



# Metaleptea

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## *Come to Montpellier* 19-22 August 2001

### **Eighth International Meeting of the Orthopterists Society**

The exciting website for this meeting is now open, thanks to CIRAD computer officer Pierre-Emmanuel Gay (with help from Piotr Naskrecki, OS Electronic Information Officer), so click on <http://os2001.cirad.fr/> and browse through the information on the Meeting, Montpellier, and Carcassonne. For more information, see page 4.

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Closing date for receipt of manuscripts submitted to be considered for Volume 10 (1) is January 31, 2001. For more information see page 2.

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## *An message from the editor of the Journal of Orthoptera Research*

*Glenn Morris*

I am enjoying serving as the society's journal editor, though the output of the first number involved a very steep and rather potato-holed learning curve. I am left greatly impressed with the capacities of our previous editors.

We are planning to move to two issues a year beginning in 2001, thus becoming truly a biennial. (Though our back-front cover proclaims issue 'once or twice a year', it has never really been so.) There will be no problem in having sufficient material submitted to make up two issues a year, but there are obvious cost implications. The subscription price for JOR cannot remain at its present level if we are doubling our output. So there will need to be more support from authors via page charges. Any increase in costs to authors and members may however be minimized if we can increase subscriptions to the journal by institutions.

In this connection we will be glad of any members who are able to encourage subscriptions to JOR by their institutional library. I discovered recently that the library at my own university has a policy of stocking journals edited by their faculty and was only too happy to add JOR.

The current issue, which will reach members shortly, is technically 'Number 9': it says so on the cover. And so JOR has arrived in nine 'Numbers' to date: one a year. Everyone treats these nine numbers as 'volumes' in citations of JOR papers. So they are 'functional Volumes'

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*"Any increase in costs to authors and members may however be minimized if we can increase subscriptions to the journal by institutions."*

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even if we have been calling them 'Numbers'. As we start producing two issues a year, if we continue our present designation practice, we

will in effect have moved to two volumes per year. But deviating from one volume per year creates cataloging problems for librarians. So it is best if we keep labeling both consistently with our functional volumes and still on a one-year one-volume basis. On this line of argument the next issue of JOR, our tenth, will be referred to overtly on the cover as Volume 10, Number 1. The second issue of the same year, 2001, will be Volume 10, Number 2. All previous numbers (1-9) may continue to be treated as volumes.

Closing date for receipt of manuscripts submitted to be considered for Volume 10 (1) is January 31, 2001. Closing date for receipt of manuscripts submitted to be

considered for Volume 10 (2) is September 30, 2001. Number 2 will incorporate content arising from the meeting at Montpellier and will

be officially the 'Proceedings Issue'. Manuscripts of papers given at Montpellier will of course be subject to the same standards of publication, i.e. reviewed in the normal fashion.

Figures as colored plates or black and white photographs represent additional costs, which must be recovered from authors.

It is also a hope that very soon we will make

back from members in regard to this or any of the other plans mentioned above.

Perhaps a more lofty statement is called for in closing, something beyond the mere mechanics of how to send papers to JOR. And so I make the following attempt: I feel privileged in serving as your editor; it's often fun, and I am grateful to the society for this opportunity. A year of interacting with authors and reviewers has made me newly aware that this society consists of real people. I have made many interesting and rewarding personal contacts while worrying about fonts and coherence. I think it is a very good thing to have a group of people, scientists linked by their interest and curiosity, otherwise socially harmless, and sharing a constructive avocation for straight-winged insects. It's nice to know this group exists and to feel a part of it.

