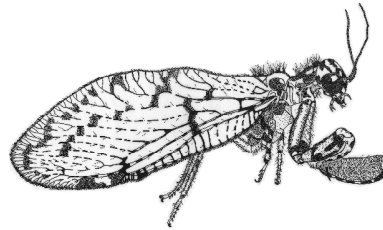


Lacewing News



NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEUROPTEROLOGY

No. 28

Spring 2019

Call to collaboration!

This issue is really scant! Despite several young and smart neuropterologists have appeared on the entomological scene, actually this newsletter received contributions from the usual, old but gold, neuropterologists (the Aspöcks, the legacy of Dušan, the *foreveryoung* Michel Canard): how long will we wait for active presence of other neuropterologist in this newsletter?

Please send all communications concerning *Lacewing News* to agostino.letardi@enea.it (Agostino Letardi, photo on the left). Questions about the International Association of Neuropterology may be addressed to our current president, Dr. Xingyue Liu (photo on the right) (xingyue_liu@yahoo.com).



From right to left, the new IAN president Xingyue Liu and the LN editor Agostino Letardi (photo Rinaldo Nicoli Aldini)

Current researches

**From Tina Klenovšek, Franc Janžekovič and Dušan Devetak
Field work in Georgia 2018**



Mountains of the Greater Caucasus near Gudauri. Photo T. Klenovšek.

Zoologists, Franc Janžekovič and Tina Klenovšek, from the Department of Biology, University of Maribor, in cooperation with Boris Kryštufek from the Slovenian Natural History Museum and Alenka Kryštufek, organized a field

trip to the Greater and Lesser Caucasus Mountains in Georgia.

The main goal of the expedition was to check and list locations of the Long-clawed mole vole *Prometheomys schaposchnikowi* that is endemic to Caucasus. It lives in alpine meadows at elevations above 1500 m asl. As its name suggests, this vole uses long claws to dig burrows and makes hills of soil similar to molehills, which helped us detect the animal presence in grazed meadows. Surely, after years of experience in neuropterological expedition to the Balkans and interest in Neuroptera, F. J. and T. K., took every opportunity to sweep insect nets and collect some interesting species.



Alpine grazed meadow near Gudauri (2196 m asl) in the Greater Caucasus. The "mole" hills belong to the Long-clawed mole vole *Prometheomys schaposchnikowi*. Photo F. Janžekovič.

At the end of June 2018, we flew from Ljubljana to Istanbul and Tbilisi, the capital city of Georgia. Georgia (native: Sakartvelo) is a country in the Caucasian region of Eurasia that lies at the junction of Western Asia and Eastern Europe. It is a mountainous country (the highest peak is Shkhara 5201 m) located at the eastern shore of the Black Sea, with diverse landscape and well-developed livestock and plant production. It is considered to be the origin of vines.

First, we travelled along a Military Road, which is

a historic name for a busy major route through the Greater Caucasus Mountain Range connecting Georgia to Russia, to a ski-resort in Gudauri. Though it was cloudy and rainy, with temperatures low for June, one morning we saw the hotel facade covered with green lacewings. We continued our journey along the Kura River to the town Borjomi, where we visited the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park in the area of the Lesser Caucasus. The region is known for its well preserved native mixed forests and mountain meadows. High mountain plateaus are used for livestock grazing. Most of the field work was carried out above 2000 m in cold and windy conditions. Luckily, while descending from the mountains, at a small meadow surrounded by a mixed forest, we saw a beautiful female owlfly *Libelloides hispanicus ustulatus*. This species is also known from the neighbouring countries, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia and Turkey.



Owlfly *Libelloides hispanicus ustulatus*. Photo F. Janžekovič.



Green lacewing *Chrysopa fuscostigma*. Photo D. Devetak.

During the 6-day field trip in Georgia, we collected approx. a dozen of different Neuroptera species. Besides the owlfly, another interesting and beautiful species of green lacewings *Chrysopa fuscostigma* was found, a species described by Esben-Petersen, 1933 and also known for Turkey and Russia. In addition, some species of brown lacewings and dustywings were collected.



Meadow inside forest at Lesser Caucasus, where the owlfly was found. Photo F. Janžekovič



Livestock at Lesser Caucasus. Photo T. Klenovšek.

Although the Neuropteran fauna of Georgia is already relatively well explored, we recommend this destination for its amazing diversity of landscapes, unique culture, language and alphabet, as well as architecture that has been influenced by various styles. The country is opened towards Europe, safe and very welcoming to tourists.

Social meetings

From Horst Aspöck & Ulrike Aspöck

A pleasant visit from Brazil in Vienna



Natural History Museum Vienna. 4 December 2018. From left to right: Ulrike Aspöck, Renato Machado and Horst Aspöck. (Photo archive H. & U. Aspöck.)

