, after another double decade, and another flush of taxonomic growth in the Coniopterygidae (see Table 1), comes the latest "big book" on dustywings – György Sziráki's "Coniopterygidae of the world: annotated check-list and identification keys …" – which is deserving of recognition as a fitting successor to the earlier works of Meinander, and as a valuable new taxonomic synthesis that is well positioned to foster and support work on the family into the future.

Period/year	# Species described during period/year	Cumulative # valid species	Landmark publications
1758 – 1971	166	166	
1972	76	242	Meinander (1972): A revision of the family Coniopterygidae
1973 – 1989	160	402	
1990	37	439	Meinander (1990): The Coniopterygidae
1991 – 2011	153	592	Sziráki (2011): Coniopterygidae of the World

Growth in the number of valid coniopterygid species over time (excludes subspecies, includes fossils, counts are of currently-valid species calculated from the Oswald Neuropterida database in April 2012).

The conceptual scope of the new work is intermediate between the successive monographs of Meinander, and its title appropriately identifies two of its primary strengths – its global taxonomic checklist (similar to, and updated from, that of Meinander 1990) and comprehensive keys (similar to, and updated from, those of Meinander 1972). However, unlike the earlier monographs of Meinander, the new work by Sziráki does not include the descriptions of any new taxa – which is actually a good thing, since the on-demand publication format of the volume would render any new names or formal nomenclatural acts proposed in the work unavailable under the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. The new work also does not attempt to provide a new synthesis of diagnostic or descriptive texts for species- or genus-group taxa within the family. Taxon distribution statements and synonymies, however, are brought up to the present time, and the recent literature pertaining to individual species is aggregated and cited. The brief (6 page) introduction serves little more than to lay out the scope of the work and introduce the catalogue and keys.

The primary value of the new volume lies in the global breadth of its synthesis, bringing

those aspects that it does treat up to date from Meinander's 1990 work. In this regard, two aspects of the new work particularly stand out. The first of these is the tremendous effort that has been expended to produce a comprehensive set of new keys to the coniopterygid species of the world. This is no mean task, considering that the number of valid species has more than doubled (from ca. 250 to almost 600) since this landmark feat was last accomplished in Meinander's 1972 monograph. Even if some workers may not agree with all of the species concepts incorporated into the keys – Sziráki generally adopts a "splitters", rather than a "lumpers" view, of species limits – the neuropterological community owes the author a hearty thanks for providing a broad set of eminently usable identification aids (even if the characters themselves are not always easy use…, but that fault should be attributed to evolutionary process, not the author).

The second especially notable feature of the new volume is the author's effort to assemble in one place a very large set of diagnostic illustrations pertaining to most of the known, extant, coniopterygid species of the world. These have been aggregated and reprinted from the wide and highly fragmented literature on the family, and drawn together in one place where they can be easily compared and contrasted. While the value of such a compilation is perhaps not as significant as it might have been 20 years ago – given recent advances in accessibility to digital facsimiles of the scientific literature – the convenience of having so many figures available in one place for almost instant comparison remains undeniable, and is tremendously practical and useful. I have not (yet…) counted all of the individual illustrations included in the work, but there are 552 numbered figures (most with multiple parts: A, B, C, …) spread across 60 pages with no other text than captions – probably 1500 to 2000 individual figures in all; a wonderful resource.

As a physical volume, the new book contains 249 pages of text and figures, is logically organized, contains an index to species-group names contained in the catalogue, and includes a comprehensive bibliography to the taxonomic literature on the Coniopterygidae. The new monograph will find a welcome place on the bookshelves of professional and serious-amateur entomologists interested in the detailed biodiversity of the Neuropterida. The volume is available only in print-on-demand format. For only 250-odd pages and a soft cover, I found the ca. 75 Euro price a bit steep.

All-in-all, the "Coniopterygidae of the World" is an enormously useful and valuable new contribution to the taxonomic literature on the Neuroptera. It is an apt and deserving successor to the previous groundbreaking syntheses of Meinander, and a fitting tribute to the many years of effort that Dr. Sziráki has spent furthering our knowledge of this often-overlooked group of fascinating lacewings.

From Viktor Krivokhatsky

A new book concerning Myrmeleontidae has been recently published: Krivokhatsky, V. 2011. Antlions (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae) of Russia (in Russian)// Keys to the fauna of Russia published by the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Issue 174. / KMK Scientific Press Ltd. St.Petersburg - Moscow. 2011. 334 + 39 pp.

