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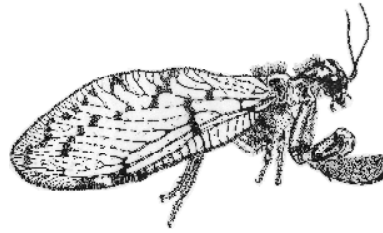
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Lacewing News



NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEUROPTEROLOGY

No. 30

Spring 2020

Presentation

Greetings once again to everyone. Here we go with our first issue of 2020 (sorry for the delay due to some troubles caused by Covid 19)! As always, thanks to all enthusiast neuropterologists who kindly sent contributions, notes, and bibliographic references. 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 IAN president Xingyue Liu and the LN editor Agostino Letardi (photo Rinaldo Nicolli Aldini, in Laufen [DE] 2018)

Remember Lionel Stange and Yves Séméria



Lionel Stange (1935-2020)

In Memoriam

By Robert B. Miller

Lionel Stange, a leading expert in the study of Neuroptera and Hymenoptera and a close friend for 42 years, passed away peacefully from congestive heart failure on February 27th, 2020 at the age of 84 . He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Judith Stange, his children Eric and Elizabeth, and his grandson Jacob Alexander. He was born in Los Angeles, California on June 27th, 1935. He began his study of insects attending a Museum Natural history Workshop at the Los Angeles County Museum while

still in high school. From 1953-1957 he worked for the Department of Entomology, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. He attended UCLA his freshman and sophomore years and received his M.S. from the University of California Davis in 1959. He received his PH.D. from the University of California Davis in 1965 with the dual thesis Revision of the Antlion Tribe Brachynemurini of North America and A Revision of the Genus Zethus Fabricius in the Western Hemisphere. In 1965 he became a professor of entomology with the Universidad Nacional de Tucuman and Fundacion Miguel Lillo. He met his wife there and had two children. In 1978, responding to the great Argentinian hyperinflation, he was able to obtain a position with the Florida State Collection of Arthropods in Gainesville, Florida. After living in a small room for a year and saving his money, he was able to buy a house and bring his family to Florida. From 1978-2005 he worked as a taxonomic entomologist at the Florida State Collection of Arthropods in Gainesville, Florida. During that time, he also served as an adjunct professor of entomology at the University of Florida and Florida A&M University. Upon retirement, he was an emeritus member of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, and not being required to do what he considered mundane things like identifying snails, he devoted full time to curating the collection and working on publications. He was generous with his time and anxious to help any students or seasoned professionals engaged in research pertaining to Neuroptera. His larger projects include Revision of the Ant-lion tribe Brachynemurini of North America 1970, the Catalog of World Antlions 2004 and a completed but unpublished supplement current to 2016, and an ongoing project to publish the Myrmeleontidae of the Western Hemisphere as a compilation of all the other generic revisions in the region, including adult taxonomy, larval stages, and biology. Although a large part of that project is already done, he sadly did not live to see its completion. He was also compiling an Antlion Zoogeography With Country Species List with John Oswald. Lionel was the author or coauthor of over 100 publications.

I was introduced to Lionel in 1978 by Philip Adams at his home. Phil had been my major professor and academic advisor and knew how Lionel and I both had a passion for antlions. Lionel's love of research and field work was impressive. He loved to travel and always devoted at least one month a year to field work collecting wasps and antlions. He collected on five continents. Besides collecting trips with entomologists, he enjoyed cruises and traveled extensively with his wife Judith. He constantly improved the collection at the FSCA. His extensive travel and determination to collect specimens resulted in his having many interesting experiences. In Tunisia these included being chased by a wild dog

pack, being stoned by Berber teenagers because we did not speak French, being chased on motorcycles by rejected vendors, discovering that his plane flight was the day before because of the international date line, and having Tunisian military border observers stick a machine gun, with the safety off, in his naval, because they thought the butterfly nets were signal flags. In other countries he was stung by scorpions, robbed, threatened and extorted by Mexican police, and the victim of food poisoning. Despite all of these good times, he was always anxious for the next trip. Nothing excited him more than finding undescribed species. He especially enjoyed sampling all of the local foods and beverages in foreign countries and a good cigar. He will be greatly missed by us all and his passing is a great loss to future students who could have benefitted from his help and guidance.

[N.o.E.: Miller also compiled the list of more than one hundred of Stange's publications and a taxonomic list connected to him. Too long for a newsletter but available on request]

A small tribute to a great Neuropterologist: my personal experience with the late Lionel Stange

By Adrian Ardila Camacho, doctoral student at the National University of Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM))



Lionel and I talking about different projects on Neuroptera at Florida State collection of Arthropods. Photo by Judith Stange.

When I started studying Neuroptera in Colombia in 2009, I began reading Lionel Stange's publications because I was interested to know more about the Neotropical fauna of this insect group. Subsequently, in May 2016, I started to communicate with Lionel, when I received an e-mail from him asking me about my projects and to share information about his papers at that time. We talked primarily about Mantispidae and Myrmeleontidae, and he proposed that I prepare a revision of the genus *Vella* Navás, 1913 (Myrmeleontidae: Acanthaclisinae). On that year I was finishing my Master's at Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia) and was working on a revision of South American Osmylidae together with Caleb Martins. We especially talked about a revision of Symphrasinae, a project I had in mind for my Ph.D., and which Lionel started with the species from Central- and North America but didn't finish. Lionel was an enthusiast to Osmylidae as well and prepared a shipment of *Isostenosmylus* specimens from the Florida State Collections of Arthropods to Bogotá.



