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TORTS

Newsletter of the
Troop of Reputed Tortricid Systematists

DATABASE OF TORTRICIDAE AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, LONDON

The following article was contibuted by Kevin Tuck of The Natural History Museum, London, England, 22 August 2000

"The BMNH is committed to facilitating increased electronic access to its data, and in practice this translates into all our curatorial staff spending 20% of their time on databasing. In my particular case, much of my time working on Tortricidae is currently spent in producing a species-level database of our holdings."

"The database in not intended to be a taxonomic statement, nor a complete catalogue of world Tortricidae, but simply a guide to what taxa are represented in the colletion, in which drawers they can be found, and under what generic name. Thus some of the taxonomic combinations are badly out of date, as these particular genera have not been curated yet, whereas others will be up to date or will even anticipate necessary changes. Subspecies and junior synonyms are included whenever we have specimens. One key piece of information being included is whether the primary type of a taxon is present, though there may be some omissions where the taxa have not yet been curated and the presence of a type is not obvious."

"At the time of writing, I have databased all the Chlidanotinae, all the Tortricinae except the Cochylini, and I am about halfway through the Olethreutinae. Already the total exceeds 7,000 species-names."

"The database is not online yet, though it is intended that it will be in the future. Second-wave refinement in the future might also include further data such as original publication references and cross-references to genitalia slide preparations. Much will, of course, depend on future funding available for this effort."

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PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST OF WORLD TORTRICIDAE

Over the past few years I have been compiling a checklist of the Tortricidae of the World. It currently includes about 8,500 species arranged phylogenetically by subfamily and tribe, and alphabetically by genus and species with tribes. The checklist is based primarily on previously published lists, i.e., Check List of the Lepidoptera of America North of Mexico (Powell 1983), check list in the Atlas of Neotropical Lepidoptera (Powell et al. 1995), Check list Australian Lepidoptera (Horak et al. 1997), Checklist of the Lepidoptera of Europe (Razowski 1998), and a few other regional lists, augmented by the card catalogue at The Natural History Museum, London. I'm sure there are numerous errors of omission, spelling, and generic placment, but I believe it represents a good starting point. Although the check list is not yet available on the web, I would be pleased to e-mail to you the entire file, or any part of it (e.g., genus, tribe, subfamily), as an attachment. The list is accompanied by a separate file that comprises the index. Both files are in Corel WordPerfect 7.0. If you do not have a compatible wordprocessing program, I may be able to send you the document in RTF, or a hard copy (about 500 pages). If you request a copy, please be prepared to provide corrections. Send requests to John Brown at jbrown@sel.barc.usda.gov.

PRELIMINARY FOOD PLANT DATABASE FOR TORTRICIDAE OF THE WORLD

Through collaboration with Gaeden Robinson at BMNH, I have compiled a preliminary food plant database of Tortricidae of the World. The document is based primarily on published literature, but also includes records from a few unpublished manuscripts and from a number of personal "card files" at various museums. The database currently includes about 10,000 records of Tortricidae-host plant associations. Although it is far from complete, the database could benefit greatly from the input of some world tortricidologists. Although the database is not yet available on the web, I would be happy to send you a copy, either electronically or hard-copy via regular mail. At present, it consists of three documents: (1) an Exel file of food plants of Tortricinae and Chlidanotinae; (2) an Excel file of food plants of Olethreutinae; and (3) a wordperfect file of the bibliography that supports the databases.

I am eager to receive your input on the database and to continue to add records as they are brought to my attention. Once on-line, the database will be updated every six months. Send requests to jbrown@sel.barc.usda.gov.

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SOLICITATION FOR YOUR CONTINUED INPUT

Per my original concept, I intend to provide a bibliography for Tortricidae for 2000 in the next issue of TORTS. Hence I would be please to receive titles and full literature citations of papers you have published (or seen published) on Tortricidae in 2000. Also, please send references for 1999 that were not included in last year's summer issue of TORTS. You can send these to me by e-mail at jbrown@sel.barc.usda.gov.

If you have suggestions of other items you would like to see included in the newsletter, please feel free to pass them along to me. Thank you.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Leif Aarvik is studying African Tortricidae, and will be proposing numerous new combinations for Meyrick species described from that region.