In December 2018 our colleague Dr. Renato Jose Pires Machado, recently appointed professor at the Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade Federal de Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil, and responsible for Neuroptera and Mecoptera taxonomy and well-known as first author or co-author of several important recent publications, spent a few days in Vienna. We met him at the Natural History Museum for discussion on various current topics in Neuropterology. In particular we also spoke about the excellent precondition for the next International Symposium on Neuropterology to be held in Brazil. There are several young and very successful neuropterologists in Brazil now and we are looking forward to a great event in 2021.

Recent Literature on the Neuropterida (2018-2019)

Organized by Agostino Letardi with the support of John D. Oswald and BotN project
(<http://lacewing.tamu.edu/Biblio/Main>)

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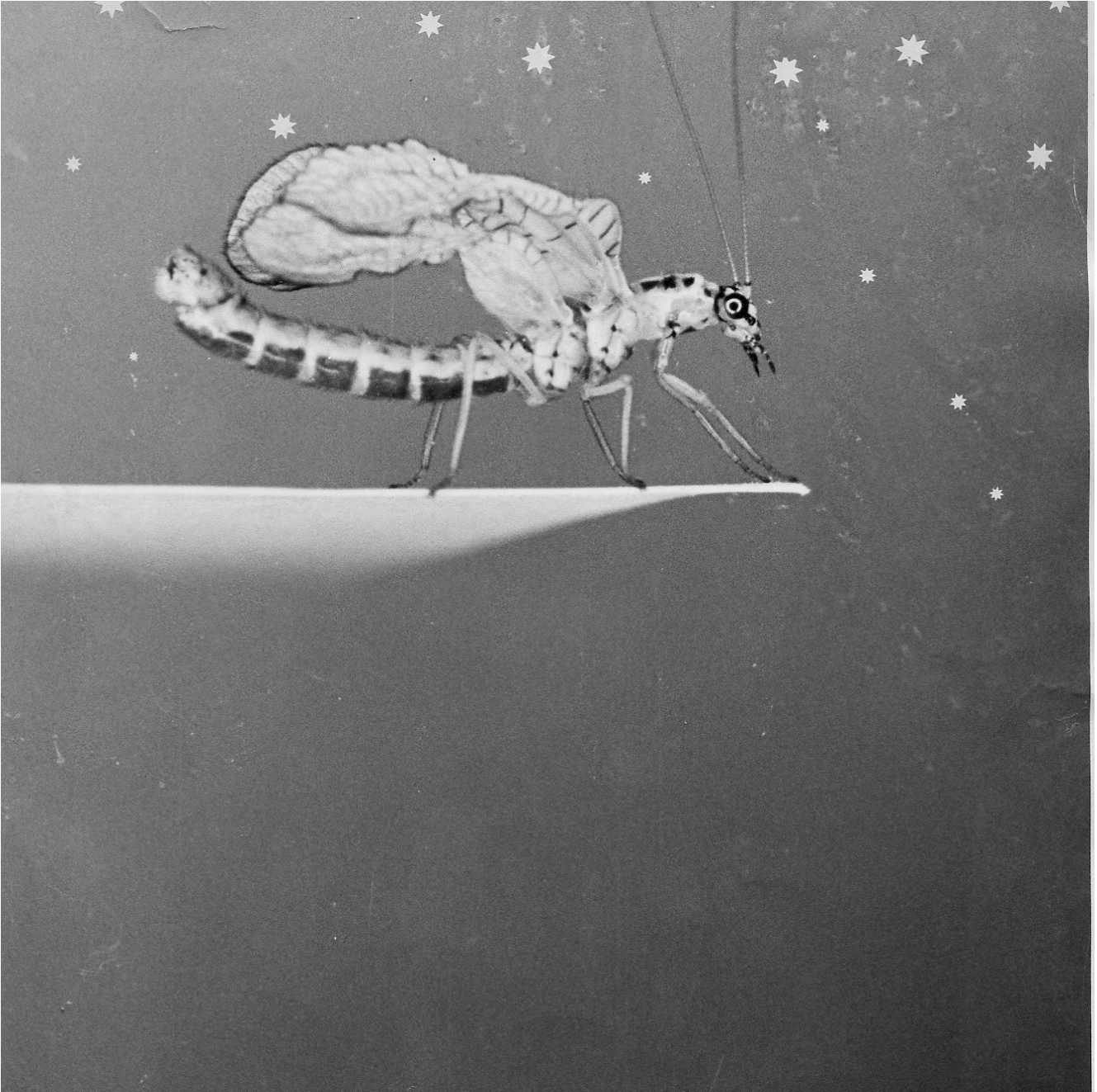
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Picture of the semester



From Michel Canard

before taking a nose dive : "Is my parachute well arranged"? Chrysopa perla says

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Lacewing News - Newsletter of the International Association of Neuropterology](#)

Jahr/Year: 2019

Band/Volume: [28](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): diverse

Artikel/Article: [Lacewing News 28 1](#)