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*"Closing date for receipt of manuscripts submitted to be considered for Volume 10 (1) is January 31, 2001. "*

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We are moving ever closer to total electronic communication and away from traditional mails. Many authors and reviewers may know how much we relied on e-mail in the past year. And the benefits in speed and clarity are immense. Beginning with the next issue, I have altered the standard 'form and format' of manuscript submission to make electronic format rather than printed pages, the 'default'. This is not intended to preclude papers from anyone unable to access computers; but if traditional hard copy is necessary it should be specially requested. See Instructions for authors in JOR 9.

back issues of JOR available for download from our website, perhaps with a two year delay from the time the paper first appears. We all want this information in our papers to reach as wide an audience as possible. But again downloading has economic implications: will we lose subscriptions? If so, how might we compensate for this? Authors might be asked to deal with increased page charges if it meant that their newly published paper (on dead trees and with ink) was also going to be posted immediately electronically. I welcome feed-

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*"I welcome feedback from members in regard to this or any of the other plans mentioned above."*

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## Come to Montpellier

Theodore J. Cohn

The announcement for the Eighth Meeting of the Orthopterists' Society in France is reprinted below.

Registration and housing forms that can be used by members are included in this newsletter.

More information and downloadable forms can be found at the meeting website:

<http://os2001.cirad.fr/>

### **Eighth Meeting of the Orthopterists' Society**

**International Conference on Orthopteroid Insects  
Montpellier, France, 19-22 August 2001**

<http://os2001.cirad.fr/>

The Orthopterists' Society is pleased to announce the opening of registration for its Triennial-Quadrennial Meeting in France in 2001. This should be a scientifically exciting meeting in a beautiful part of France with splendid cuisine, and with good collecting nearby. There will be visit to the medieval walled city of

Carcassonne the day after the close of the Conference and a five-day field trip to the Massif Central starting the following day. Students are particularly invited for whom we have kept registration fees very low. Inexpensive housing is available quite near the Conference Center, Le Corum. During the conference, special activities are planned for accompanying persons.

**THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE, <http://os2001.cirad.fr/>** contains all the details of the conference and will be updated as changes are made, arrangements completed, and cut-off dates established or changed. The Website also contains lists of hotels in several price ranges, French customs, rules, and regulations, description and maps of Montpellier (showing the location of Le Corum Conference Center and hotels, etc.). Please consult this Website as only a bare summary can be presented here. For further inquiries contact

[gestion@corum-montpellier.com](mailto:gestion@corum-montpellier.com) with "International Conference on Orthopteroid Insects" as reference.

We urge members to REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, and to arrange EARLY for housing in Montpellier, and for transportation to and within France, because August is the busy season in France when hotel and airplane space are limited. A registration form may be downloaded from the above Website, which contains details on fees and housing costs. A registration form that members can use is also included in this newsletter.

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### *Schedule*

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The following may be subject to small modifications (see Website for details and timing):

**Sunday, 19 August PM.**  
Registration, Assembly of Posters, Light Refreshments

**Monday, 20 August**  
**AM.**  
Opening Ceremonies, Plenary Address  
**PM.**  
Poster Session

Pest Management Symposium, "**Are Locusts and Grasshoppers worth Controlling?**" Michel Lecoq (France)

**Evening.**

Welcome Reception (wine, cheese and regional products)

**Tuesday, 21 August**

**AM.**

Systematics Symposium, "**Molecules and Morphology: Towards a Synthesis of Phylogenetic Methods.**" Theodore J. Cohn, (USA)

**PM.**

Poster Session Ecology Symposium, "**Comparative Ecology and Faunistics of Grasshoppers in the Grasslands of the World.**" Maria Marta Cigliano (Argentina)

**Wednesday, 22 August**

**AM.**

Student Symposium on Behavior (being organized)

**PM.**

Society Affairs (Business Meeting). Oral presentations and demonstrations

**Evening.**

Gala Dinner

*Reservations be made as soon as possible, as August is the busy season, and late registrants my find choices limited.*

**Thursday, 23 August**

Trip to Carcassonne

**Friday, 24 August**

Begin five-day field trip to the Massif Central.

## *Posters and Oral Presentations*

Posters are an integral and most IMPORTANT part of this meeting, and we urge those who would normally give oral presentations to present posters instead. A half-hour after lunch each day has been set aside when authors of the posters will be available to discuss them with viewers.

