

- 4 -

## NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

The first 'Melbourne International Meeting of Trichopterists' was held at the Department of Entomology, National Museum of Victoria on November 9, 1981. Convened by Dr. Arturs Neboiss, the meeting was designed to coincide with the stay of Dr. John Morse (Clemson University) who was working at the Museum for several months as Honorary Research Fellow and the passage through Melbourne of Alice Wells (University of Adelaide). Although arranged only at short notice, all those contacted were able to attend for a day of informal discussion on the Trichoptera.

Participants were welcomed by Dr. Brian Smith, Senior Curator (Zoology), National Museum of Victoria, and Dr. Arturs Neboiss then introduced each participant to the meeting. Dr. John Morse outlined his work on the systematics and phylogeny of the Triplectidinae, a project complemented by Ros St. Clair's recently-started work on the larvae of this group. Australia has about 80% of known species of this subfamily. Problems of larval taxonomy, specifically those experienced in trying to construct generic keys, were discussed by John Deane and David Cartwright (MMBW, Melbourne). Alice Wells outlined her interest in the early stages of the Hydroptilidae, and Arturs Neboiss summarised several recent projects, including a review of the S.W. Australian fauna and ongoing generic revisions (Triaenodes, Hydrobiosella, Diplectrona). Aspects of survey work to monitor the effects of forestry, activities on aquatic fauna in some Tasmanian streams, were discussed by Frances Michaelis (Launceston). Peter Brooks (NMV, Survey Department) emphasised the use of the 'voucher system' adopted at NMV. Dr. Tim New (specializing in Psocoptera and Neuroptera) queried problems of techniques and terminology.

Wide-ranging discussion followed these presentations. This included aspects of rearing methods, compatibility of character suites used by different workers, use of immature stages in phylogenetic studies, role of viviparity in caddis, and what the priorities for future work should be. The general sense of frustration at the amount of work to do (perhaps, universal amongst Australian insect taxonomists !) was somewhat alleviated by the evidence of steady progress on our fauna. The need for a checklist and bibliography was stressed by several workers.

The meeting broke up in the late afternoon, after examination of several exhibits of recent taxonomic projects under way at the Museum.

Tim New

(Honorary Trichopterist for the Day !)

We have received news from Dr. Don Cowley, Department of Zoology, University of Auckland, New Zealand of his intention to spend about 8 months (January to August 1983) in Australia and study some Trichoptera larvae. The second visitor expected to appear in Australia early in 1983 is Dr. Stamford D. Smith from USA.

Arturs Neboiss

# ZOBODAT - [www.zobodat.at](http://www.zobodat.at)

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Trichoptera Newsletter](#)

Jahr/Year: 1982

Band/Volume: [09](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): New Tim

Artikel/Article: [News from Australia 4](#)