

TORTS

Newsletter of the Troop of Reputed Tortricid Systematists

WHAT IS TORTS?

TORTS (Troop of Reputed Tortricid Systematists) is an informal group to which membership (participation) is open to anyone who is interested in tortricid moths. The idea was conceived by Dr. Jerry A. Powell at the University of California, Berkeley, with the goals of fostering greater cooperation and communication among tortricid workers worldwide, providing a forum for discussions, and encouraging the compilation of catalogs and databases of the names, food plants, and life histories of the most interesting family of Lepidoptera - Tortricidae.

This first issue of the TORTS newsletter is intended to solicit ideas, comments, and other positive input from would-be "members." It is comprised primarily of a list of interested parties who are the recipients of this newsletter. If you have colleagues that would enjoy being a part of the group, please have them contact John W. Brown (address on page 5). The initial goal is to provide two newsletters each year - one in January/February and one in July/August, but this will depend on how much information is received from members. The first issue each year will include a list of members, along with their current address (including e-mail) and research interests. It also will include a few news items and solicitations. The second issue each year is intended to provide bibliographic references on Tortricidae, as provided by members (and any other papers that I can find in the Zoological Record). The newsletter can be as good (or bad) as the participants or contributors make it.

For the next issue of TORTS, please send the following information to John Brown:

(1) Titles of articles and place of publication (journal) of papers on Tortricidae you published (or saw published) in 1999;

(2) A one-line statement of interest and/or research goals;

(3) Corrections and/or additions to the information in the "Membership List";

(4) Optional - Requests/solicitations for information and/or specimens of particular groups; offers of collaboration; noteworthy publications or events.

If I do not hear from you, I will interpret this to mean that you are not interested in receiving future issues of the Newsletter.

NOTEWORTHY PUBLICATIONS

Horak, M. 1999. Tortricodea, pp. 199-216. In: Kristensen, N.P. (ed.), Handbook of Zoology, Volume IV Arthropoda: Insects, Part 35 Lepidoptera, Moths and Butterflies. Walter de Gruyter, Berlin. The long awaited Handbook of Zoology, finally distributed last year, is an excellent source of information on Lepidoptera morphology, phylogeny, and diversity, and undoubtedly will be the standard reference on Lepidoptera for many years to come. The chapter on Tortricodea is stellar, providing an excellent overview of each of the currently recognized tribes in the family, with notes on unique morphological features, larval characters, and examples of pest genera, supplemented by a variety of high quality black-and-white photographs and a few line drawings of wing venation.

Powell, J.A., C. Mitter & B. Farrell. 1999. Evolution of Larval Food Preferences in Lepidoptera, pp. 403-422. In: Kistensen, N.P. (ed.), Handbook of Zoology, Volume IV Arthropoda: Insects, Part 35 Lepidoptera, Moths and Butterflies. Walter de Gruyter, Berlin. The chapter presents an eclectic view of the diversification and specialization of larvae in regards to their food plants, feeding strategies, and geographic distribution. Each of the major superfamilies of Microlepidoptera is discussed, with a fine contribution on the Tortricoidea.

Byun, B.K., Y.S. Bae & K.T. Park. 1998. Illustrated Catalogue of Tortricidae in Korea. In: Park, K.T. (ed.), Insects of Korea. The book includes detailed accounts of each species of Tortricidae known to occur in Korea, complete with synonyms, distribution, specimens examined, and host plant records. Adults of each species are illustrated in color, along with line drawings of male and female genitalia.

Komai, F. 1999. A Taxonomic Review of the Genus *Grapholita* and Allied Genera (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) in the Palearctic Region. Entomol. Scand. suppl. 55. This very impressive treatment presents a phylogeny of the genera of the tribe Grapholitini in the Palearctic Region, along with complete diagnoses of each genus and brief accounts of the included species. There are a variety of new species and many new combinations. Adults and genitalia are figured for most genera, with line drawings of wing venation, larvae, and pupae of many representative genera.

Razowski, J. 1999. Catalogue of the species of Tortricidae. Part V: Palearctic Eucosmina and Enarmoniina (Insecta: Lepidoptera). SHILAP Revta. Lepid. 27: 437-506. This is the fifth in a series of fine catalogues documenting the world fauna.