Several systematic news are reported; our Russian colleague has briefly summarized them for *Lacewing News*.

Madagascaroleon Fräser ex synonymy of *Dendroleon* Br.: Krivokhatsky, 2011: 99
Gatzara Nav. **ex synonymy** of *Dendroleon* Br. Krivokhatsky, 2011: 99,100.

Paraglenurus japonicus (McLachlan)
= *Paraglenurus littoralis* Miller, Stange in Miller et al., 1999, **syn. n**.: Krivokhatsky, 2011: 112.
= *Paraglenurus riparius* Miller, Stange in Miller et al., 1999, **syn. n**.: Krivokhatsky, 2011: 112.

Deutoleon lineatus (F.)
=*Deutoleon turanicus* Navás, 1927k; **syn. n**. : Krivokhatsky, 2011: 123.

=*Myrmeleon ambiguus* Klapálek, 1901; **syn. n**. : Krivokhatsky, 2011: 123.
=*Deutoleon lineatus turanicus* **stat. n**. .: Krivokhatsky, 2011: 127.

Distoleon tetragrammicus (F.)
=*Myrmeleon flavomaculatus*, **lectotype designation**: Krivokhatsky, 2011: 136.

Neuroleon nemausiensis (Borkhausen)
=*Nelees nigriventris* Navás, 1913a:278, **syn. n**.: Krivokhatsky, 2011: 146.
=*Neuroleon nemausiensis nigriventris* (Nav.) **stat. n**.: Krivokhatsky, 2011: 147.
=***Neuroleon nemausiensis piryulini* subsp. n**.: Krivokhatsky, 2011: 150.

Macronemurus Costa
= *Campestretus* Nav. **syn. n**. : Krivokhatsky, 2011: 158.

***Mesonemurus guentheri olgae* subsp. n**.: Krivokhatsky, 2011: 168.

Nelneja Nav. **ex synonymy** of *Myrmeleon* L.: Krivokhatsky, 2011: 187.

Myrmeleon immanis Walker
= *Myrmeleon nekkacus* Okamoto **syn. n**. : Krivokhatsky, 2011: 207.

Euroleon coreanus Okamoto
= *Euroleon sjostedti* Nav. **syn. n**. : Krivokhatsky, 2011: 223.

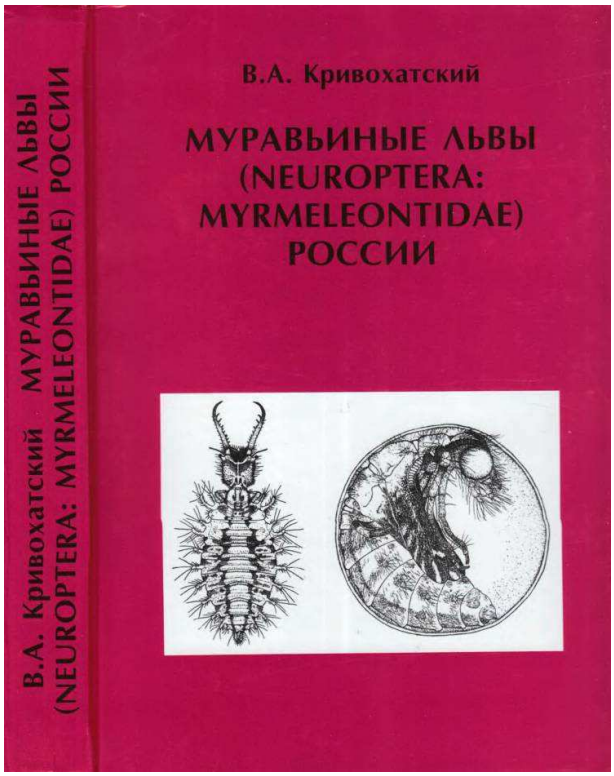
Myrmecaelurus trigrammus (Pallas)
Myrmeleo trigrammus Pallas **neotype designation** : Krivokhatsky, 2011: 263.

Cueta punctulata (Rmb.)
Myrmeleon punctulatus Rambur, 1842 **valid. stat**. : Krivokhatsky, 2011: 274.

Nohoveus zigan (Aspöck, Aspöck et Hölzel) **valid. stat**. : Krivokhatsky, 2011: 271, 274.
Myrmeleon punctulatum Steven **lectotype designation**: Krivokhatsky, 2011: 275.

