

# Acarology Bulletin

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

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## Acarology Bulletin Editors

Editor:  
Dr. Renjie Hu (USA)

Assistant editors:  
Dr. Xiaoyue Hong (China)  
Dr. Ting-Kui Qin (Australia)  
Dr. Zhi-Qiang Zhang (New Zealand)

## Acarology and Member News

**The 2000 Annual Meeting of the Acarological Society of America** will be held during December 3-7, 2000 in Montréal, Canada, as part of the Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting. The annual meeting, held in conjunction with La Société d'Entomologie du Québec and the Entomological Society of Canada, will take place at the Palais des Congrès de Montréal, the city's convention centre. The following is the symposia:

**Acarology Formal Conference**  
**Soil mites: systematics,**  
**biodiversity and**  
**ecology in four dimensions**

The focus of this symposium is recent advances in soil mite ecology, biodiversity and systematics. The soil habitat is considered broadly, and includes: surface soil and litter; derived soil habitats, such as suspended soils, and epiphyte laden branches, twigs and leaves; deep soils; and shifting soils such as those of dune systems. This symposium would also include the dimension of time, either the ecological time scale (including succession) or geological/evolutionary time scales, including biogeography and phylogeny.

Organized and moderated by **Hans Klompen** and **Valerie Behan-Pelletier**

Presentations

**Evert Lindquist** (Systematic Acarology Unit, Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research

Centre, K.W. Neatby Building, 960 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6)

*Ascid mites (Acari: Mesostigmata) of soil and adjacent habitats in lowland tropical rainforest of La Selva, Costa Rica: an example of underestimated acarine biodiversity*

**Barry OConnor** (Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079)

*Soil-dwelling astigmatid mites: ecological shifts from patchy to continuous habitats.*

**Roy Norton** (SUNY-College of Environmental Science & Forestry, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, New York 13210) *Constraint and adaptation in the evolution of oribatid mite defense.*

**Valerie Behan-Pelletier** (Biodiversity Program, Research Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, K. W. Neatby Bldg., Ottawa, ON, Canada K1A 0C6)

*Patterns of diversity in the Ceratozetoidea (Acari: Oribatida): a global assessment.*

**Neville N. Winchester** (Department of Biology, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 3020, Victoria, BC V8W 3N5)

*Mites on a rampage: Exploration of arboreal suspended soils in ancient rainforests.*

**Randi Hansen** (Dept. Biological Sciences, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208)

*The oribatid mite assemblage of*

*decomposing litter: maintaining diversity in a dynamic landscape.*

**Liam Heneghan** (Environmental Science Program, DePaul University, 2325 North Clifton Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-3207)

*The creative mosaic - microarthropods as contributors to plant assemblage structure.*

All presentations are for 30 minutes (including question time). The Formal Conference will be followed by the ASA business meeting.

**Fourth EURAAC Symposium's** preparation is progress. There will be four sessions:

- 1) Phylogeny & Evolution,
- 2) Systematics, Morphology & Evolution,
- 3) Applied Acarology and
- 4) Evolutionary Ecology and Life History.

There will also be a round table discussion chaired by Serge Kreiter (Farnce) entitled "How to see the future of acarology". For further information, visit the web site:

[http://www.unisi.it/ricerca/dip/bio\\_evol/sitoeuracc/siena2000.html](http://www.unisi.it/ricerca/dip/bio_evol/sitoeuracc/siena2000.html)

or contact:

Fabio Bernini  
Department of Evolutionary Biology  
University of Siena  
Via P.A. Mattioli 4 - 53100 Siena  
Italy  
e-mail: [euracc2000@unisi.it](mailto:euracc2000@unisi.it)  
FAX: +39 0577 323898

## Member news

**Dr. Xianguo Guo** of Dali Medial College, Yunnan, China has moved to Australia recently. He will be at School of Biochemistry, La Trobe University for one year as a visiting scholar studying Blue Oak Mites. He can be reached at School of Biochemistry, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria 3083, Australia. His E-mail addresses are : [xgguo@bioserve.latrobe.edu.au](mailto:xgguo@bioserve.latrobe.edu.au)

**Dr. Shifu Zhao** of the University of West Virginia (USA) successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation in April, 2000. The following is the abstract of his dissertation entitled "Study of dispersal and diversity of eriophyoid mites (Acari: Eriophyoidea)": Eriophyoid mites represent a major, agriculturally important group of mites. The knowledge of dispersal biology and species diversity of eriophyoids is very limited, because their tiny body size makes observation and study difficult. The current method of using sticky glass slides or plates to sample airborne eriophyoids is inefficient and inappropriate. A new method using water pan traps and vacuum-filtration proved far superior to the previous method. A three year investigation using the water pan sampling method resulted in a total of 8,131 airborne eriophyoid specimens, 60.6% of which were collected from the roof of a 40m high building. Airborne eriophyoids were collected in each month of the year. While a significant peak period of aerial dispersal for all

eriophyoids occurred in June-July, the yearly aerial dispersal profile varied with species and location. Their airborne activities had an evident diurnal pattern with a peak in mid afternoon. Meteorological factors, except for wind, did not seem to have a significant effect on daily airborne catches of eriophyoids in summer. The airborne collection contained 598 species of eriophyoids in 66 genera, most new to science. Their taxonomic distribution pattern closely matched that of described species. But only about 30 species made up the vast majority of the total specimen abundance of the collection. The species composition of an airborne collection varied with year and location. A total of 171 arthropods were collected in 249 kg of snow from 10 major snowfalls. The fauna included 89 eriophyoid specimens and 75 mites in other groups, both in diverse taxa. Presence of mites in snow further indicated their great potential for aerial dispersal, and might imply their potential for long distance dispersal. Only 24 eriophyoid specimens were recovered from about 35,000 insects from Malaise traps, so phoresy occurs to a very limited extent in eriophyoids. The total of 620 collected airborne and snowborne species greatly increased the size of known faunas for the investigated region (74 species in West Virginia) and the U. S. (653). Still, the accumulation curves of new species vs. collection size indicate that the total diversity of the Eriophyoidea within the study area is higher than obtained.