Razowski, J. 1999. Tortricidae of Korea; a faunistic and zoogeographical approach. SHILAP Revta Lepid. 27: 69-123. Razowski lists 358 species or tortricids from Korea, along with the provinces from which they have been recorded. The work is based primarily on Polish expeditions to North Korea and previously published literature.

WORK IN PROGRESS

David Adamski and John Brown are collaborating on a revision of the New World *Ecdytolopha* group of genera: *Ecdytolopha*, *Gymnandrosoma*, and *Pseudogalleria*.

Joaquin Baixeras and Richard Brown are collaborating on a revision of the genus *Crociosema*.

Eric Metzler, Michael Pogue, and John Brown have just begun work on a contribution to the series "The Moths of America north of Mexico," treating the tribe Cochylini.

Michael Sabourin and William Miller are collaborating on a guide to the Tortricinae of Middle America (United States), a complement to Miller's (1987) guide to the Olethreutinae.

Jerry Powell, John De Benedictis, Soowon Cho, and Jim Kruse have compiled an updated version of the Tortricidae portion of the Check List of the Lepidoptera of America north of Mexico. The revised check list should be available soon on the Essig Museum, University of California, Berkeley web site: <http://www.mip.berkeley.edu/essig/>. The list includes all name changes and additions to the North American fauna since its original publication in 1983, which was based on literature to about 1980.

Bernard Landry and Jerry Powell recently completed a revision of the Neotropical genus *Sparganothina* (Sparganothini). The work was conducted with funding from an NSF-PEET grant to Powell and Felix Sperling. The paper should appear soon in University of California Publications in Entomology.

Soowon Cho is working on a revision of the genus *Sparganopseustis* (Sparganothini). This project also was conducted as part of postdoctoral work funded by the NSF-PEET grant to Powell and Sperling.

Eugenie Phillips is working on the systematics of the genus *Amorbia* (Sparganothini) as her doctoral dissertation at the University of California, Berkeley. Jenny currently splits her time between Berkeley and INBio, where she is a curator of Lepidoptera.

Leif Aarvik, Joaquin Baixeras, and Pasquale Trematerra are all working on various volumes on Tortricidae for the series "Microlepidoptera of Europe."

Jim Kruse is working on a systematic revision of the genus *Sparganothoides* (Sparganothini) as his doctoral dissertation at U.C. Berkeley. Jim also is working on a molecular phylogeny of the North America species of *Archips*, including the *argyrospila* complex.

Marianne Horak is focusing her tortricid research on the Oriental and Australian faunas, particularly Olethreutinae. She currently is working on the olethreutine genera of Australia for the series "Monographs on Australian Lepidoptera."

Yoshitsuga Nasu is continuing his work on Japanese and Asiatic Eucosmini, and he currently is focusing on *Lepteucosma* and *Hendecaneura*.

Josef Razowski is continuing his cataloging of the world tortricid fauna, regional faunal treatments (primarily South America), and descriptive work (primarily on the fauna of the New World tropics).

Jerry Powell and John Brown are collaborating on a fascicle for the series "Moths of America north of Mexico" treating the tribe Sparganothini.

Pasquale Trematerra is continuing his work in applied entomology and plant protection. In particular, he is working on semiochemicals and pheromones for use in control of tortricid pests.

MEETINGS

Annual meeting of the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera, Gainesville, Florida, 14-16 April 2000.

Annual meeting of the Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica, in Bialowieza Forest, eastern Poland, 28 May-1 June 2000.

Meeting of the Pacific Slope Section of the Lepidopterists' Society, Grants Pass, Oregon, 23-25 June 2000.

Annual meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society, Wake Forest University, North Carolina, 26-30 July 2000.

XXI International Congress of Entomology, Iguazu Falls, Brazil, 20-26 August 2000.

Joint meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Entomological Society of Canada, and La Societe d'entomologie du Quebec, Montreal, Canada, 3-7 December 2000.

Annual meeting of the Association of Tropical Lepidoptera, Gainesville, Florida, 20-22 April 2001.

Annual meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, 26-29 July 2001.

I would be happy to include in the TORTS Newsletter reports from any of these meetings.

MESSAGE FROM BECKER

Vitor Becker has been purchasing rainforest property in the state of Bahia, Brazil, for the purpose of establishing a nature reserve. The letter on the following page (from Vitor) describes the status of this project.