Cueta anomala Nav.
= *Cueta albanica* Capra **syn. n**. : Krivokhatsky, 2011: 279.
= *Cueta beieri* Hölzel **syn. n**. : Krivokhatsky, 2011: 279.

The book



From John D. Oswald
Neuropterida Name Puzzler

Question: What genus-species name combination in the Neuropterida has the highest number of primary homonyms?

Answer: While it's hard to know with absolute certainty, the winner is probably "*Chrysopa petersenі*" – a patronymic based on the surname of the well-known Danish entomologist Peter Esben-Petersen [1869-1942], whose neuropterological work spanned the first four

decades of the 20th century – which has been proposed independently four different times:

(1) *Chrysopa peterseni* Navás, 1910 r#506:473 (Neuropterida Species of the World [NSW] sp#2133) – proposed for a new species from Greece; now considered a junior synonym of *Chrysopa viridana* Schneider, 1845.
(2) *Chrysopa peterseni* Okamoto, 1919 r#4990:10 (NSW sp# 10309) – proposed as a replacement name for *Chrysopa formosana* Esben-Petersen, 1913, from Taiwan; now considered a junior synonym of *Mallada basalis* (Walker, 1853).
(3) *Chrysopa peterseni* Banks, 1924 r#76:432 (NSW sp#2668) – proposed as a new species from the Solomon Islands; currently treated as a valid species under the combination "*Plesiochrysa peterseni* (Banks, 1924)", but the species-group name here is (of course!) a junior homonym, and, if the species is in fact distinct, will eventually need to be replaced.
(4) *Chrysopa peterseni* Navás, 1929 r#850:27 (NSW sp#1680) – proposed as a new species from Colombia; now considered a junior synonym of *Ceraeochrysa everes* (Banks, 1920). Interestingly, when Navás proposed a new replacement name (i.e., *Chrysopa petersenia*) for his 1929 use of *Chrysopa peterseni*, he noted the earlier use of this name by Banks, but not the earlier use of the name by Okamoto – or even his own earlier use of the name in 1910!

Who is Who in Neuropterology

Xingyue Liu

I was born in a small city of Hebei Province in northern China, named Qinhuangdao, which is ca. 300 kilometers east from Beijing. This city is located at the seaside and has an important port for the coal transportation, while the northern part of Qinhuangdao is mountainous and has the beginning of the Great Wall built in the Ming Dynasty. During first three years after my birth, I lived together with my parents and grandparents in an apartment belonging to a Chinese naval hospital in the northern mountainous area of Qinhuangdao, where my grandparents worked as doctors. Around this apartment, there are some streams and hills with good forest. I still remember the flying dragonflies and fireflies, which could be easily found there. The rural life during this period made me like the nature.

Due to the removal of the naval hospital, my family moved to a new apartment in the urban district of Qinhuangdao, but it was quite close to sea shore, where I used to collect marine animals, such as crabs, clams, actinians, before I entered the elementary school. About during the same period, I began to collect insects and my mother showed me how to make specimens, although the method was not professional actually. After I entered the elementary school, I had more and more interest on insects, and I could read some Chinese professional books on insects as my mother worked in the urban library of Qinhuangdao. Since my final term of the elementary school, I became a relatively professional amateur of insects, collecting, making, and trying to identify specimens based on the knowledge and skills learnt from books. When I was a high school student, I have a small private insect collection including specimens of about 1,000 species distributed in my hometown. In this collection there are six species of Chrysopidae and Myrmeleontidae, which first made me know Neuropterida – the amazing lacewings. However, I was much more interested to mantis and moths at that time.

Concerning my scientific life, two persons should be mentioned as my abecedarians. Interestingly, both of them are neuropterologists and have master-apprentice relationship, which I knew several years later. The first is Professor Chikun Yang of China Agricultural University (CAU), whom I knew from a popular science magazine regularly read by myself. The introduction on the legendary life of Prof. Yang with insect and

