According to Shen-Horn Yen, the on-line checklist of the Lepidoptera of Taiwan has been uploaded to the "Taiwan Biodiversity Information Network" (http://taibnet.sinica.edu.tw/english/home.htm). A recently revised and updated checklist of the Tortricidae of Taiwan can be found there. The literature and image databases are still under construction, and Shen-Horn indicates that those will be completed within about 2 years.

TORTRICIDAE OF TAIWAN NOW ON-LINE

“ELEN” MEETING IN CAMPINAS, BRAZIL

I ELEN (I Encontro Sobre Lepidoptera Neotropicais), roughly translated as the “First Meeting On The Neotropical Lepidoptera,” was held in Campinas, Brazil, 17-21 April 2005. Hosted and organized by two Brazilian lepidopterists, Andre Victor Lucci Freitas and Marcelo Duarte, the meeting was attended by over 200 Lepidoptera enthusiasts, primarily Latin Americans, over half of which were students. The large number of young people was in stark contrast to most North American Lepidoptera meetings in which the crowd is dominated by geriatric (or nearly geriatric, as in my case) professionals, with student participation about 20-30%. Among the attendees were about 8-10 North Americans and about 5-6 Europeans, with the remainder of the audience and presenters from Central and South America, with nearly every Latin American country represented by one or more participants.

The talks, presented mostly in Portuguese and Spanish, were dominated by butterfly themes. However, several presentations focused on larger ecological or biogeographic questions, with considerable interest to a broader audience. The conference featured four symposia: Systematics and Taxonomy, Patterns of Diversity, Molecular Systematics, and Ecology
and Conservation, each consisting of several talks by invited speakers. With over 40 oral presentations and 95 posters, the meeting offered something for everyone.

The meeting was very well organized, and the facilities at UNICAMP were superb. The banquet was unforgettable, featuring typical Brazilian cuisine.

Because of the tremendous success of the conference it was determined by the organizers and those in attendance that it would be a tragedy to lose the momentum created by the meeting. As a result, there was a consensus to have additional meetings every two years. The next meeting (II ELEN) is scheduled for 2007 at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute at Barro Colorado Island, Panama, to be hosted by Annette Aiello.


WHO’S DOING WHAT

Vitor Becker is spending much of the summer at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, identifying specimens from a variety of faunal survey projects, primarily in collaboration with Scott Miller. Construction on Vitor’s newly developed research station at Cerro Bonita, Brazil, is nearing completion, and he hopes to be able to host visitors sometime next year.

Joaquin Baixeras visited the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, 19 June - 2 July 2005 to discuss protocols for collecting specimens for DNA analyses, work on a small taxonomic project, and identify Tortricidae collected during field work in Bolivia. His visit was hosted by John Brown and Charles Mitter.

Richard Brown spent the first week of June 2005 collecting in Puerto Rico, working in coastal dry forest and montane forest. He was accompanied by graduate student SangMi Lee and Edda Martinez.

Marianne Horak is putting the finishing touches on her long awaited labor-of-love on the Olethreutinae of Australia. It promises to be a large, ground-breaking work, bringing together considerable information on Oriental and Australian olethreutines, primarily at the generic level. Start saving your money to buy a copy.

Eric Metzler’s long-term project on prairie Lepidoptera - a monumental, multi-authored tome - is nearing publication. Eric recently moved his base of operations to New Mexico.

William Miller was honored during the annual celebration of alumni day at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, in May for his career accomplishments at that university.

Felix Sperling is the President-Elect of the Lepidopterists’ Society and will take the reigns of that organization at the annual meeting in August in Sierra Vista, Arizona, USA.

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