### Chinese scientific journals online

Developed by China Science and Technology Information Institute and Wanfang Data (Group) Company, the digital Chinese periodicals are available now. Thousands of Chinese Scientific Journals are online and full textz can be viewed. The website is at:

<http://periodical1.chinainfo.gov.cn/szhqk/>

You can find all the major scientific journals published in mainland China. The following journals which are of interest to acarologists can be found in the website.

**1 Biology:** *Science in China (A-E), Acta Entomologica Sinica, Acta Zootaxo-nomica Sinica, Acta Zoologica Sinica, Zoological Research, Acta Ecologica Sinica, Ecologic Science, Chinese Biodiversity, Chinese Journal of Applied Ecology.*

**2 Plant Protection:** *Acta Phytophylacica Sinica, Plant Protection, Plant Protection Technology and Extension.*

**3 Agriculture:** *Scientia Agricultura Sinica, Southwest China Journal of Agricultural Sciences, Journal of Shanghai Agriculture, Acta Agriculturae Bokeali-Sinica.*

**4 University journals:** *Acta Scientiarum Naturalium Universitatis Pekinensis, Journal of Beijing Normal University (Natural Science), Journal of Fudan University (Natural Science), Journal of China Agricultural University, Journal of Nanjing*

*Agricultural University, Journal of South China Agricultural University, Journal of Huazhong Agricultural University, Journal of Fujian Agricultural University.*

### **The 44th Japanese Congress of Applied Zoology & Entomology**

was held at Ibaraki University, Mito city, Ibaraki Prefecture during March 29-31, 2000. Headed by Professor Tetsuo Gotoh (SAAS member), the organizing committee had done a lot of preparation and the meeting turned out to be a great success. The meeting was attended by more than 600 delegates from all over Japan as well as from China, Korea, Holland, Pakistan and Switzerland. The formal conference was composed of 9 sessions, as follows: A. IPM; B. Morphology, Histology, Genetics, Life history and Distribution; C. Pathology and Microorganism Control; D. Biological Control; E. Physiologically Active Materials; F. Physiology and Biochemistry; G. Animal Behavior and Behavior Ecology; H. Ecology; I. Taxonomy, Phylogeny and Evolution. Professor Hiroshi Amano of Chiba University won the Society Award on the opening ceremony for his outstanding work on the phytoseiid mites. A few Japanese acarologists also showed up for the meeting. Professor Akio Takafuji (SAAS member) and Dr. Junji Takabayashi of Kyoto University, Professor Fujio Kadano of Chiba Seed & Stock Farm, Dr. Mh Osakabe of National Agriculture Research Center, Dr. Norihide Hinomoto of National Institute of Sericultural and Entomological Science,

Dr. Yasuki Kitashima of National Pomology Experimental Station and many acarological graduate students took part in the meeting. Dr. Xiaoyue Hong of Nanjing Agricultural University, China also attended the meeting, and met and chatted with some Japanese acarologists.

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**Flechtmann, C.H.W., Kreiter, S., Etienne, J., and de Moraes, G.J.** Plant mites (Acari) of the French Antilles. 2. Tarsonemidae and Tydeidae (Prostigmata).

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**Baslia, A.A.E. and Yousef, A.-T. A.** Two new species of the family Phytoseiidae from Egypt (Acari : Phytoseiidae).

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## New members

Ms. Liza J. Canlas  
Hyogo International Students House A-607  
1-2-8 Wakihamacho, Chou-ko  
Kobe-shi 651-0072  
Japan  
email:winsarang@yahoo.com

Mr Ilya Smelansky  
P.O.B. 547, 630090 Novosibirsk,  
Russia.  
Tel 7-095-39 78 85 Fax 7-095-39 78 85  
email ilya@ecoclub.nsu.ru

Dr O.A.E. Sparagano  
Heriot-Watt University  
Department of Biological Science,  
Riccarton Park, Edinburgh EH 14 4AS,

Scotland, UK.  
Tel +44 131 451 3642  
Fax +44 131 451 3009  
Email o.a.e.sparagano@hw.ac.uk

Dr Saly Farouk Mohamed Allam  
Agriculture Zoology and Nematology  
Faculty Agriculture, Cairo University  
El-Gamaa St., 12311. Egypt.  
Telephone: (011) (202) 571-2991  
Fax: (011) (202) 571-2991  
E-mail: mshamseldean@hotmail.com

Mr Christopher M. Ritzi  
Department of Life Science  
Indiana State University  
Terre Haute, IN 47809 USA  
Tel +1 812 237 8294 (w)  
Email isritzi@scifac.indstate.edu

## E-mail address change

Wenlong Chen  
wenlchen@agri.sjtu.edu.cn or  
cccwlong@hotmail.com

Jingze Liu  
Jzliu21@sj-user.he.cninfo.net

Ling Meng  
lbping@xjau.edu.cn

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