

# Volume 4 – 1 July 2010 A newsletter for the Pyraloidea fans

Dear Pyraloidea fans,

Welcome to this fourth edition of our newsletter. As you will see below, we have lost another great pyraloid fan in Dale Habeck, who passed away in May. Alma Solis kindly provided some notes on her knowledge of him. I have met him only once or twice and I remember a very gentle man.

Few people have sent me information to publish in PP this time. Hopefully there will be more next year. But perhaps this is due to my poor success in advertising for contributions. So if someone else wants to edit the next issue, please let me know!

I was fortunate last year in July to spend time in Venezuela to collect and visit Pepe Clavijo, who did his Ph.D. at McGill University, where we met, under the guidance of Eugene Munroe. Pepe went on to work at the Universidad Central de Venezuela at the Maracay Campus where he teaches and is Director of the Museo del Instituto de Zoologia Agricola « Francisco Fernandez Yepez » (MIZA). Last Summer Pepe was busy preparing the move of the collections of MIZA into a brand new building (Fig. 4). I was able to collect in Parque Nacional Henri-Pittier, including at the Portachuelo Pass (see Figs 1-3), famous for its migrations of birds and leps. Several hundred specimens of Pyraloidea are thus newly available for study in Geneva. I was also able to sort a few draw-



Fig. 1. Paso Portachuelo, Henri-Pittier National Park, Venezuela.

ers of Crambinae of MIZA and photograph their collection of already identified pyraloids, which helped to identify my material.

When I think about the pyraloid world globally, the thing that strikes me this Spring is the **introductions** of two Asian species in foreign lands, one in North America and the other in Europe. *Ecpyrrhorrhoe\* puralis* (South), a pyraustine, was introduced in the USA somewhere in the 1990s and is now

found in several Eastern states of the USA, from Pennsylvania to Mississippi. Since the caterpillar feeds on *Paulownia tomentosa* (Thunb.) Steud. (Scrophulariaceae), which is also introduced and invasive, this new introduction sounds more like a successful story in biological control, instead of a catas-

<sup>\*</sup> You want to know the etymology of this name? Me too! Please send any information you may find.

trophe, unless the caterpillar starts munching on other native Scrophulariaceae... More information can be found on the first report of E. puralis in North America by Alma Solis and colleagues, documented in GlobIZ. The second species, 'Neoglyphodes' perspectalis (Walker), also a pyraustine, was first reported from Germany in 2007. It has since been found in France and Switzerland, and one unpublished country record is know to me. Last year in June moths were collected near Geneva, in adjacent Vaud Canton, and just a few weeks ago (on May 23) I found caterpillars among leaves of a box tree (Buxus sp.) in Canton Geneva (see Figs 5-7), which means that moths were present in the canton at least since last year. This introduction promises to have devastating consequences on the various Buxus species found in Europe as shown by images seen on http:// sites.estvideo.net/sae/pyrale du buis.html. Another sad effect of globalization, undoubtedly... The generic assignation of this species has changed several times in the past, and Richard Mally & Matthias Nuss have a paper accepted in the European Journal of Entomology on this problem. The pdf file will be freely available soon via the journal homepage and GlobIZ.

As usual please send any changes of address to me and you may suggest additions to the 'Membership List' as well as send PP to whoever you like.

**Bernard Landry** 



Fig. 2. Tower set up by B. Landry at Paso Portachuelo in July 2009.



Fig. 3. Six pyrales on tower at Paso Portachuelo on 15 July 2009.



Fig. 4. New building of Museo del Instituto de Zoologia Agricola « Francisco Fernandez Yepez », Maracay, Venezuela, in July 2009 (almost ready to accept staff and collections).



Fig. 5. 'Neoglyphodes' perspectalis caterpillar found in Geneva.

This issue was made possible with the help of David Agassiz, James Hayden, Houhun Li, Richard Mally, Debbie Matthews Lott, Matthias Nuss, and Alma Solis

The logo of The Pyraloid Planet was created by Florence Marteau of the Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Geneva, Switzerland, and the layout of this issue was made by Corinne Charvet of the same institution.





Figs 6, 7. Pupae of 'Neoglyphodes' perspectalis found in Geneva. On left, pupa recently metamorphosed; on right, pupa the day before the emergence of the imago.