Lionel and I enjoying some sweets offered at the Florida State Collection of Arthropods to celebrate the birthday of one of the researchers at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Photo by Julieta Brambila.

Data from that material were added to other data from Colombia and from other specimens from Brazil and from the Smithsonian Institution (Washington D.C.) examined by Caleb Martins. Based on these specimens, and together with Renato Machado and Oliver Flint we described several new species. By 2017, I was preparing for the exams to enter the doctoral program of the University of Mexico (UNAM), to work with Atilano Contreras Ramos on the taxonomic revision and phylogeny of the Symphrasinae. At that moment Lionel offered me his support and invited me to visit the Florida State

Collection of Arthropods. Furthermore, he told me he could send Symphrasinae and *Vella* material from all over the continent to study in Mexico. He was writing to me often to know about my progress entering the doctoral program and always encouraged me. In 2018, I began doctoral studies in the mentioned University, and during that year we talked several times to arrange how he could send the material to Mexico. Finally, since the process to import material to Mexico is torturous, I opted to arrange for travel to the United States for January 2019. My plan was to revise the Symphrasinae material in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard, and Florida State Collection of Arthropods. In Florida, Lionel also helped me receiving material from other museums of United States to examine there. Once I arrived to Gainesville, I prepared to meet Lionel in person, which was very exciting to me. I must say that when I met him, his health had quite deteriorated due to a trip he made to Vietnam where he contracted an infection and where he was hospitalized for four weeks shortly before my arrival. Despite his poor health state, Lionel was aware of my arrival as well as the shipments from other museums. We talked a lot about Symphrasinae and he shared many observations, drawings and other data on that group. We also talked about what other researchers were doing on Neotropical Neuroptera.

Lionel was passionate for Neuroptera and showed me colorful and spectacular Myrmeleontidae and Mantispidae from different regions of the world. He knew every Neuroptera paper that was coming out, even the most recent articles. His great passion for these insects was transmitted to me since the beginning, and it was something we had in common. Contrary to what some say that he was bad-tempered, he was very kind with me, had a great sense of humor, and we laughed a lot during my visit. Finally, I arranged a loan of material and had to say goodbye to Lionel. I would have liked to have visited him once more, and in fact we agreed on that. In my opinion, Lionel had one of the most representative Symphrasinae collections at the FSCA, and he offered me almost all the specimens on loan. Currently I'm at the mid point of my doctorate and still working on the Symphrasinae and *Vella* projects, I also had the opportunity to name a new species of *Plega* Navás 1928 from Mexico after Lionel Stange. Shortly before my departure, Lionel told me he was very happy to know someone was reviewing the Symphrasinae. I hope to complete these projects and thus honor the memory of Lionel and finish a project I had in mind since I was undergraduate. It only remains for me to say thanks to a great Neuropterologist I have always admired.

Yves Séméria (1936-2020)

In Memoriam

by Michel CANARD



Yves SÉMÉRIA left us on the first of April this year, succumbing to an illness he had endured for several years. Born on the 24th August 1936, the son of Jean SÉMÉRIA, a professional boxer and restaurateur, he lived mostly in Nice, a city he particularly loved. Secondary education at the Parc Imperial public school at Nice was followed by University courses undertaken variously in the Faculties of Nice, Bordeaux and Dijon and resulting from his travels and family homes in Africa. He obtained his Master of Philosophy degree in 1968, through accumulated works. He later enhanced his knowledge through various institutions in Nice and Antibes, and eventually rose to become Professeur at the Université Sophia-Antipolis de Nice – where he was an acknowledged specialist on Nietzsche. During the course of his careers as philosopher and author, he produced a series of varied publications, none of which involved Neuroptera.

In October 1967, he became a member of the Société Entomologique de France and, from June 1971, that of the Alpes-Maritimes. Around 1970, Yves SÉMÉRIA became interested more particularly in animal biology, from the basis of ecological and

faunistic knowledge of the Chrysopidae, especially those of the Côte d'Azur which he studied assiduously. Over the period of 1972 to 1976, a dozen faunistic notes on this theme formed the basis of a memoir entitled "Recherches sur l'écologie et le mimétisme des Chrysopinae de France (Neuroptera, Planipennes)" presented on 17 December 1976 before the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Nice, for which he was awarded the degree of Docteur d'Université.

During his long period in the world of neuropterists, Yves SÉMÉRIA founded the first association of researchers working on this insect group, and which he named *As Mo Ne* (Association Mondiale des Névrotéristes). Through this association he initiated and edited the journal *Neuroptera International* through 7 volumes between 1980 and 1992; collectively, the journal included 130 articles, comprising 1,485 pages, to which were added a supplementary issue and 9 thesis summaries. The Association later became global in scope, as I.A.N., the *International Association of Neuropterologists*.