taxonomic research in the magazine was so exciting that I dreamed to be an insect taxonomist as Prof. Yang. Another article in the same magazine introducing the insect collection of the Institute of Zoology in the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IZCAS) made me know the author, Professor Xingke Yang. I was eager to see the collection in IZCAS and sent a letter to Prof. Yang. Surprisingly, he wrote a reply to me so kindly and encouraged me to study hard to enter CAU, which has the most famous Department of Entomolgy. However, following my parents' advice, my aim was to enter Nankai University, which appears much better than CAU and has a research team on insect taxonomy (mainly on Heteroptera). Finally, my achievement score of the college entrance exam was not enough to enter Nankai University, so I selected CAU and became a college student of the College of Plant Protection. This is such a right choice when I recall the past time in CAU. After four-year's undergraduate course, I obtained an opportunity to be a graduate student without taking the regular exams. By the help of my teacher on agricultural pests, I met Prof. Ding Yang, who is the first graduate student of Prof. Chikun Yang and once studied the taxonomy of Chinese Megaloptera. Then, I became a graduate student of Prof. Ding Yang and continued to make a comprehensive systematic revision on the Megaloptera from China.

The Megaloptera is not a common insect group, which can be easily found in China. When I firstly saw the specimen of the genus Acanthacorydalis (giant dobsonfly), I was shocked by the huge body size and the enlarged male mandibles. I immediately love this amazing insect group. From 2003 to 2007, I completed the major part of the revision of the Chinese Megaloptera, which was written as the monograph "Fauna Sinica, Insecta, Volume 51, Megaloptera" published in 2010. In the Symposium of Aquatic Insects from East Asia held in 2005, I met Dr. Fumio Hayashi, a Japanese specialist on the ecology and behavior of Megaloptera. We talked many things on Megaloptera and began to collaborate on the systematics of Megaloptera from Southeast Asia. In 2006 I was invited to Tokyo Metropolitan University (TMU) by Dr. Hayashi to study his personal collection of Megaloptera. It was my time to go outside China and should be a milestone for my scientific research. I identified almost all the specimens of Megaloptera deposited in TMU and the National Science Museum, including many new species from Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, etc. At that time I realized that the Asian Megaloptera fauna should be extraordinarily rich but need comprehensive revision.

At the summer in 2008 I gained my Ph.D. and fortunately got a permanent position as a lecturer in CAU. Soon after that, I received a postdoctoral fellowship supported by the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Sciences (JSPS) and went to the laboratory of Dr. Hayashi in TMU for a two-year's study on the systematics of Asian Megaloptera and molecular phylogeny of Megaloptera. During these two years, I had great opportunity to visit a number of famous collections in Europe and America, and I examined most type specimens of the described megalopteran species from Asia.

Since 2008 I began to spend some time to study other groups of Neuropterida, especially the Raphidioptera, which is another group of fascinate creatures. Based on the Raphidioptera collection constructed by Prof. Chikun Yang and recently collected materials, I found many interesting and undescribed snakeflies from China and adjacent areas, and many of them were published by a well progressed collaborated work between Profs. Horst and Ulrike Aspöck and me.

After my postdoc fellowship ended in November 2010 I returned to CAU and improved to be an associate professor. Currently, I am preparing the English monograph together with Prof. Ding Yang and Dr. Fumio Hayashi on the Asian Megaloptera, which will include more than 200 species. Besides the taxonomy of the Asian Megaloptera, I am working on the revision of the Afrotropical Megaloptera under the collaboration with Dr. Ben Price and Dr. Fumio Hayashi. The phylogenetic studies on various groups of Megaloptera are also in progress basing both morphological and molecular data. For the Raphidioptera there are still a few new species for me to describe. I also study the fossil Megaloptera and Raphidioptera in collaboration with Prof. Dong Ren from Capital Normal University in Beijing. I am looking forward to collaborations with more Neuropterologists worldwide. Welcome to China! XIEXIE!

Obituary From

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Esteemed Neuropterists

It is with much sadness that we announce to the neuropterologist community the unexpected death of our fellow, Prof. Dr. Sérgio de Freitas, which occurred in February of the present year. In the following lines, we describe some highlights of his professional life, including his contributions to science over his 20 years of dedication to the research of Neuroptera.