John Brown and David Adamski have just begun work on a systematic revision of the euliine genus *Anopinella*.

Joaquin Baixeras and Richard Brown are continuing their work on a revision of the eucosmine genus *Crocidosema*.

Furumi Komai and Marianne Horak are working on the systematics of the *Cryptophlebia-Thaumatotibia* group.

Don Wright is working on species-level problems in certain North America *Epiblema*.

Josh Herbeck is making progress on his thesis work on the sparganothine genus *Platynota* at the University of California, Berkeley.

Loran Gibson is working on the Olethreutinae fauna of Kentucky, especially the genus *Olethreutes*.

Pasquale Trematerra had an extremely productive 1999-2000, publishing numerous papers documenting new records and describing new species from Europe, Italy in particular.

Dan Rubinoff is finishing his disseration work at the University of California, Berkeley.

Eugenie Phillips is continuing to make progress on her doctoral dissertation - a revision of the genus Amorbia, with an emphasis on species that occur in Costa Rica.

Vitor Becker is finally home (Brazil) after months in the field in Central America and contract work at Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, Costa Rica.

COMMENTS ON *OLETHRUETES* AND RELATED GENERA

I thank Joaquin Baixeras and Leif Aarvik for responding to my request for input regarding the use of *Olethreutes*, *Phiaris*, *Celypha*, *Argyroploce*, *Pristerognatha*, and "related genera."

Baixeras provided a thorough historical review of the group, which I will not repeat here because it is intended to be published soon. He concludes that most recently, interpretations of the genus *Olethreutes* have followed two major trends: one of splitting and one of lumping. Kuznetsov (1978) and Razowski (1989, 1996), emphasizing the importance of male genitalia, recognized *Syricoris*, *Celypha*, *Phiaris*, *Stictea*, and *Argyroploce* all as distinct genera in the Palaeartic fauna. In contrast, Diakonoff (1973) included virtually all these genera as synonyms or subgenera of *Olethreutes*; Powell (1983) treated all Nearctic species as *Olethreutes*. Miller (1979, 1985, 1987) and Jalava and Miller (1998) have followed the latter arrangement for the Boreal and Nearctic faunas, treating all species as *Olethreutes*.

Both Baixeras and Aarvik believe that *Argyroploce* should be considered a distinct genus. Aarvik recommends synonymizing *Syricoris*, *Celypha*, and *Phiaris*.

In summary, all of these genera are considered synonymous by the majority of North American workers, and many of the genera (if not all) are considered distinct by most European workers.

It is apparent that there are several well defined, probably monophyletic groups of species within this complex, but recognition of these groups as distinct genera may leave the remaining species as poly- or paraphyletic assemblages.

In order to retain a degree of stability in the checklist and food plant database, I intend to retain the genera used by Razowski (1996) for Palaearctic species, but treat all Nearctic species in *Olethreutes*. Although this solution is far from satisfactory, the only other solution would be to include all species in *Olethreutes*. Additional comments are welcome.

PETROVA VS. *RETINEA*

Most authors agree that the Palaearctic *Retinea resinella* (type of *Retinea*) is congeneric with the Nearctic *Petrova comstockiana* (type of *Petrova*). If these authors are correct, and it seems likely that they are, the appropriate generic name is *Retinea* on the basis of priority, and *Petrova* is a junior synonym.

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NEW MEMOIR FROM THE LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY

The "Basic Techniques Manual," Memoir #5 of the Lepidopterists' Society, is now available. The book, compiled by William Winter and edited by William Miller, is 7" x 9" and has 350 pages. Topics covered include observing butterflies and moths, photography, data recording, identification, collecting techniques, preparing specimens and genitalia, collecting regulations and guidelines, and disposition of collections. The price is $29 for members of the Lepidopterists' Society and $40 for nonmembers; postage and handling is an additional $4.00 for the U.S. and Canada, and $6.00 elsewhere. The book can be ordered from Ken Bliss, Publications Manager, 28 Du Pont Ave. Piscatoway, NJ, 08854-2435, USA.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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

Annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America, San Diego, California, 9-13 December 2001.

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