From the numerous works on Neuroptera produced by Y. SÉMÉRIA, the major highlights were his participation in the edited volume on "Biology of Chrysopidae" (294 pp.) ISBN 90-6193-137-1 published in the *Series Entomologica* # 27, Dr W. Junk Publishers, The Hague/Boston/Lancaster and the revised edition of the volume of the Atlas d'Entomologie dealing with "Névrotères de France et d'Europe" in collaboration with Lucien BERLAND, from Éditions Boubéé, Paris (190 pp.). Taxonomic remarks and opinions occur throughout his works, most notably the elevation of status of *Chrysoperla Steinmann*, adopted by the neuropterist community, and introduction of a new taxon *Pseudomallada benedictae* (Séméria, 1976) which he dedicated to Bénédicte, the only daughter amongst his five children.

As well as his continuing studies on living Chrysopidae, he also undertook studies on fossil Neuroptera, through which he became associated with, amongst others, our colleague André NEL, palaeoentomologist at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris. And, as an escape to a far different world, that of tardigrades, he produced in 2003 volume # 87 (293 pp.) of the Faune de France dedicated to that group.

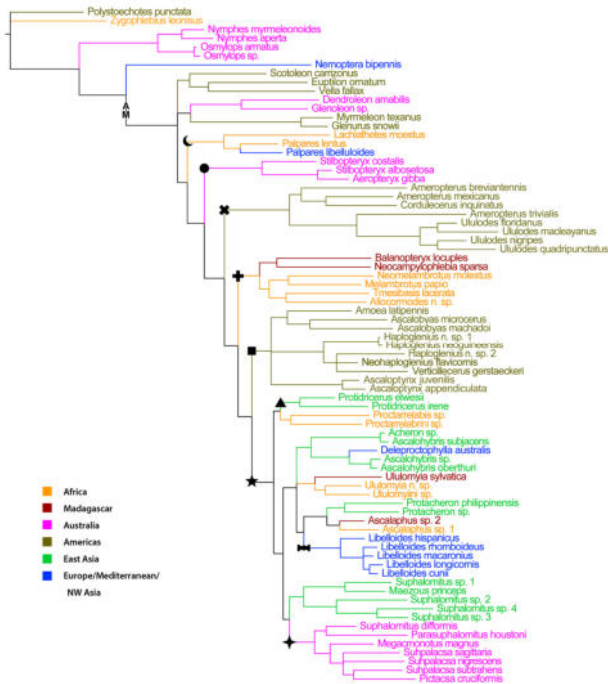
Yves Séméria has left his collection of Neuroptera to the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Nice.

Neuropterists' speaker corner

From Joshua Jones

Supporting Information for the paper “Total-evidence phylogeny of the owlflies (Neuroptera, Ascalaphidae) supports a new higher-level classification” is now available as a single PDF document.

If you would like a copy, please email me at doc.jonesresearch@gmail.com.



Previously available only as a loose assemblage of files in various formats (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/zsc.12382>), I have now concatenated the Supplemental Material into a single, convenient PDF document. At 42 pages, it includes:

- an expanded literature review, with an extensive history and diagrams of preceding phylogenetic hypotheses for the Myrmeleontiformia, Myrmeleontoidea and Ascalaphidae;
- a full, tabulated record of material examined and sequenced, with original collection data;
- the morphological characters list and data matrix used in the phylogenetic analyses;
- an elaboration on analytical methods employed, with references tables;
- half a dozen phylogenies illustrating results for the morphology-only, DNA-sequence-only, and total-evidence analyses using parsimony, likelihood, and Bayesian techniques, color-coded and clade-annotated to illustrate highly conserved clades, contrast them with traditional groupings, and reveal highly informative geographic distributions;
- a discussion and proposed resolution of the puzzling phylogenetic position of Nemopteridae within the Myrmeleontiformia;

- a proposal of a revised classification for the Myrmeleontoidea;
- a proposed new classification for the Ascalaphidae;
- a discussion of the placement of *Sodirus Navás*;
- and, a comprehensive genus list for each of the proposed subfamilies of Ascalaphidae.

All is as provided in the original publication, with only very slight modifications in formatting to accommodate inclusion in the final file.

Nouvelles frontières

Muhammad Asghar Hassan

Ph.D. Scholar

China Agricultural University, Beijing, China

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It is certainly a proud moment for me to introduce myself to the Neuropterologists of the world. I am a Ph.D. Scholar working on the project, “Neuropterida (Insecta: Megaloptera, Raphidioptera, Neuroptera) fauna of Pakistan” under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Xingyue Liu at China Agricultural University, Beijing, China. My interest lies broadly in the field of taxonomy, as during the last six years, as part of my

bachelor's and master's degrees, I worked on taxonomy of several families in order Diptera (Insecta) i.e., Syrphidae, Calliphoridae, Stratiomyidae, Sepsidae and Conopidae from Pakistan.