Plate by courtesy of Francisco Sosa

Sérgio de Freitas: a reference in terms of systematics and taxonomy of Neotropical Chrysopidae (*1953 – †2012)

Sérgio de Freitas was born in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil, on March 9, 1953. His first years of study in Belo Horizonte were carried out at the Catholic School of the Pompéia District, and at the "Ângelo Roncalli" School. In 1977 he graduated with a major in Biological Sciences from the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais. He completed a Masters degree in Biological Sciences (Entomology) from the Universidade Federal do Paraná in 1979 and in 1988 he obtained his PhD in Entomology from Escola Superior de Agricultura "Luiz de Queiroz"/Universidade de São Paulo, in Piracicaba. During this period he devoted himself to the study of defoliating insects in eucalyptus. He began his academic carrier in 1980 as a professor at the Universidade José do Rosário Vellano/UNIFENAS, in Alfenas, MG, where he worked until 1988. In 1989, he was hired by the Faculdade de Ciências Agrárias e Veterinárias at the Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho (FCAV/UNESP), Jaboticabal, São Paulo. While there, his activities as a teacher included instructing several classes for both undergraduate and graduate students from the Agronomy and Biological Sciences programs. As a researcher at FCAV/UNESP, his activities were focused on the Systematics and Biology of Chrysopidae (Neuroptera) and, lately, he had also dedicated his time to study Chrysopidae populations with the use of molecular markers. His first publication regarding this group of insects, co-authored by Prof. Dr. Odair A. Fernandes, was entitled "A preliminary statement on green lacewing in citrus in the Jaboticabal region of Brazil (Insecta: Neuroptera: Chrysopidae)" and was published in 1992.
Between 1993 and 2008, he completed seven post-doc internships under the supervision of Dr. Phillip Adams, Dr. Shaun Winterton and Dr. Norman D. Penny, in California, USA. The theme of these internships was the study of Neotropical Chrysopidae.
During his scientific career he conducted several field trips to collect Neuroptera in forested and agricultural environments. The Chrysopidae

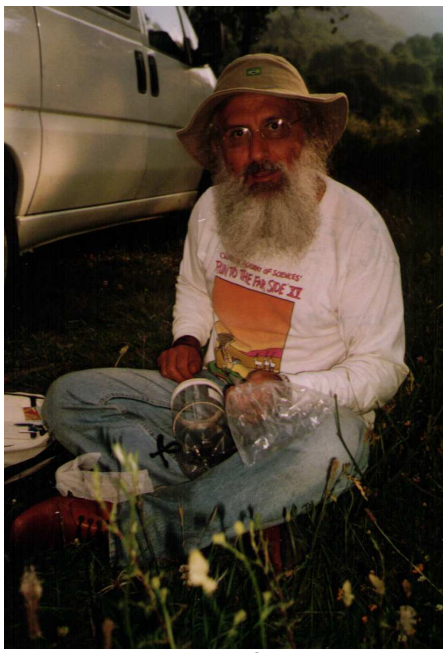
collected on those occasions, together with the ones obtained by his students, comprised one of the most important Neotropical Chrysopidae collections in the world. This collection, as well as his countless and excellent illustrations, serves as an important reference in the study of Neotropical Chrysopidae and a source of data for future researchers working with this group of insects.

The importance of the systematic and taxonomic study of the Neotropical Chrysopidae accomplished by Sérgio de Freitas is immeasurable. As one of the pioneers in the study of this group of insects in Brazil, he described many new species, from which many are still to be published. One of his most recent works, accomplished together with Francisco Sosa, was the study of Chrysopidae in Venezuela. In 2009, with the collaboration of Dr. N. Penny and support from Dr. P. Adams' manuscripts, he completed a review of the genus Ceraeochrysa Adams. His review of the genera classified in the tribe Belognopterigini is still to be published. He had numerous publications, including two books, three book chapters, 64 scientific papers, and 172 works at scientific events. These publications serve as works of reference in Brazil and abroad. His studies fostered the development of similar researches in several teaching and research institutions, located in different states and ecosystems. In some of these researches, he acted as a collaborator.

Equally important were his contributions in the advising and training of students, through the study of Chrysopidae or other neuropteran groups, which resulted in 44 undergraduate dissertations, 18 Masters dissertations and eight Doctorate thesis. He also supervised one post-doc fellow and 26 students under short term training programs.

His hobby was playing the saxophone and, as a pastime, he often went on long motorcycle rides. His death occurred on the 21st of February 2012 on motorcycle trip to Minas Gerais. The unexpected and premature departure of this brilliant chrysopid scholar leaves a great void and sadness in the hearts of those who were fortunate to have had the opportunity to witness his dedication to teaching and research, even in the most difficult moments of his life.

