
CURRENT RESEARCH ON PLECOPTERA

This section is intended to keep society members current on research in progress by other members, workers and students. Please use Editor Stewart's e-mail address (inside front cover) or conventional mail to submit a brief, informative description of your current work, for the next PERLA (21).

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**Dr. Richard W. Baumann** is continuing work on several projects, including

1. Revision of the genus *Lednia* with Boris Kondratieff.
  2. Revision of the genus *Malenka* with Boris Kondratieff.
  3. Studies of *Prostoia* and *Paracapnia* with Bill Stark.
  4. Stoneflies of New Mexico with Gerald Jacobi.
  5. Research on Euholognathan genera of western North America.
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**Stanley W. Szczytko** is near completion of a revision of the genus *Isoperla* of eastern North America, and he and Ken Stewart are continuing a project with the goal of rearing and describing the nymphs of all western North America *Isoperla* species. Stan is also evaluating the water quality of Wisconsin streams, using macroinvertebrates as a bioassessment tool.

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Ian McLellan of Westport New Zealand is continuing with his revisions of the New Zealand gripopterygid genera *Nesoperla*, *Megaleptoperla* and *Vesicaperla*. The joint project with Peter Zwick on South American Gripopterygidae is almost complete.

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**Kevin Alexander, Western State College of Colorado**, is currently researching the stoneflies of the Gunnison River watershed in Colorado, U.S.A. In doing so, he is revisiting the sites Al Knight studied in his 1965 dissertation entitled "Studies on the stoneflies (Plecoptera) of the Gunnison River Drainage in Colorado." In the four decades since Knight's field research was completed, much has changed in the basin including the

construction of three large dams, a major change in demographics and a shift in the predominant economic base from ranching and mining to tourism. Kevin is investigating the effects of these changes on the diversity, abundance and distribution on the stonefly fauna. Kevin is also engaging undergraduate students in research on native fishes, unique aquatic habitats and invertebrates in the Gunnison River basin.

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**B.C. Kondratieff** laboratory, several species of *Perlesta* are being described with R. F. Kirchner from Southeastern Virginia. With R. W. Baumann, a review of the stoneflies of Colorado with the description of a new species of *Capnia* will be completed. (Also see R. W. Baumann).

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**Bill Stark** is working on *Anacroneuria* of Mexico with Boris Kondratieff, and an SEM study of *Allocapnia* nymphs. He continues to supervise student research projects on stoneflies.

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#### **Ken Stewart's** research lab--

Doctoral student John Sandberg continues his study of the systematics, behavior and ecology of the stonefly genera, *Isogenoides*. Fieldwork has been completed leaving laboratory analyses of drumming, systematic character SEM work and illustration to be completed. Ongoing laboratory egg incubation experiments continue with the recent acquisition of both fertilized and unfertilized egg masses from *Isogenoides doratus* from IA, (USA).

Other projects:

1. Ken and Stan Szczytko plan a collection trip to Oregon in May, 2002, to rear further material of an undescribed *Isoperla* species, and to attempt to collect the last western species, *I. gravitans*, whose nymph has not been described.

2. Bill Stark and Ken have initiated a long-term study to rear and describe unknown nymphs of *Sweltsa* species. Several species have been reared as result of their study over the years, leading to the book "Nymphs of North American Stonefly Genera"; the 2nd edition of this book is expected to be published by Caddis Press in 2002.

3. Ken and Mark Oswood are about half finished with a manuscript for the book "Stoneflies of Alaska and Northwestern Canada"; the project is supported by the National Science Foundation.

4. Studies of drumming and mate-searching behavior of several stonefly species are continuing with John Sandberg.

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