As Pakistan encompasses a wide range of habitats shaped by extremes in topography and precipitation, and the country should contain a rich diversity of neuropteridan species. The Neuropterida fauna of Pakistan is in a preliminary stage of development, and the country remains both generally under-sampled and very unevenly sampled. So far as the adults are concerned, many works have been dealt with by many European and American entomologists on restricted parts of the fauna. A smaller amount of work has been published in recent decades by authors from Pakistan and its adjacent countries. More than two decades after the work of Dr. Muhammad Iqbal and Dr. Muhammad Yousuf during 1990-1997 on family Myrmeleontidae is compiled by Dr. Saleem Akhtar in 2018. Following the old literature and recent works of Oswald and Yang et al., we have updated the Neuropteridae fauna of Pakistan.

Based on our extensive field survey during 2019 from the Northern areas of Pakistan, we found a new records of genus *Protohermes* van der Weele (Megaloptera: Corydalidae) with re-description of *Protohermes motuoensis* Liu & Yang, 2006 and *Protohermes walkeri* Navás, 1929 from Pakistan with some poorly known species in family Myrmeleontidae (in progress) described by Walker in 1853. We hope our review on Pakistani Neuropterida fauna will encourage the new researchers from Pakistan. Based on our previous work and recent field survey, we are constantly updating to fill the significant gaps that currently exist in our knowledge of this interesting fauna from Pakistan.

I would like to thanks Dr. John D. Oswald, for his encouragement and support to update the LDL Faunas NidaPK database and my supervisor, Dr. Xingyue Liu for his special interest in this project and many helpful discussions.

Researches, social and scientific meetings

From Jan Podlesnik and Dušan Devetak

Studying vibrational communication in antlions: Paris and Maribor connection

At the end of April and beginning of May 2019, one of us (JP) spent one week in Paris visiting Vincent Lorent and his PhD student Vanessa Martinez at the Université Sorbonne Paris Nord. This is a connection, which was started by Dušan Devetak in recent years. The aim of the visit was to start a common project

with Prof. Vincent Lorent and his team from the Laser Physics Laboratory.



The board with attached piezo-transducers (under side) was used to transmit signals to the sand surface.

Together with our experimental group from the Laboratory of Animal Physiology and Ethology from the Department of Biology, FNM, University of Maribor, we launched a research in the field of vibrational communication in antlion larvae (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae). Our aim was to focus on localization of prey by the predator (antlion larvae). Evidence exist that antlions detect their prey through sand-borne vibrations produced by prey animal locomotion. Antlion larvae can even detect the direction of the source of vibration. We can observe this as sand tossing behavior in the direction of the prey even when prey animal walks outside the antlion pit.



Vincent Lorent (left) and Jan Podlesnik (right) in the middle of discussion in the Maribor laboratory.

The visit to Paris was not only time to work, but also to make new professional connections and even establish new friendships. Vincent Lorent and his wife Thérèse warmly welcomed me and I spend two

nights and enjoyed few pleasant meals being their guest. This was the time to exchange the ideas about our experimental topic. In next days, we moved to the Laser Physics Laboratory at the Institute Galilée in Villetaneuse. I was acquainted with an innovative and inexpensive approach in studying of vibrational communication.



Jan Podlesnik (left), Vincent Lorent (middle) and Dušan Devetak with ice-cream during a break time in Maribor.

The aim of our study was to distinguish different quantities of the signal and to determine, which of them are involved in the localization process. Whether is it a time delay of the pulse arrival or the time delay associated with carrier wave front propagation. In the experiment, we used *Euroleon nostras* as an experimental animal.

During my stay in Paris, I also found time to visit a few of many attractions that this magnificent metropole is offering. Especially in the field of visual arts, the options are countless: Louvre Museum, Musée d'Orsay, Musée de l'Orangerie. Of course, I visited attractions like Eiffel Tower, Arc



Social dinnertime at Three ponds restaurant in Maribor Park. From left to right: Vincent Lorent, Petra Devetak, Maxime Gambara, and Jan Podlesnik. All photos D. Devetak.

de Triomphe and recently burned Notre Dame Cathedral.

Later this year, in June 2019, Vincent Lorent visited our lab in Maribor. Together with Dušan Devetak we continued to work in the field of localization of prey signal by antlions. We expanded our research with additional species, *Myrmeleon hyalinus*, obtained from Cyprus by Dušan Devetak.

Beside work we found time to socialize at different occasions, whether a nice dinner at Three ponds restaurant in Maribor Park or a pleasant walk in forests of Pohorje.

Our experiment is still in progress and will be continued in this year when antlions are ready to collaborate again.