The posters will be available for examination during the entire conference near the lecture hall in a hall with a bar where we will take coffee breaks,

and not far from the room where we will have lunch. The poster hall can also be used for small discussion groups, and relaxation in comfortable chairs while viewing the posters.

We think that posters are generally MORE EFFECTIVE than oral presentations because they provide more time with the author, and can be examined more leisurely.

In addition, the data can be presented better and studied longer and more intensively than the usual transparency presented for a millisecond and with print requiring binoculars. And unless an oral presenter can speak with great rapidity (decreasing understanding in direct correlation with the speed of speaking), probably more information and data can be included in a poster. Several of our members have reported the considerable success

of posters at other meetings.

Because of the limited time available for oral presentation, those desiring to give speeches will have to submit their titles and abstracts by **1 June**, so that a committee can select speakers and to give others time prepare their posters instead. Please be sure to indicate if you wish to give an oral presentation; a decision will probably be made around 20 June.

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## *Abstracts*

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Abstracts for all lectures, posters, and oral presentations will be due on **1 June 2001**. They should be submitted in the body of an E-mail message (not as an attachment) without special formatting. In addition, authors are required to submit a paper copy mailed so as to arrive on 1 June, so that proper italics, accents, etc. can be inserted.

**Address for E-mail:**  
**tcohn@sunstroke.sdsu.edu**  
 and address for paper copy,

**Dr. Theodore J. Cohn,**  
**Insect Division, Mu-**  
**seum of Zoology, Uni-**  
**versity of Michigan,**  
**1109 Geddes Ave., Ann**  
**Arbor, MI 48109-1079.**

Be sure to allow sufficient time for the paper copy to arrive by 1 June.

fee for Participants includes participation in all sessions, the Welcome Reception, three lunches, morning and afternoon snacks, program booklet, a case, and tourist information. For Accompanying Persons, no lunches are included to enable them to participate in tours and other activities.

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*Abstracts for all lectures, posters, and oral presentations will be due on **1 June 2001**.*

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PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FORM OF THE ABSTRACT IS TENTATIVE, AND THAT AUTHORS MUST CONSULT THE WEBSITE FOR FINAL INSTRUCTIONS IN MAY.

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## *Registration Form and Fee Schedule*

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These can be downloaded from the Conference Website, and a copy is enclosed. Please note that the registration

The dollar equivalent on the Website is based on a conversion rate of 1 US\$ = 7.53 FF, but this changes every day. For those without access to the Website, the advance registration fee at this rate for Participants is US\$186, for Students, \$33, and for Accompanying Persons, \$53.

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## *Housing*

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Once again, it is strongly recommended that reservations be

made AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, as August is the busy season, and late registrants my find choices limited.

Dr. Lecoq recommends the following hotels which are near Le Corum and the New Hotel du Midi (3 star traditional) where several of the officers will be staying and where reservations may also be made (but directly with this hotel via [montpelliermidi@new-hotel.com](mailto:montpelliermidi@new-hotel.com)).

Prices can be found on the Website where a registration form for all other hotels can be downloaded; the form included in the newsletter can also be used (the exchange rate is 1 US\$ = 7.53 FF, but the rate varies daily).

The number of stars in the list below indicate expense (in FF 4 stars 700-770, 3 stars, 430-580, 3 star traditional, 400-500, 2 star 330-360). A list of less expensive hotels is available by e-mail from [os2001@cirad.fr](mailto:os2001@cirad.fr)

Metropole Holiday Inn (but traditional), 4 stars, 80 rooms

Royal Hotel, 3 stars, 46 rooms  
Hotel d'Angleterre, 2 stars, 34 rooms  
Hotel De La Comedie, 2 stars, 20 rooms  
Hotel Edouard VI, 2 stars, 47 rooms  
Nova Hotel, 2 stars, 16 rooms

