

Acarology Bulletin

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A Newsletter of the **SYSTEMATIC AND APPLIED ACAROLOGY SOCIETY**

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Acarology and Member News

Graduate Research Assistantship:

Inquiries from prospective pre-doc students are invited for graduate studies on taxonomic and biological studies on the beneficial mite fauna of natural ecosystems in Washington State. Please send inquires and resume to Dr David G. James, Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center, Washington State University, 24106 North Bunn Road, Prosser, WA 99350, USA.

Email: djames@tricity.wsu.edu

Second International Conference on Africanized Honey Bees and Bee Mites will be held during April 10 - 12, 2000 in Tucson, Arizona, USA.

The 4th International Conference on Ticks and Tick-borne Pathogens will take place in Canada in 2002. Reuben Kaufman was elected chairman of the local organizing committee. For further information, please contact Dr. Kaufman at e-mail Reuben.Kaufman@ualberta.ca.

The **second volume of proceedings** from the **IX International Congress of Acarology** (the one in Columbus, Ohio, USA in 1994) is ready for shipping. If you attended that congress (and thus will get this volume) and if you changed address in the last 1-2 years, please let Hans Klompen (E-mail: klompen.1@osu.edu) know. The volume was published in 1999.

Adelaide scientists head \$12 million international project:

Two Adelaide University scientists have been selected to lead a worldwide effort to record and describe every known tick. The Ticks of the World project - expected to cost more than \$12 million over the next 15 years - will be managed by Dr. Ross Andrews and Dr. Trevor Petney from the University's Department of Environmental Biology. The project is a response to growing worldwide concern about the health threat posed by parasites. Ticks account for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of children every year, and the risk of parasitic outbreaks is rising with increased transportation of food and people between countries. Dr Andrews said the project would result in the production by CSIRO Publishing of a multi-volume series of books and interactive CD-ROMs to help identify and characterize ticks around the world. "After mosquitoes, ticks are the most significant transmitters of disease to humans in both developed and developing countries," he said. "They are the single most important transmitters of disease to domestic animals. "We know of about 860 species of tick, but new species are being discovered and described each year. This project will provide us with the most comprehensive body of information about ticks ever assembled. It will also result in Adelaide becoming the world center for information on - and research into - parasites". Dr Andrews said he was pleased to announce that Olympus Australia had agreed to sponsor the light microscope aspects of the research. The

sponsorship agreement will see the company establish a state-of-the-art imaging facility at Adelaide University to support the project. The first volume and CD-ROM in the series will cover the ticks of Australia. Subsequent volumes and CD ROMs will cover the Americas, Africa, Europe and Asia.

Media contacts: Dr Ross Andrews, Tel. 8303 5854, Mobile. 0414 509 016; John Drislane, Media, Marketing & Publications Office, Tel. 8303 3036 (w), 8354 2915 (h).

Dr. **Renjie Hu** attended the 1999 Annual Meetings of the Acarological Society of America and the Entomological Society of America jointly held in Atlanta, Georgia during December 12-16. The formal conference of the ASA entitled "Emerging diseases associated with ticks and mites" was a great success. Thanks to Drs. Lance Durden and James Keirans of the Institute of Arthropodology and Parasitology, Georgia Southern University, who were the moderators. Katya Ledin of Department of Entomology, University of Georgia won the Outstanding Student Paper Award. She presented a paper entitled "Immunomodulation of BALB/c mice by *Amblyomma americanum* feeding". Ashley Dowling of Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan won the Student Travel Award. During the ASA business meeting, Dr. Lance Durden was elected the President-elect. Drs. Barry Oconner of University of Michigan and Angela James of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were elected new executive committee members. In addition, Dr. James Keirans

will serve the ASA as the new Secretary/Treasurer. Dr. Joel Hutchenson of Colorado State University will take over the duties from Dr. Marilyn Houck of Texas Tech Univeristy as the new editor of the ASA newsletter. Dr. Bisong Yue of Texas A & M University, a SAAS member, also attended the meetings.