From Hakan Bozdoğan and Joshua Jones

Dondurma, Turkish tea, and Ascalaphidae: Field expedition to Turkey, July 2018



a. Late afternoon in Karamanmaraş City. b. Abdülhamid Han Mosque, high above Karamanmaraş City. c, d. Whole and ground peppers in the Karamanmaraş bazaar. e. Turkish tea. f. World-famous dondurma (goat milk ice cream) of Karamanmaraş. g. Collecting in Türkoğlu District, south of Karamanmaraş City. h. Hakan poised for antlion larval extraction in Andırın District, Kahramanmaraş Province. i. Hakan sifts through sand from an antlion pit. j. Male and female of *Bubopsis andromache*, collected near the Kılavuzlu Dam and historical Ceyhan (Göksu) Bridge in northwestern Kahramanmaraş City. k. Taking a break from collecting in the afternoon heat near Peynirdere Village, Kahramanmaraş Province. Photos by J. Jones

Following the XIII International Symposium of Neuropterology in Laufen, Germany, we (Hakan

Bozdoğan and Joshua Jones) met in Turkey to collaborate on research and perform fieldwork together. For the fieldwork, we collected primarily in the areas around Kahramanmaraş City in Kahramanmaraş Province, visiting several habitats and observing many species belonging to the Neuroptera. We agreed that it was a valuable experience and opportunity to begin cooperative scientific activity for the next several years, as well as to share different perspectives from our own cultural and research backgrounds, and thereby enlarge and enhance our respective worldviews and scientific paradigms. Being a host was a great honor. In the survey areas we observed many families of lacewings, including larvae and adults of antlions and owlflies. We discussed the similarities and differences between the unique habitats and neuropteran faunas of the zoogeographic areas represented by the U.S. and Turkey. We agreed that there are many things to do in Turkey in terms of researching the ecological, behavioural, and taxonomic aspects of lacewings. Specimens collected are currently retained in the Bozdoğan Lab at Kırşehir Ahi Evran University.

From Horst Aspöck & Ulrike Aspöck

Neuropterologists in the tropical rainforest of Panguana (Peru)



Panguana can only be reached by boat from Yuyapichis, a village at the Río Yuyapichis. The water level varies considerably, and sometimes transport of people and luggage may be risky. 19 Sept. 2019.

In the second half of September and in the first decade of October 2019 a group of German and Austrian biologists spent almost three weeks in the tropical rainforest Area de Conservación Privada (ACP) Panguana (9.63° S/ 74.93° W, 260 m asl.), Provinz Puerto Inca, Region Huanuco, Peru. The group consisted mainly of arachnologists and entomologists, and among these there were three neuropterologists: Axel Gruppe (Chair of Zoology – Entomology, Technical University of Munich, Freising, Germany) and the two Aspöcks.

The following photographs (all photo archive H. & U. Aspöck) may give an impression of our neuropterological activities in this amazing rainforest. The time on the photographs is Central European time, the difference of time in Peru seven hours behind.



Horst and Ulrike Aspöck on the way to Panguana, Río Yuyapichis. 19 Sept. 2019.



Beautiful moths and beetles at the light traps. 19 Sept. 2019.



Corydalidae were the most frequent Neuroptera at the light traps. Here a female specimen sitting on a tree trunk. 20 Sept. 2019.



Surgery in the research station: Removal of a jigger (*Tunga penetrans*). From left to right: Joachim Schliesske, Ulrike Aspöck, Armin Niessner (the patient), Carlos Vásquez Módena, called "Moro" (the successful surgeon). 21 Sept. 2019.



Mantispidae and Chrysopidae to be studied. 22 Sept. 2019.



Ulrike Aspöck collecting Coniopterygidae and Symphrasinae in the forest. 24 Sept. 2019.



Erich and Juliane Diller (Zoologische Staatssammlung, Munich). Panguana was founded by Juliane's parents, the German biologists Hans-Wilhelm and Maria Koepcke in 1968. 22 Sept. 2019.



A corydalid male. 25 Sept. 2019.



Another corydalid male. 25 Sept. 2019.



The tropical rainforest of Panguana harbors many snakes, harmless species as well as extremely dangerous ones. Michael Gebhardt (Technical University Munich, Freising) is not only an entomologist, but also a herpetologist, thus he knows exactly which snakes may be taken by hand. Here a species of *Imantodes* (Colubridae: Dipsidina). 27 Sept. 2019.



Light trapping in an area outside the forest. Myrmeleontidae, a few Ascalaphidae, and Coridalidae came to the light trap. 29 Sept. 2019.



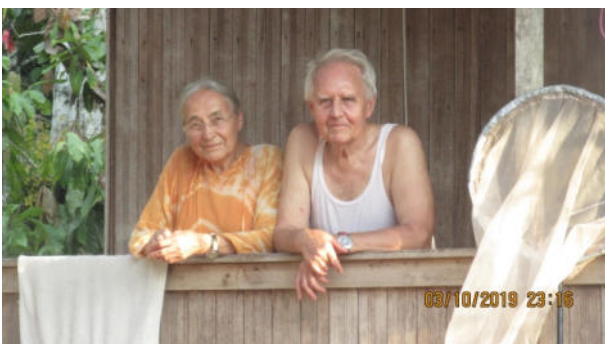
Collecting in the area outside the station used for agriculture. F.l.t.r.: Rolf Mörtner (lepidopterologist, Museum Karlsruhe), Horst Aspöck, Axel Gruppe. 29 Sept. 2019.



Mantispidae and Chrysopidae. 2 Oct. 2019.



Two young tapirs, male and female. Their mothers had been killed, the tapir children were rescued and are still living in the station until they can be released. 2 Oct. 2019.



The two old neuropterologists, grateful for having the opportunity to search and study lacewings in this remote spot with its magnificent flora and fauna. 3 Oct. 2019.