If you do not have access to the Internet and need more information, please contact Dr. Jeffrey A. Lockwood, **Department Of Renewable Resources, (Entomology), University Of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071-3354 USA.**

## *Post Congress Field Trip, 24-28 August 2001*

Orthopterological and tourist tour in the Southern part of the French Massif Central

(Cévennes National Park, Aubrac, Grands Causses Regional Park)

This entomological and tourist trip will cover a 5-day period and will cover the southern part

of Massif Central. We shall cross Cévennes and Mont Aigoual, Causse Noir, and Causse Méjean, Aubrac plateau, and return to Montpellier by the Rouergue area and the Causse du Larzac. The trip is about 700 km and will take 5 days. It will be organized to visit typical habitats and to collect Orthopteroids (by day and by night). More specifically, it will be possible to collect (with authorization) in Cévennes National Park and in the regional park of Grands Causses with the participation of the staff from the parks. The trip will cross typical and beautiful landscapes, small typical villages and touristic points. Lunches will be taken in typical restaurants or in the field.

From an orthopterological view, this is an area which is certainly one of the richest in the Massif Central and in France because of diversity in soil types and microclimates.

It will be possible to encounter three endemic species: *Parnassiana vicheti* (Delmas),

*Antaxius sorrezensis* (Marquet) and *Arcyptera carpentieri* Azam, and several remarkable species such as *Gampsocleis glabra* (Herbst) and *Celes variabilis* (Pallas).

NB. For the Mediterranean fauna, one or two supplementary days will be proposed (for interested people) to collect near Montpellier (10 to 100 km from Montpellier) at an additional but low cost.

Price: around 3500 FF (US\$460) including accommodation (double room) and lunches.

#### Schedule

##### 1st day:

Cévennes National Park (Mount Aigoual massif) and Causse Noir

##### 2nd day:

Causse Méjean and Sauveterre, Tarn river canyon

##### 3rd day:

Aubrac plateau

##### 4th day:

Causse du Comtal and Plateau du Lavézou

5th day: Causse du

Larzac

Full information will be available shortly on the Website of the Conference.

<http://os2001.cirad.fr>

Registration and housing forms can also be downloaded from the Website.

Registration and housing forms are also included in this newsletter.

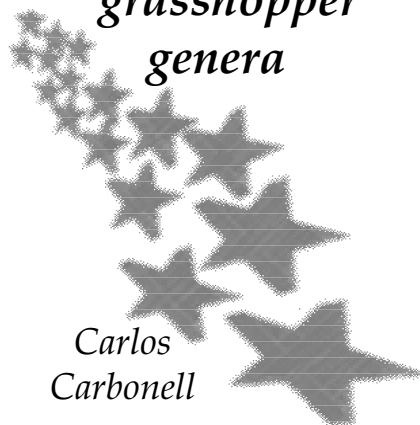
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*MEMBERS WITHOUT ACCESS TO THE INTERNET WHO NEED MORE INFORMATION CAN CONTACT*

*Dr. Jeffrey A. Lockwood, Department Of Renewable Resources (Entomology), University Of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071-3354 USA.*

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## Names of grasshopper genera



"I can understand that astronomers discover new stars with their telescopes and things. What seems amazing to me is that they find out their names" — said the old lady.

That mythical lady was already old when I was born. I was told about her when I was a child. Being partial to women, I have always objected to assigning that statement to a lady. Why not an old man? Now that I am old, I object too to the word "old". It could have been a young lady or a young man. One does not need to be old to be silly. Some are born that way. Of course, that condition may be perfected with the passing of time.



Personally, I have never wondered how they find out the names of new stars. That is a problem for astronomers. But being an entomologist since I can remember, I do have often asked myself how my colleagues found out the names of the genera they described. And of late, I have been making some research on the subject. Here are some of my findings.

