

NEWS FROM THE USSR

In June 1982 there took place in Irkutsk the public defense of the thesis by Miss N.ROZHKOVA on the Trichoptera of the running waters of the Baikal region. The paper has yet to be published.

On August 22 - 24, 1983, in Riga (and probably also in the nearby town of Salaspils) the first trichopterological symposium of the USSR will be held under the presidency of Z.SPURIS. The state of faunistic research in the USSR will be the main topic. Two days are reserved for lectures and discussions, and the third day will be devoted to excursions to typical biotopes in the surroundings of Riga.

In this connection, discussions are taking place on the possibility of compiling a book on the present state of faunistic research on Trichoptera in the Soviet Union.

(Information by Z.SPURIS)

SECOND AUSTRALIAN TRICHOPTERA CONFERENCE

The second Australian Trichoptera Conference was held at Mt. Buffalo in northern Victoria on the weekend of 4-5 December 1982. The meeting gave an opportunity for Trichoptera workers to socialise, discuss their work, and collect material from an interesting region of Victoria. It was generally agreed that the weekend was both enjoyable and of considerable value for disseminating information on local Trichoptera studies. A third conference is planned for early December 1983, to be held in the Grampians in western Victoria.

As well as a general discussion on the Trichoptera of Australian forest streams and a workshop session on data recording systems for Trichoptera, the following papers were presented at the conference.

COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT STATE OF TAXONOMIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRICHOPTERA OF AUSTRALIA. Arturs NEBOISS.

The history of species descriptions of Australian Trichoptera was outlined, and the state of taxonomic knowledge for various regions of Australia discussed. An assessment was made of the number of undescribed species in eastern Australia, and details presented of species held in museum collections awaiting description.

FUNCTIONAL ROLES - ARE THEY USEFUL ? Leon BARMUTA.

The classification of river invertebrates into functional group categories was outlined, and the value of this approach in river community analysis was discussed.

STUDIES ON THE TRICHOPTERA OF THE O'SHANNASSY RIVER, VICTORIA. John DEAN.

Details were presented of a 21 month study of the Trichoptera of the O'Shannassy River. Information was presented on species diversity, community composition, and life cycles of the more common species.

INSECTS OF FOREST STREAMS IN TASMANIA AND NEW ZEALAND. Frances MICHAELIS.

General characteristics and insect faunas of forest streams studied in New Zealand and Tasmania were detailed.

STUDIES ON AUSTRALIAN PHILOPOTAMIDAE. David CARTWRIGHT. The taxonomy of Australian Philopotamid larvae was discussed, and the value of the mandible for species identification was assessed. Details were presented of ecology, distribution and life histories of several Victorian species.

ANTENNAL FEATURES OF THE HYDROPTILIDAE. Alice WELLS.

Adult antennal sensilla of Australian genera of Hydroptilidae were described, and used to derive a phylogeny for the group.

STUDIES OF NOTALINA LARVAE OF VICTORIA. Ros ST.CLAIR.

Details of studies on the taxonomy of larvae of the Leptocerid genus Notalina were presented, and difficulties encountered tying this in with adult taxonomy were discussed.

Arturs NEBOISS

BOOK REVIEW

AQUATIC ENTOMOLOGY. The fishermen's and ecologists' illustrated guide to insects and their relatives. By Patrick McCAFFERTY, with illustrations by Arwin V. PROVONSHA. Science Books International, Boston, Mass., 1981. 448 pages, Price \$ 50.00 hardbound.

As the sub-title says, the book is mainly destined for the use of fly-fishermen, and so, 'technical jargon and multisyllabic scientific terms are used sparingly and avoided whenever possible'. The reader whose mother language is not English will therefore find useful the collection of common English (or rather American) names for the animals (I hope these names are generally accepted ones and not individual creations !). The introductory chapters give a good survey of aquatic animals and biotopes which is understandable to a non-scientist. There is an introduction to methods of identification, collecting and preserving, with details of simple devices and instruments. The systematic groups are presented by characteristic representatives in all stages. For the insects, pictorial keys lead to the families. Despite the title, there are also chapters on other aquatic animals, and about insects which live not actually in water but nearby on the shore, on plants, etc. Each chapter includes particular information for fly-fishermen and hints for those who want to know more, with a reference list. There are many illustrations of surprisingly good quality for a book of this kind. Some of the drawings are so instructive that I can imagine that other authors will use them for their own books. There are also 16 color plates of insects and their developing stages. These color pictures look good and are correct, but they are somewhat idealized, and the colors give an impression which is not always natural.

The book is dedicated to the memory of Herbert H. ROSS. It is well-bound and on good strong paper. It is a good book for non-scientists with a general interest in biology, and for fishermen. It is also useful for University students and for advanced scientists who may use it as a source of references. Despite the fact that the groups presented are not always the same in other continents, it should be useful outside North America.

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