Dear Colleague,

The reserve is in Camacan in southeastern Bahia (100 km S of Iheus-Itabuna, 30 km W of Canavieiras), Brazil, near the coast. It is situated on the top (800 m) of a 15,000-hectare mountain. About 50% of the mountain still supports primary forest (Atlantic Rain Forest), part of it never logged. Below is the history of the project.

It has always been one of my dreams to move to a forest area after retiring and set up a biological reserve. Two reasons were behind this: first, I have always believed that there is no point saving dead specimens in collections if we do not do anything to preserve them alive in nature. And second, I do not particularly like living in an urban area.

Originally I had no idea of what part of the country I should move to. But after leaving my job with EMBRAPA (I do not have any other commitments in Brasilia), I was free to move to any place I wanted. So I decided on Bahia.

Many reasons led me to this decision: (1) The Atlantic Rain Forest of southeastern Brazil is a high conservation priority, as this ecosystem is almost gone (less than 10% of its original coverage remains). (2) The area in Bahia is still well preserved (the mountain where we are purchasing land is more than 50% covered by primary forest, part of it never before logged). (3) I have a brother who lives there, and he is mediating all the negotiations for me. [In reality, the people there believe he is buying the land for himself which is good. If they suspected that a "Doctor from Brasilia" was buying the land, the prices would be much higher.] (4) The particular mountain we selected has a communication tower on the top, and because of this, it has a reasonably good road leading to the top and it has electricity, two conveniences that are expensive to obtain in this region.

Last year we started to buy land there. So far we already have acquired 12 properties (from 3 to 350 hectares), totalling 700 hectares (about 1,500 acres). To do this I spent all the money I received as compensation when I was dismissed from EMBRAPA, plus all our savings (nearly \$200,000 US total!). As I mentioned before, more than one-half of this land is covered with vegetation in different stages, from patches of grazing land to old-growth secondary forest.

In order to avoid having people cross our property, we decided to start buying from the top (800 m) of the mountain down. Now we own a contiguous block, except for two small properties (about 50 hectares together) still within the reserve. Purchase of these two parcels currently is under negotiation. We believe that in a couple of months we will obtain them. After this we will start building our home there - first a museum/laboratory because my collection and library will come with us. If everything goes well, we plan to start the new millenium living there.

After buying these last two properties we will put all the 15 contracts together into a single property title and will register the area as an official "R.P.P.N" (Reserva Privada de Proteccion Natural). With this document we will be exempt from taxes and more importantly, protected from squatters and/ or confiscation from land reform, etc.

We have several goals in mind for the reserve. Among them are research, ecotourism, and environmental education (my wife is a teacher and wants to start a program for children). After we move we plan to start building accommodations. As we have our own income, all the revenue from such programs will be invested in the reserve to make it self-sustaining.

There are several ways you can help us with the Reserve project. One of them is funding, of course. There are several properties bordering the reserve that should be purchased. The reason is that most of these still have good patches of forest and because they are owned by poor farmers for whom hunting is still a part of their way of life. By buying these lands we would not only expand the reserve but help the owners move out of the mountain (due to a disease that infested cocoa, land is now very cheap down in the valley near the town, where these people would prefer to live).

One particular property should be purchased soon. This area (500 hectares of mostly forest) bordering the reserve is for sale. [The mountain top is composed of two "bumps," one of which belongs to us. With the addition of the other, we would control the whole mountain!

I am very concerned that if we do not buy soon, a rancher could buy the property and cut down the forest and use the land for grazing. This is already happening in the region on a large scale. [We are buying at an average of \$200/hectare, less than \$100/acre.]

The owner of this property is asking \$150,000 US, but my brother believes that if we can raise \$100,000 US, we can buy it. By the end of the year I can raise \$50,000 US myself. Therefore, I am starting a "matching fund" campaign to raise the money.

I already have talked with Dr. Tom Emmel (Univeristy of Florida, Gainesville), and he is very enthusiastic about the project. He said that we could use the ATL (Association of Tropical Lepidoptera) Rain Forest Fund to channel donations from US citizens. Therefore all donations will be tax deductible.

In general, this is what we are doing. I would like to hear from you and would be glad to forward more details about the project. Thank you for your interest. Vitor O. Becker

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