Dr. Bruce Halliday provided the following information "Many of you will be wondering about progress towards publication of **the Proceedings of the 10th International Congress of Acarology**. This process is taking longer than we expected, but we are making progress. Manuscripts are now in the final editorial stage, and we anticipate publication in mid to late 2000. If you need to refer to your papers in annual reports etc, the details of the reference will be : Halliday, R. B., Walter, D. E., Proctor, H. C., Norton, R. A. and Colloff, M. J. 2000. Proceedings of the 10th International Congress of Acarology. (CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne). The title may change, but the other details are correct at this time. Thank you for your patience".

Mr. **Jianzhen LIN** of Fujian Academy of Agricultural Sciences joined the Acarological Society of Japan in late 1999. He is the first Chinese member in that society.

Mr. **Xuenong XU**, a member from Anhui Agricultural University, is now

studying IPM and agrienvironment in Germany. He is supported by the German Foundation For International Development (DSE) and will be in Germany until next December. His contacting address is c/o DSE/ZEL Wielingerstrasse 52, 82340 Feldafing, German. xuxn_99@yahoo.com.

Ning XU, a member from the Institute of Tea Science, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, has gone to Canada to do postdoctoral research as NSERC Postdoc Research Fellow in Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon Research Center in January 2000.

New Books

The Genus *Rhipicephalus* (Acari: Ixodidae) A Guide to the Brown Ticks of the World. (1999) By J. B. Walker, J. E. Keirans & I. G. Horak. Cambridge University Press. 608 pp. Price GBP 60.00, ISBN 0-521-48008-6 (Hardcover).

Fauna d'Italia. Vol. XXXVI. Acari. Ixodida. (1998) By Giulio Manilla. Edizioni, Calderini, Bologna. 280pp. ISBN 88-8219-162-1.

The Biology of Spider Mites. By Akio Takafuji. Spinger-Verlag Tokyo. 1998. Price: 3500 Japanese Yen plus tax. 214pp. soft cover.

Book Review

Rhombognathine mites: taxonomy, phylogeny, and biogeography. (1998) By Hiroshi Abe. Hokkaido University Press, 228pp. ISBN 4-8329-0257-1

This monograph is a comprehensive review of the halacarid subfamily Rhombognathinae of the World. It is organized into 8 parts: I. Introduction, II. Taxonomy, III Morphology and Biology, IV. Revision of the Subfamily Rhombognathinae, V. Phylogeny, VI. Historical Biogeography, VII. Summary and VIII. Literature cited.

The taxonomic system used in this book is different from the recent one proposed by Harvey (1990), who recognized Rhombognathinae as one of the four families in the Halacaroida (other families: Halacaridae, Lohmanellidae, Pezidae). The subfamily Rhombognathinae, as reviewed in this book, comprise 118 species arranged in four genera: *Rhombognathus* (84 spp.), *Isobactrus* (23 spp.), *Rhombognathides* (9 spp.) and *Metarhombognathus* (2 spp.). The majority of the text of this book provides a taxonomic review of these taxa, including keys to genera and species, and synopses of each taxa with the following information: diagnosis, habitat, geographical distribution, type depository and bibliography. A chapter of 37 pages was devoted to a careful cladistic analysis of generic relationships in the subfamily. This is followed by a well-presented historical biogeographical analysis of the subfamily. Unlike the

cladistic analysis, which produced a resolved phylogeny of the subfamily, the historical biogeographical analysis, however, posed more questions and hypotheses than the answers it was set to obtain. These two parts are the most interesting parts of the book and follow the high standards set by Smith (1976), Lindquist (1986) and Niedbala (1992). The bibliography is extensive, and there is a good taxonomic index. This book in general is an excellent contribution to the morphology, systematics, evolution and biology of the Rhombognathinae.

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A survey of the membership of the Systematic and Applied Acarology Society

BY Xiaoyue HONG

Four years have passed since the establishment of the *Systematic and Applied Acarology Society* (SAAS) in London in October 1995. With the great efforts of all members, especially the president, Dr. Zhi-Qiang Zhang and other officers of the society, the SAAS has gradually developed into an influential internationally society. It becomes one of the largest acarological societies in the world in terms of the number of active members. Furthermore, the SAAS has a wider member distribution than any other major acarological societies.