Many of these names are obviously descriptive. Anybody with a rudimentary knowledge of Latin and Greek can understand their meaning. *Chromacris*, the colorful grasshopper. *Agriacris*, the grasshopper that lives in the field. *Locusta*, from locus + ustus, a burned down place. Alluding to the state of the field after a swarm of locusts had eaten out all the vegetation leaving the soil bare, as if all the vegetation had been burned out. And if one does not even have a rudimentary knowledge of the classical languages, there is Brown, R. W., "Composition of Scientific words", that most useful book.

But there are other generic names that have no obvious meaning. What about *Anniceris*, *Antiphon*, *Columbacris*, *Dicaearchus*, *Scotussa* and the like? Authors of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries particularly, liked to use euphonic names from mythology or ancient history and geography for their genera. Unrelated to the aspect, the habitat or origin of the insects themselves.

**Carl Stål** was the champion of classical names:

*Abila*. Of the "Pillars of Hercules" at the west of the Mediterranean Sea, the one of the African side. The other is the Rock of Gibraltar. Also the Latin name of the city now called Ceuta, located there.

*Adimantus*. King of Fliunte, a city in the Peloponesus.

*Agesander*. A Greek sculptor, believed to be one of the authors of the famous statue of Laocoön, now in the Vatican.

*Alcamenes*. A king of Sparta about 747 B.C. He is believed to be the author of some of the Laconic Apothegms. Also, a Greek sculptor.

*Anniceris*. Anniceris of Cyrene, is said to have bought Plato from slavery and given him freedom, according to Olympodorus, author of a "Life of Plato".

*Antandrus*. A city in Misia, a region in the Near East.

*Antiphon*. Famous Greek rhetoric. Is said to have introduced the art of oratory in politics and legislation. Also the name of a philosopher who wrote about the quadrature of the circle.

*Dellia*. A feminine name. The goddess Diana. *Dicaearchus*. The old name of a city near Naples, now called Puzol.

*Mezentia*. Mezentius king of Etruria, famous for his cruelty. His subjects rebelled and set his palace on fire, but he managed to escape. Killed by Aeneas during the Trojan wars.

*Munatia*. Munatius Plancus a Roman general,

appointed by Caesar as governor of Transalpine Gallia, founder of Lyon and other French cities. Backed Brutus against Antonius but later submitted to the triumviri.

**Francis Walker** too, used some geographical names such as:

*Legua*. An old dictionary of geography says that this is the name of a French town in Saintonge, "three leagues SE of Marennes". I have been unable to find out its modern name.

*Minorissa*. Latin name of the city now called Manresa, in Catalonia, Spain.

*Omura*. A city in the Island of Kyushu, Japan. Surimanda, Prince of Omura, is said to have been the first Japanese converted to the Christian faith.

**Giglio-Tos** has, at least:

*Scotussa*. A Thracian city.

And **Philippi**:

*Graea*. A city in Beotia, Greece

The former are a few examples. Needless to say, there are many others that I have been unable to decipher. But I have also some curious things to mention on this subject. Like the following names by **Lawrence Bruner**.

*Columbacris*. Nothing to do with Christopher Columbus. Named after Corumbá, a city in what is now Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, misspelled as "Columbá".

*Tucayaca*. Named after a river in the Province of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. But the real name of the river is "Tucavaca".

And, finally,

*Algete*. For a long time I was puzzled by this name, given by **Don Ignacio Bolivar** to a pyrgomorphid of Northeastern Brazil. Eugenio Morales gave me an immediate answer. It is the name of a small town near Madrid. So, three genera of South American pyrgomorphids, *Algete*, *Minorissa* and *Omura* have names of cities, the first two in Spain, the third in Japan.

This is enough for the time being. If you have any questions, please do not ask me. I will probably ignore the answer. But you may find it in the Encyclopaedia Britannica.



## Speaking of grasshoppers

Marianne Niedzlek-  
Feaver

While web surfing, I came across a digitized painting of a grasshopper entitled intriguingly, *A Self Portrait as a Grasshopper* by artist, Katherine Klein (room two). The artist choose the grasshopper as her symbol because after grasshoppers " ... fall to the ground. Then they roll back upright and jump again."