From David E. Bowles and Atilano Contreras-Ramos

Symposium on Recent Advances in the Study of Neuropterida

Several Neuropterists attended the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America held in St. Louis Missouri, November 17-20, 2019.



Participants in the symposium. Left to right, Rodolfo Cancino-López, Simarjit Kaur, John Oswald, David Bowles, Kady Tauber, Atilano Contreras-Ramos, and Samuel Howard. Not pictured: Mei-Chun Lu and Jordan Minninger. Photo by David Furth.

A symposium was convened titled 'Recent Advances in the Study of Neuropterida' organized and moderated by David E. Bowles and Atilano Contreras-Ramos. The symposium was started by displaying a photo of our late colleague, Dr. Oliver S. Flint, Jr., followed by a moment of silence in his honor. Following introductory remarks, several presentations were given:

- **Biodiversity of the Neuropterida: A global overview.** John Oswald (j-oswald@tamu.edu), Texas A&M Univ., College Station, TX
- **The tricondylic bar: A possible morphological synapomorphy of the Neuropterida (Insecta).** Samuel Howard (howardsamuel@tamu.edu), Texas A&M Univ., College Station, TX
- **Progress in New World Chrysopid (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae) taxonomy.** Catherine Tauber (cat6@cornell.edu), Cornell Univ., Davis, CA
- **Towards a taxonomic revision of Ascalaphinae (Myrmeleontidae) from Mexico.** Yesenia Marquez-López (yeseniamarquez23@gmail.com)¹ and Atilano Contreras-Ramos, Univ. Autónoma Metropolitana, Ciudad de México, DF, Mexico, 2Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México, Ciudad de México, DF, Mexico
- **Neuroptera from Tacaná volcano, Chiapas, Mexico.** Rodolfo Cancino-López (cancinorodolfoj@gmail.com), Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México, Ciudad de México, DF, Mexico
- **Knowledge on immature stages of Neotropical Megaloptera, with the second discovered larva of *Platyneuromus* (Corydalinae).** Atilano Contreras-Ramos (acontreras@ib.unam.mx), Fernando Acevedo and Adrian Ardila-Camacho, Univ. Nacional Autónoma de México, Ciudad de México, DF, Mexico

In addition to the oral presentations, two posters were presented as part of the symposium:

- **The Megaloptera of Iowa.** David E. Bowles (david_bowles@nps.gov) and Gregory Courtney, US National Park Service, Republic, MO, 2Iowa State Univ., Ames, IA

- **Assessment of prey capacity of lacewing (*Mallada basalis* (Walker)) (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae) on three different pests.** Mei-Chun Lu (lumj@mdais.gov.tw), Han-Yan Ding, Nian-Jhen Li and Po-Yu Lai, Miaoli District Agricultural Research and Extension Station, Miaoli, Taiwan

In addition to the symposium, another poster was given in the general poster session.

- **A review on subfamily Mantispinae Enderlein, 1910 (Insecta: Neuroptera) from India.** Simarjit Kaur (simarjit485@gmail.com), Manpreet Singh Pandher, K. Rajmohana and Kailash Chandra, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, India

One additional oral presentation was given in the undergraduate student competition: **Structural and functional characterization of antlion (*Myrmeleontidae: Neuroptera*) mouthparts and their feeding mechanism.** Jordan Minninger (jminnin1@kent.edu), Asheesh Lanba and Matthew Lehnert, Kent State Univ., North Canton, OH, L4iS, University Park, PA

A group dinner was attended by most participants on the evening prior to the symposium.

Another symposium is being planned for the ESA meeting next year in Orlando Florida. Anyone interesting in participating should contact Atilano Contreras-Ramos.

From Horst Aspöck & Ulrike Aspöck

Symposium of the Austrian Entomological Society “Discrepancies between phylogenomic and morphology-based trees” in the Natural History Museum (NHM) Vienna, 23 November 2019.

Phylogenetic trees of the following arthropod groups were discussed (in brackets: authors).

Myriapoda: Chilopoda: Lithobius (N. Accari); Insects (G. Pass, N. Szucsich); Phasmatodea (S. Bradler); Neuropterida (U. Aspöck, S. Randolph, D. Zimmermann, H. Aspöck).

The latest volume of *Entomologica Austriaca* (27: 2020) contains articles related to the presentations of G. Pass & N. Szucsich and of U. Aspöck et al.; these articles can be downloaded via Zobodat. The publication on Neuropterida is listed in the chapter “Recent literature on the Neuropterida (2019–2020)” in this issue of *Lacewing News*.

Here are a few photographs (all from photo archive H. & U. Aspöck) from this very stimulating symposium with intensive substantial discussions.



Three prominent Austrian zoologists and entomologists. F.l.t.r.: Hannes Paulus, Günther Pass, Harald Krenn. 23 Nov. 2019.



Austrian entomologists (f.l.t.r.): Herbert Zettel (NHM Wien), Günther Pass (Univ. Vienna), Wolfgang Paill (Joanneum Graz), Wolfgang Rabitsch (presently President of the Austrian Entomological Society). 23 Nov. 2019.