As of the end of 1999, the SAAS has 234 members in 33 countries, with 157 members in China and 77 members outside China. Table 1 summarizes the country distribution of SAAS members.

In China, 157 members are distributed in the following 28 provincial-level administration regions: Anhui (4), Beijing (10), Chongqing (12), Fujian (9), Gansu (6), Guangdong (7), Guangxi (3), Guizhou (6), Hainan (3), Hebei (3), Henan (1), Heilongjiang (1), Hunan (1), Hong Kong (1), Jilin (1), Jiangsu (13), Jiangxi (14), Liaoning (5), Shaanxi (3), Shandong (4), Shanxi (5), Shanghai (16), Sichuan (2), Taiwan (3), Tianjin (1), Xinjiang (12), Yunnan (5), and Zhejiang (5). However, SAAS does not have members in the following six regions: Hubei, Macao, Ningxia, Neimenggu (Inner Mongolia),

Qinghai, and Xizang (Tibet). It is our hope that SAAS will have member in every region in China in the near future because the society is dedicated to promote the development of acarology in China.

Table 1 Distributions of Members of Systematic & Applied Acarology Society among countries in the world.

Country	No.	Country	No.
Africa	6	America	27
Egypt	1	Argentina	2
Ethiopia	2	Brazil	1
Libya	1	Canada	1
S. Africa	2	Mexico	1
Asia-Pacific	185	USA	23
Australia	2	Europe	16
China	157	Finland	1
Iran	2	France	1
Israel	2	Georgia	1
Japan	3	Germany	1
Malaysia	3	Greece	3
Mongolia	1	Italy	1
New Zealand	1	Latvia	1
S. Korea	9	Malta	1
Thailand	5	Norway	1
		Poland	1
		Spain	1
		Sweden	1
		Turkey	1
		UK	1

The society is facilitating the collaboration and exchange of information among acarologists in different parts of the world. We are happy to see that SAAS is now represented in every continent in the world. We look forward

to working with acarologists from many more countries in promoting the development of acarology.

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Acknowledgements

*We thank the following members for
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to SAAS:*

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Systematic & Applied Acarology Society

Application for membership

Systematic and Applied Acarology Society (SAAS) aims at promoting the development of acarology in China and fostering cooperation among acarologists in different parts of the world. Anyone interested in the study of mites and ticks is welcome to join SAAS. There is no fee for basic membership. Members can publish free of page charge in *Systematic and Applied Acarology* (SAA), can participate in elections of SAAS officers and enjoy 25% discount in page charge for publishing in the rapid journal *Systematic and Applied Acarology Special Publications* (SAASP). Members who volunteer contributions of 16 or 52 Australian dollars becomes sustaining members; those contribute 16\$A receive printed version of *Acarology Bulletin* (AB), those contribute 52\$A receive SAA and AB. Electronic versions of AB and SAASP are available online for free: www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/acarology/saas/

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Degrees: Institution _____ Date _____

Research Interest: _____

Member type Basic; free

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ACAROLGY BULLETIN (ISSN 1361-8091) is a newsletter of the Systematic and Applied Acarology Society (c/o Dr. Anne Baker, Dept. of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD, UK). It is published in four issues in 2000 (January, April, July and October) and is distributed free on the internet and to sustaining members of SAAS. All correspondence should be sent to the Editor Dr. Renjie HU, California Department of Health Services, 2151 Convention Center Way, Suite 218B, Ontario, CA; 91764, USA; Tel: (909) 937-3440; Fax: (909) 937-3456; E-mail: drrenjie@hotmail.com. Non-member subscribers should order the journal from Magnolia Press (5922 123rd Avenue S.E., Bellevue, WA 98006, USA). Subscription rate for vol. 5 in 2000 is \$10 plus \$6 for post by air.