The artist gave me permission to print a copy of the painting, but I felt I could not do it justice in this newsletter. It's a beautiful painting, so visit this work and others by this artist at <http://www.art.net/studios/visual/Kklein/kklein.htm>

## *Supersonic avocation: moondust and silent sounds*

Glenn Morris

Since you are reading Metaleptea chances are you are a classifiable orthopterist. Orthopterists are people called to a personal working relationship with straight-winged insects... to the study of Orthoptera as a calling.

Well in my case the calling was literal. And my caller was a meadow grasshopper, *Conocephalus fasciatus*, clutching a green grass stem in a field in upstate New York on a sunny summer afternoon in 1963. The specimen is long since lost in my collection and on that afternoon I had no idea of its identity. I was a novice graduate student, newly arrived at Cornell University, desperately looking for something in science to call my own.

That same year a Cornell astronomer was studying the surface of the moon. The spectrum of

moonlight indicated dust and so there was a theory that the moon's surface was covered (as indeed it is) with a layer of dust. And what if it was yards thick? The planned lunar lander would sink into the moon's surface like a reindeer settling down onto a snowy roof. The astronauts could flounder out of sight into it. So in this lab they had made large containers which they pumped down to create a vacuum within which to study simulated moondust. For the technician, Bob Pipher, who serviced these vacuum systems, air leaks into the vacuum were a chronic problem.

At about this time there appeared an article in the monthly magazine 'Popular Electronics', showing the circuitry for what was called an *ultrasonic sniffer*. The working of this device involved a crystal microphone and an electrical oscillator. The microphone detected 40 kHz ultrasonic sound frequencies (inaudible to the human ear), combined this frequency in the sniffer's electronic innards with an oscillator frequency, so produc-

ing a third frequency low enough to be audible when output to a pair of earphones. Bob decided his air leaks might make ultrasonic sounds and so he built the sniffer, following the magazine plans. I don't remember whether it ever pinpointed leak locations. But when, in the course of a discussion of the ultrasonic sounds insects might make, it transpired that this device was lying about in the astronomer's lab... available, Bob and I, on the aforementioned sunny afternoon, took it out for a drive.

We parked his old blue Ford on the gravel road and walked into a field; there was no fence; and we stood there holding the sniffer out in front at arm's length. And suddenly through the earphones there was a beady buzz, followed after by a long series of ticks. Taking off the earphones one could hear nothing; put them on again and once again something magical and invisible was singing from the grass clump just in front of us. It took a long time to locate this *C. fasciatus* and to satisfy

ourselves, by watching its wings, that this was indeed the signal source. A completely ultrasonic insect! I got quite carried away with the elation of original discovery.

But the singing of *C. fasciatus* is not in fact, completely ultrasonic: there is a faint, ethereal, portion of its song in the audio range, masked to us on that day by wind and distance. And of course, the discovery of its powerful ultrasonic spectrum was also — not original, as determined by a visit to the library next day. There I discovered I was not the first to hear this supersonic singer. I found a book by a Harvard physics professor, George W. Pierce, entitled *Insect Songs*. He had already measured and recorded the supersonic output of *C. fasciatus*. (Ultrasonic is the term used now, but the word originally used by many for sound above 20 kHz was 'supersonic'.)

I finally had a thesis topic and a career specialization. For a while everything I discovered about the stridulation of *C. fasciatus* and its relatives turned out to be

known. But eventually, between studying the insect and searching the literature, I got beyond what was known and began to add my own insights.

So I can remember the exact moment when my professional life became imprinted on calling orthopterans. And they have fascinated me since with an endless variety of songs and habitats, every species with something to say and every species saying something different. I have never regretted answering the call.

### *A technical note: Scanning without coating*

*Kenneth R. Ahlstrom*

(Dr. Ahlstrom does not work with Orthoptera, but has had exportable newsworthy success working with uncoated insect specimens. )

Not too many years ago, one needed to critically dry and gold-coat specimens in order to get good scanning electron microscope images.