Sven Bradler (Univ. Göttingen, Germany) and Dominique Zimmermann. NHM Wien. 23 Nov. 2019.



Sven Bradler (left) and Horst Aspöck. 23 Nov. 2019.

From Odile Frank

**The short tale of a remarkable odyssey of ant-
lions and their rendez-vous with history**

In late September 2013, we travelled to Sofia, Bulgaria in connection with a conference on European trends in healthcare. It gave André Prost the perfect opportunity to drop in on Associate Professor Alexi Popov, a zoologist who specialized in entomology and is a renowned neuropterologist at the National Museum of Natural History in Sofia (the NMNHS; see <http://www.nmnhs.com/> and <http://www.nmnhs.com/popov-alexi-en.html>). Alexi is also a colleague of André's in the International Association of Neuropterologists, and André looked forward to paying Alexi a visit and seeing what his collection held.

In the course of that visit, Alexi told André that he happened to have a large unexploited collection of neuroptera that had been brought back from Northern Nigeria nearly 40 years earlier and that had rested all that time in unopened tubes of alcohol.

The specimens had been collected by another Associate Professor of the Museum, Dr Petar Beron, who was also a zoologist with broad interests in terrestrial arthropods, cave and high mountain fauna (<http://www.nmnhs.com/beron-petar-en.html>). Petar authored numerous monographs on high altitude non-insect arthropods of the Old World as well an Acarorum Catalogus (5 volumes, 2008–2015), a Checklist of Acari in Bulgaria, on Cave fauna of Bulgaria, Cave fauna of Greece, and a Zoogeography of Arachnida, among other publications.



Petar Beron was a very active collector who visited more than 90 countries and enriched the collections of the Museum in Sofia with a huge number of invertebrates and vertebrates. Among them, there are many new insect taxa, 97 of which were named after him, including 7 genera, and 69 of which Popov described in a 2000 publication. Petar eventually served as the Director of the National Museum of Natural History in Sofia from 1993 to 2005. Over and above his intense professional life, Petar became an active member of the Bulgarian political scene after the end of communism, as Chairman of the first and largest opposition party in 1990, and Member and then Deputy Chairman of the Parliament, in 1990–1991 and from 2005 to 2009 respectively.



Although Petar was now specializing in fauna closer to home, when he had travelled extensively earlier, he had served as Assistant Conservator of Forests and Manager of Game Reserves based in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria, between May 1976 and April 1979. In the course of his mandate, specifically between 3 July 1976 and 9 December 1978, Petar had collected 289 specimens, mainly on the basis of light trapping, which he preserved in pure alcohol, stored in individual laboratory tubes soon after collection with temporary labels, and then sent periodically in shipments by mail to the NMNHS. Once in Sofia, the temporary labels were replaced with permanent India ink labels, and the lots of 15 to

20 tubes stoppered with cotton plugs were placed in glass jars that Alexi filled with alcohol. These jars had remained so far untouched from 1978 to 2013. During his visit of the NMNHS Museum in 2013, Alexi asked André to have a cursory look at the specimens and they decided then and there that the specimens deserved a more thorough study. Knowing that André was a keen amateur neuropterologist and a colleague of the International Association of Neuropterologists with a solid reputation for his scientific work, Alexi asked him if he would be willing to prepare Petar's specimens, identify them and return them to the NMNHS? André readily agreed and they decided to co-author a publication on Petar's Nigerian specimens. André was pleased that they would entrust him with the specimens and agreed to receive, prepare and identify them. But he could not leave with them at that time...there was a need to get authorizations and make sure all was in order for exporting the specimens.



When he was ready to send the specimens out in 2016, however, Alexi discovered that getting them to France, where André lived, was not an easy matter. Fearful that the postal system could damage the numerous tubes, Alexi Popov had first approached a private international carrier. He soon discovered that there were problems using the specialized delivery service. As he had to describe the contents, the downtown office insisted that the package could only be sent from the airport office because they deemed that it contained biohazardous material. When he found a moment on the Saturday to go out to the airport, the office there told him that the person in the office responsible for biohazardous material was not available that day and the airport office was closed on Sunday. On the Monday, going back to the Central Office, Alexi was then told that the biological material could go, but the alcohol the specimens rested in was not allowed on airplanes, because it was an inflammable substance. Alexi then had to find a means to send the specimens by land and not by air. After searching around, he

came to the conclusion that ordinary regular mail was the best bet, and in late May 2016, Alexi decided to simply put the specimens tightly packed in a plastic box into the postal system as such, sure that they would be as safe as with a courier and that the alcohol in fact presented no particular danger. Bulgaria and France both being within the European Union, no customs declaration was necessary, and no customs inspection would occur. The package arrived with all its contents safe and sound at André's home in the Jura mountains. André was able eventually to remove all the specimens from the alcohol where they had lain dormant for 40 years, with few exceptions. André proceeded to process and identify each specimen over the period 2017-2018. The findings were remarkable and have been written up in a paper that André and Alexi have submitted for publication. In all, André identified 5 species of Ascalaphidae and 29 species of Myrmeleontidae, all principally collected in Plateau State, Nigeria, making it the most important and most coherent sample for this region. Several species are new. The findings also underlined the importance of Petar Beron's work as a collector, and his significant contribution to knowledge of the region's fauna that had been largely unexplored and which is impossible to visit for security reasons since some time. He had found specimens for fully one half of the total number of species recorded, and of the 29 species of Myrmeleontidae he collected, 13 species were new to Nigeria and 5 species previously recorded for Nigeria were found for the first time in the Northern part of the country.