(Note of the Editor. In June 2005, after the Symposium in Ferrara, Italy, I had the friendly opportunity to spent a week together with Sergio, John Oswald, Horst and Ulrike Aspöck collecting insects in Central Italy. Horst was so kind to send me some photos of that time: I use some of them to remember the interesting days together with him)



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Recent Literature on the Neuropterida (2011-2012)

Organized by Agostino Letardi with a contribution of John D. Oswald

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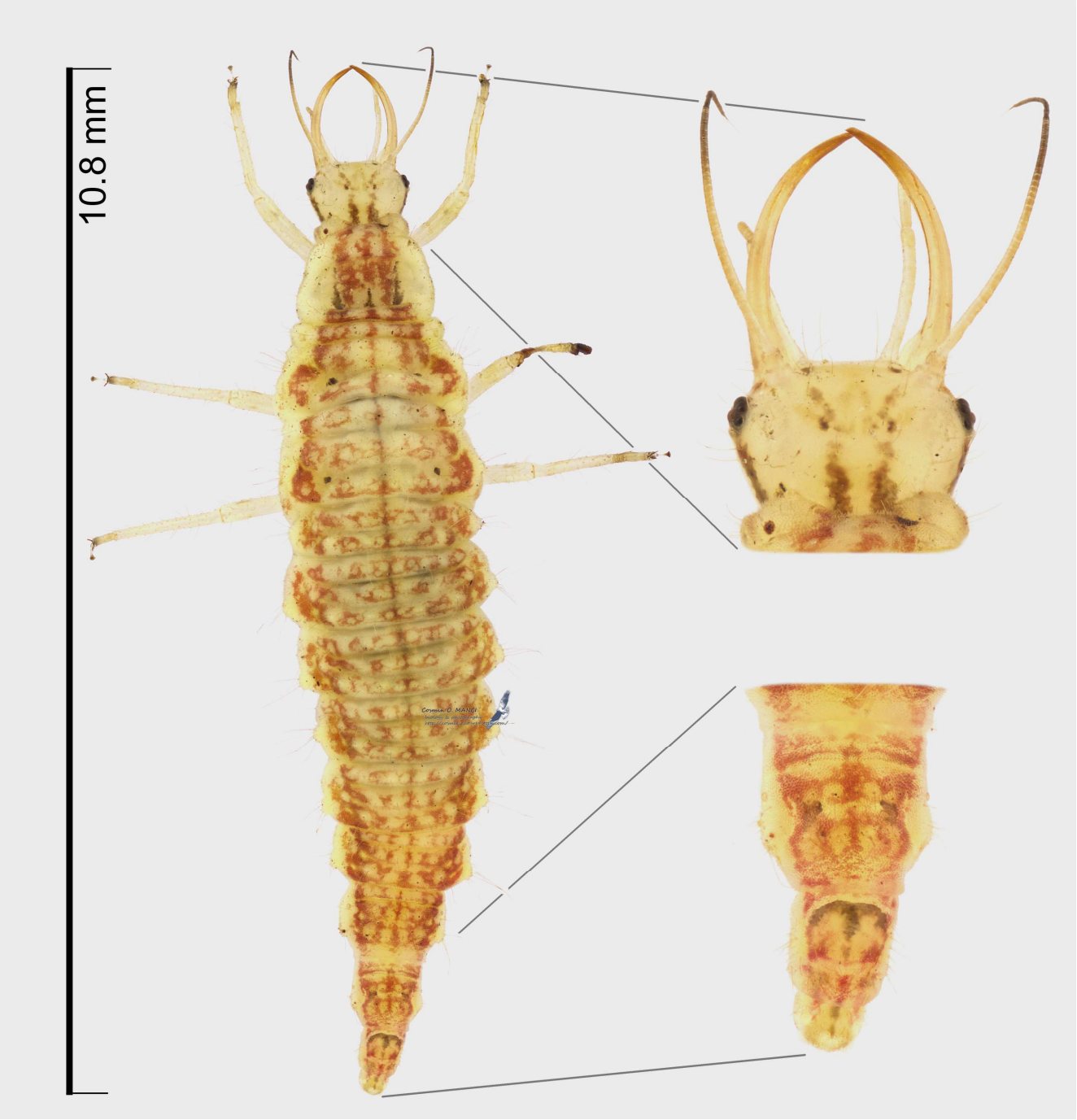
Biological sketches

Nineta sp. - Chrysopidae



Photos by courtesy of **Cosmin-Ovidiu Manci**
http://cosmln.nature4stock.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Chrysopa_comp_w.jpg

Picture of the semester

Chasmoptera huttii (Westwood, 1848), Neuroptera Nemopteridae
http://www.flickr.com/photos/jean_hort/6698557833/