For research on the revision of a subfamily of parasitic Hymenoptera, I wanted images of type specimens to be included. **Gold-coating type specimens would destroy them, so I had to find another means to get the images I needed.**

I found that some of the new scanning electron microscopes could do the job very well. I used the Hitachi Model S-3200N Variable Pressure Analytical Scanning Electron Microscope (NCSU). While this microscope can be used for high vacuum, high kV imaging, the variable pressure feature enables one to observe biological specimens without coating. At low vacuum pressure (5-10 paschals) and low kV (15-25) I was able to obtain excellent results. In addition, I



A wasp, *Macrocentrus infumatus* Muesebeck at 60X

have worked with specimens taken directly from alcohol, put on the stub with double-stick, non-conducting tape, and placed in the vacuum chamber

### *The short-tailed cricket as mother*



Marianne  
Niedzlek-Feaver

Thomas J. Walker (U. of Florida) was kind enough to send me some *Anurogryllus arboreus*. Several females laid eggs, but only two conveniently next to a clear plastic tube connecting the two giant ant farms that formed their cage.

I did observe some very unusual behavior with the first female on at least five different occasions and similar behav-

ior once with the second female.

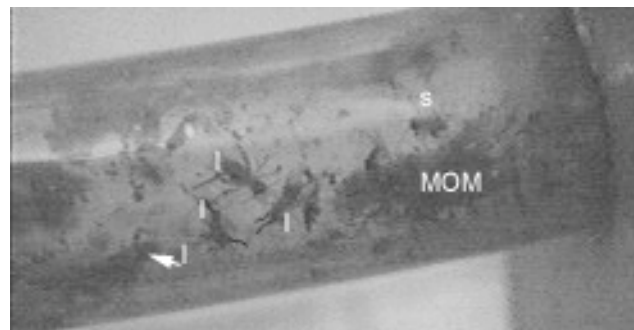
The first female's brood of 16? "appeared" over a space of three weeks and varied highly in size. This female would normally stay at the "entrance" of the burrow (where the clear plastic tube met the wooden wall of the ant farm) except for brief forays to feed, etc. When an earwig approached, the female cricket would disappear into the burrow only to emerge a few seconds later with what appeared to be the larger

nymphs in the brood. The youngsters would encircle the earwig, making antennal contact with the insect. After a few minutes the earwig (sometimes, much larger than any one nymph) would leave. The mother, during all the fuss, stayed back at the entrance to the burrow. She would then venture into the center of the young, but on all occasions only after the earwig was gone.

I could see only 8 young at one time in the second female's chamber. At one point she, too, seemed to disappear into the cham-



a.



b.

Figure: a. Lightened screen shot taken from video recording. Original recording was made under red light and so lightening reduces resolution, but 4 large (l) and 1 small young can be seen next to mom. In b., one of the large young has moved toward the retreating earwig and is contacting it with antennae.

ber when an earwig approached, only to return with young. These young also appeared to touch the earwig with their antennae. The second female also appeared to touch the earwig, but I only observed her doing this once.

Did the females in some way initiate the interactions their young had with the earwig? Or were the larger young simply more active and so more willing to follow the female out of the burrow when she appeared agitated?

I saw these females place their antennae on young occasionally. The young made antennal contact with mothers often, but did not see these females feeding, cleaning young or in any other way being "parental". I did not however have a good view of the young during the first weeks of their lives because that time was spent behind females (actually in the hole) in the wooden wall that lead into the ant farm. Also females did provision the burrow, dragging back hunks of foods that they would plaster to the walls (this habit also interfered

with viewing!).

Young did not leave the burrow to forage above ground until shortly before the females' death and then only the three biggest of the largest brood would venture out for any extended time. Only one of them built a small burrow next to the one built by his mother before her death.