Furthermore, three of the species found are totally new to science. Among them was the exceptional finding of two specimens of a species of the genus *Bankisus*; not only was this genus not known outside South Africa, but the species itself has never been seen before anywhere.



Once the work was done, however, these specimens, now transformed into a precious collection laid out systematically in display cases, needed to make the return journey home to Sofia and find its place in the

NMNHS, for the benefit and enjoyment of entomologists everywhere and the Museum's visitors. There was no question that the mail would not do this time, whether by courier, special or express service, or any form of regular mail. The specimens were too precious and delicate, and the display cases too fragile.

Then the 13th International Symposium of Neuropterology that was to be held from 17 to 21 June 2018 in Laufen, Germany by the International Association of Neuropterologists provided the perfect opportunity to travel at least as far as easternmost Germany by car, and André decided we would push on through Austria and Hungary to Romania, where Alexi Popov agreed to meet with us in early July 2018 for the momentous restitution of the specimen cases. We packed the cases carefully in the trunk of the car, with bulk support below, to the side and on top of the cases. We worried about potholes, and accidents, and theft. When in Laufen, I took a day trip to western Bavaria, and the cases accompanied me across Germany and back, jammed in their safe space in the trunk of the car.

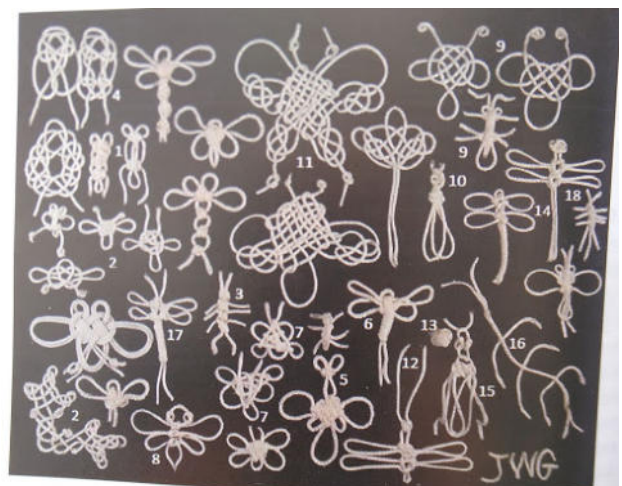
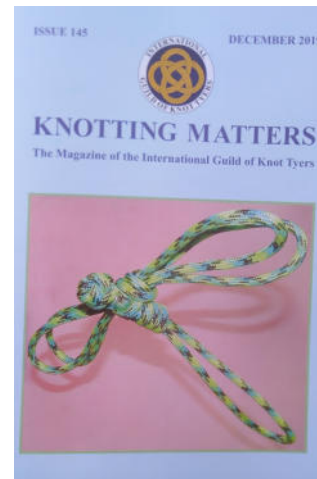
Alexi was accompanied by his daughter and son-in-law and we all met up in a small village in Transylvania, called Fântânele Gyulkuta, in a lovely little auberge called Casa Agnes. Alexi and his family's trip was almost as eventful as ours, because there are few points at which one can cross the Danube from Bulgaria into Romania and both road- and bridge-works greatly lengthened their journey. It was a lovely reunion and we photographed the handover of the display cases for posterity. We helped Alexi and his family to place the boxes in the trunk of their car, ensuring that they were properly wedged and not able to shake around on the long road back to Sofia. Restituting the display cases to Alexi was the end point and ultimate objective of our trip, and the historic moment of the handover was quite emotional.



Our return journey, relieved of the precious cargo, was extraordinarily beautiful and memorable. We travelled along the Danube, through the Iron Gates,

crossing from Romania into Serbia and crossed Serbia into Croatia, then through Slovenia, where the International Association of Neuropterologists had held an earlier Symposium in Piran many years before, and across Northern Italy back into France. And so these many Myrmeleonidae and Ascalaphidae finished their remarkable odyssey, akin to Ulysses' long journey home, from Northern Nigeria where they were born in 1976-1978 to Sofia, to France in 2016, and then back across Switzerland and Germany, back and forth across Germany, across Austria, across Hungary and across Romania in 2018, finally reaching Sofia again, where they rest in the National Museum of Natural History for the enlightenment and enjoyment of all, and as a tribute to the outstanding contribution of Bulgaria's Petar Beron to modern zoology and entomology.

Neuropterological jokes



Who will be the quickest neuropterologist to recognize Neuroptera among the insect knots above?

Recent Literature on the Neuropterida (2019-2020)

Organized by Agostino Letardi

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Picture of the semester



Dilaridae in amber

<https://www.pinterest.nz/pin/525654587743105481/>

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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