

TORTS

Newsletter of the Troop of Reputed Tortricid Systematists

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XXth EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF LEPIDOPTEROLOGY, PODGORA, CROATIA

For those of you who have never had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica (SEL), you have missed one of the premiere social and scientific events in the Lepidoptera world. These conferences, held every other year, provide the perfect opportunity to interact with colleagues on a truly international basis – lepidopterists from 20 countries were present at this year’s meeting in Podgora, Croatia (24–30 April 2017). The organizing committee did a marvelous job of finding a beautiful venue in Croatia on the picturesque coast of the Adriatic Sea. The accommodations were delightful and the food superb and plentiful. And the program was outstanding, with talks covering every imaginable topic from conservation to curation, and from caterpillars to molecular phylogenies. Although there were few talks on Tortricidae (i.e., Joaquin Baixeras, Boyan Zlatkov, Rich Brown, Marja van der Straten, Todd Gilligan, and a few other “usual” participants were unable to attend this year), there were plenty of interesting and provocative presentations, including the development of a world catalogue of Lepidoptera, the requirement of a specimen (rather than a photograph) as a holotype, habitat management for butterfly conservation, etc.

The next SEL Congress will be in the Molise Province of Italy in 2019.



Above: Some North American refugees at the SEL congress: John Brown, Bernard Landry, Dan Rubinoff, and Dave Adamski.

66th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEPIDOPTERISTS’ SOCIETY, TUCSON, ARIZONA

The 66th annual meeting of the Lepidopterists’ Society was held in Tucson, Arizona from 30 July to 1 August, hosted by the Department of Entomology in the College of Agriculture at the University of Arizona. According to the meeting announcement, the University of Arizona has recently been ranked the top entomology program in the United States with particular specialties in biodiversity, integrative pest management, and pollination.

The meeting venue, the Tucson University Park Hotel, was within easy walking distance of the University of Arizona insect collection, and several meeting attendees spent time there. A “Lepidoptera sort” organized by the museum attracted a number of meeting participants.

Dr. Philip J. DeVries, a professor at the University of New Orleans, was awarded the Karl Jordan Medal, the Lepidopterists’ Society’s most prestigious award, in recognition of his outstanding original research. Phil is best known for his work on symbioses between caterpillars and ants and ants and plants, and his studies on community level biodiversity of rainforest butterflies.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a symposium honoring the lepidopterological accomplishments and contributions of Dr. Jerry A. Powell, which featured presentations by several of his former graduate students and a “Skype-in” by a shirt-less (and possibly pant-less) Dan Janzen from Costa Rica.

Overall the meeting was a huge success and left participants eager to attend next year’s meeting at the Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids, and Nematodes in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada in July 2018.



Above: Speakers at the symposium honoring Dr. Jerry A. Powell. From left to right: Dave Wagner, “Frank” Hsu, Felix Sperling, Eric Metzler, Dan Rubinoff, Jerry Powell, Jim Kruse, Kelly Richers, Pete Oboyski, and John Brown.

SECOND NORTH AMERICAN MICROLEPIDOPTERISTS’ MEETING, 2017

The Second North American Microlepidopterists’ Meeting was held immediately following the annual meeting of the Lepidopterists’ Society at the University of Arizona insect collection on 2 August 2017. The small room was packed, reflecting the growing interest in smaller moths among Lepidopterists’ Society members. The handsome program and abstracts booklet is available online at https://www.dmns.org/media/3035875/dmns_reports7.pdf. Of special interest to TORTS members were a presentation by Christi Jaeger testing the molecular phylogeny of Regier et al. (2011) using a dataset of entirely morphological characters, and a lively discussion on the change of name (i.e., *Choristoneura freemani* from *Choristoneura occidentalis*) for the North American western spruce budworm.

Vazrick Nazari will be organizing the Third North American Microlepidopterists’ Meeting in Ottawa, and it is schedule for 10 July 2018. I hope to see many of you there.



Above: Chruis Grinter, Valeriu Albu, and Vazrick Nazari at the Second North American Microlepidopterists’ Meeting in Tucson, Arizona. [Jason Dombroskie in background.]

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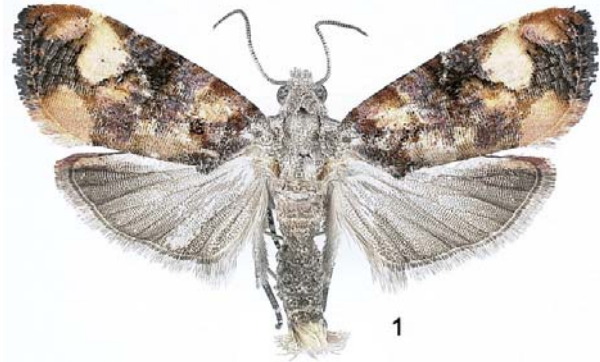


Fig. 1. *Fansipaniana tamdaoensis* n. sp., male holotype
(14.3mm wingspan) (JBH photo 12594). (From Heppner &
Bae 2016).

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year: January-February and July-August.
Membership or subscription is free. For
information contact: John W. Brown,
Department of Entomology, Smithsonian
Institution, P.O. Box 37012, National Museum
of Natural History, Washington, DC 20013-
7012, USA. E-mail: tortricidae.jwb@gmail.com