After the females' deaths in August, I noticed young disappearing rapidly and I observed larger nymphs attacking smaller ones. In less than a week after the females died, I lost 4 of the 16 in the first brood and 6 of the 8 in the second before I realized what was happening. I quickly separated young only to find two more of the original, larger brood bearing visible marks that they had been attacked by sibs. Obviously, Mom exerts some control over cannibalism. And when she's not there, even in the face of abundant food, these young do not seem to respect kin except as menu items.

I eventually lost my colony due to an unfor-

tunate greenhouse accident. I have not been able then to repeat these observations but report them to induce others, who may better be able to maintain colonies, to look more closely at "maternal" behavior in this genus.

## NEW MEMBERS

*The Orthopterists' Society is pleased to welcome the following new members and hope that this association will be of mutual benefit.*

DE LUCA, MR. PAUL A.  
School of Natural Sciences  
and Environmental  
Studies

The College of the Bahamas  
P. O. Box N-4912  
Nassau, Bahamas  
Taxonomy of the  
Tettigoniidae, especially  
*Conocephalus*. Vibrational  
communication in  
Tettigoniidae

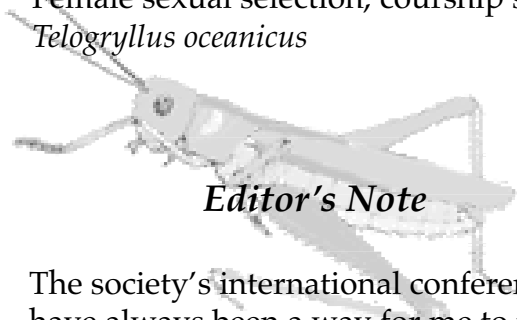
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genetics

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### Editor's Note

The society's international conferences have always been a way for me to meet individuals who offered help and information willingly. So the membership of this society has always struck me as extraordinarily open and nonassuming. I feel fortunate to have met so many individuals who have become trusted colleagues if not good friends. It is to maintain these contacts in the face of increasing teaching responsibilities that I have accepted the editorship of this newsletter.

I would like nothing more than to have this newsletter become a way that we all maintain some contact with each other. Because of our diverse professional interests and backgrounds we cannot help but offer each other unique and rewarding insights regarding the group that unites us. Please do submit

material to this newsletter about Orthoptera that you feel may be of benefit to other members. Let us know of new references or websites you have discovered, or share favorite antidotes about working, or why you work with this group.

I am always amazed that one of the very first things the undergraduates who work in my laboratory always ask me is, why grasshoppers? I feel it is probably because they know the answer will reveal more about my history and personality than the answer to any other question that they could ask me. This newsletter is the place to share information you may discover about the history of study of Orthoptera and the people who studied this group.

**Please also let me know what other types of material you would like to see featured in your newsletter.**

My first attempt was hurried due to deadlines on the next issue of the journal and information about the upcoming meeting that had to be communicated to you. I can, therefore, blame any mistakes I made on haste and not poor judgement. So please help me keep up this deception and send me your comments so that I can incorporate any suggestions in my preparations for the next issue. By that time, I may even have learned a smidgen of what Ted Cohn knows about dealing with the post office and publishers. Or pray that Ted and Piotr Naskrecki, via email or Timbuktu, have managed magically to transfer to me some of the expertise needed to do the great job they have done in the past.

Until the next edition, my best,  
mnfeaver@unity.ncsu.edu

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**REMEMBER TO:**

**1. Send in your registration forms for the:**

*Eighth Meeting of  
the Orthopterists'  
Society*

**in Montpellier,  
France, 19-22 Au-  
gust 2001.**

**2. Closing date for receipt of manuscripts submitted to be considered for Volume 10 (1) is January 31, 2001.**

**4. Do all in your power to convince your institution to subscribe to the Journal.**

**3. Email me your comments as to desired subjects to be treated in future newsletters.**

**5. Please consider authoring a feature article for this newsletter**

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