## Dale H. Habeck

Dale H. Habeck passed away on May 19, 2010. He was an Emeritus Professor at the University of Florida at Gainesville. Although Dale's work was primarily on biological control agents his true love was rearing insects, and he was especially intrigued by aquatic pyraloids. He used to say that the biological control work paid for his rearing activities. Soon after I was hired by USDA, I called him in 1991 and asked him if I could come to visit him, follow him around, and learn as much I could about the larvae of aquatic pyraloids. He was amazingly generous. I was able to study the caterpillars in his collection and he knew exactly where to take me to collect, ie. to develop a search image for, immatures of every genus occurring in Florida. The experience was amazing, one minute he would stop and ask: "do you see that cistern over there. Do you see the bumps on top of the water? Most of those will be Synclita obliteralis." We put on waders to get into ponds, or we just walked into the water if it was low and clear, and/or we went on an airboat to a local reservoir. This leads to a story that resulted in a publication. He arranged for us to go out on an airboat to look for aquatic larvae in a local reservoir. On the airboat we would pull up vegetation and look for larvae. He mentioned to me that he had been looking for the immatures of Petrophila drumalis and had never found them. I picked up some Pistia stratiotes or water lettuce and found a larva that looked different from everything else I had seen. I showed it to him and all of sudden he said, "Everyone get a

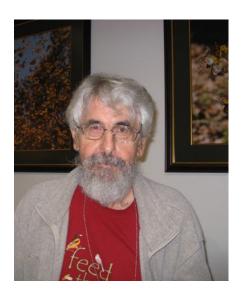


Fig. 8. Dale Habeck in the Conference Room of McGuire Centre, Gainesville, Florida, January 2009. Photo by Jackie Miller.

plastic bag and start collecting water lettuce." We took it to the lab where he had many aquatic tanks. We went through the water lettuce looking for immatures. It turned out to be immatures of *Petrophila drumalis* (see Habeck & Solis, 1994). This was my first foray into adult morphology of Acentropinae. Later he agreed to work with me on the larvae of the Epipaschiinae for the MONA fascicle. Last year I received a phone call and he told me that due to health reasons he would not be finishing this project and that the collection of immatures would be taken from his house by Debbie Matthews and held for me. I was able to go through this extensive collection early this spring after it arrived at my office in D.C. Needless to say, he will be missed and his knowledge about larvae will be evident in his collection.

### Publications on pyraloids by D. Habeck:

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Center, T.D., J.K. Balciunas, and D. H. Habeck. 1982. Descriptions of *Sameodes albiguttalis* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) life stages with key to Lepidoptera larvae on waterhyacinth. Ann. Entomol. Soc. Amer. 75(4): 471-479.

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Habeck, D. and M. A. Solis. 1994. Transfer of *Petrophila drumalis* (Dyar) to *Argyractis* based on immature and adult characters with a larval description of *Argyractis subornata* (Hampson) (Lepidoptera: Crambidae: Nymphulinae). Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 96 (4): 726-734.

Habeck, Dale H. 1996. Australian moths for hydrilla control. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Technical report A-96-10. Vicksburg, Miss. 19 pp + illustrations.

Habeck, Dale H. and J. K. Balciunas. 2005. Larvae of Nymphulinae (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) associated with *Hydrilla verticillata* (Hydrocharitaceae) in North Queensland. Australian Journal of Entomology. 44: 354-363.

M. Alma Solis

## **News from Alma Solis**

My administrative duties as Research Leader of the Systematic Entomology Laboratory take time, but I still manage to get lots done. I have been involved in the following Pyraloidea projects since the last PP:

#### Research:

Herpetogramma: I conducted research on the placement of Herpetogramma species that are not Spilomelinae. I will be going to the BM in late June, early July this year to continue this work. I've also been working in the following subfamilies: Acentropinae: Usingeriessa & Oxyelophila (with a student in Texas who has reared the larvae); Aulacodes (with Kenji Nishida who has reared a species of this genus for the first time on a terrestrial hostplant); Spilomelinae: Hyalorista; Chrysauginae (as a result of curating): Heliades, Chenovadia, and Craftsia, and a new genus for Lepidomys proclea (larvae were reared by a student in Mexico), Glaphyriinae: Schacontia of Costa Rica. Valles Caldera National Preserve: | conducted fieldwork at Valles Caldera National Preserve in New Mexico in the summer of 2009. I hope to be going out there again this summer. I have organized a symposium on Arthropods of VCNP for the National Entomological Society of America meeting in San Diego, 2010. I will be presenting on the lone acentropine species Petrophila avernalis, including a discussion of acentropine species in Northwestern Mexico that I did with Manuel Balcazar. Other: I continue to proof the USNM type database with almost 3000 type photos. I continue to collaborate with D. Janzen identifying material for his CR barcoding project. I have started retaining material coming in from U.S. ports for identification for COI analysis. The Epipaschiinae MONA fascicle will be started.

### Collections:

The effort to finish curating the entire collection before I retire continues: **Chrysauginae**: Incorporated 2-3 cabinets (about 75 drawers for about the 3rd time in my lifetime here) of protem and recurated the collection. This provided material for species previously not represented in the collection. **Epipaschiinae**: Protem (about 45 drawers) sorted to genus. (next step: incorporation). **Phycitinae**: Recurated the cactus moth

phycitines. All protem was moved to after the curated portions of the collection. If anybody would like to help with sorting the Neotropical protem of this subfamily let me know. It is huge! It is currently sorted by country so that I can find relevant material for U.S. quarantine purposes. **Pyralinae**: Neartic and Neotropical collections recurated. **Spilomelinae**: Moved the Spilomelinae protem from another location to after the curated collection so that the entire Pyraloidea collection is together.

NOTE: **Pterophoridae**: As curator of the Pterophoridae I have been very fortunate to have Reed Watkins working on this collection. In 2010 I wrote an introduction and was able to put a list of the USNM Pterophoridae holdings created by Reed up on the web (http://entomology.si.edu/Collections\_Leps\_ Pterophoridae.htm.)

Identifications: I continue to do identifications coming in from the ports and other places. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) at U.S. ports insists on collecting adults flying in the holds of ships so I get lots of different adult pyraloids from all over the world, as well as local species. Prior to DHS most of the material from the Animal, Plant, Health Inspection Service (APHIS) was larvae with validated hosts, which of course provides more valuable information. The pyraloid larval key to frequently intercepted species on the web now features some photographs, instead of line drawings, for characters and will soon be up on the SEL website. This paper gets many hits on the web. In 2009 I participated in two one-week workshops (in at the University of Maryland and the other at the University of California at Davis) to teach identification of Pyraloidea (adults and larvae) via the National Plant Diagnostic Network.

M. Alma Solis

## **GlobIZ News**

During the last 12 months, the data edited in the Global Information System on Pyraloidea (GlobIZ) increased to 11'662 species

group names (+ 4'474 synonyms) and 6'228 literature references. In Crambinae, the number of valid species is now 1'958 and thus already exceeds the number of species formerly given for the group, though Bernard Landry is still adding data. This time, the largest proportion of data has been added in Spilomelinae by Richard Mally, who entered our team in 2009. There are now 2'879 valid species names of Spilomelinae in GlobIZ and approximately 1'000 species names are missing. In 2010, Thomas Simonsen entered our team. He focuses on Phycitinae and morphology of Pyraloidea. Welcome Thomas!

Most of you may have recognised already that the public website www.pyraloidea. org appears in a new design. It was developed by Gregor Kunert and his team.

A Content Management System is incorporated which allows quick additions and corrections to the website. Anybody is welcome to make suggestions and contributions.

A main innovation has been made to the taxon report on the public site. In front of every name you will find a color symbol:

indicates that the record is completed and data are verified using the original description:

indicates that the data have been taken from secondary sources but should be fairly complete:

indicates that checklist data are available, of which the nomenclatural record is not yet linked to bibliographic information.

Thus, these symbols indicate the quality level of information given. Nevertheless, errors may happen or questions appear. For that reason, name(-s) of editor(-s) of nomenclatural data are given below every record to stimulate correspondence among team members in order to improve the quality of data. Feedback can be also submitted via the e-mail address provided in that menu.

A help section has been added to the public site, explaining how to search the database and how to read the taxon report.

Currently, the data must be uploaded from time to time to the public site, as the public site is under additional development.

In contrast, the most updated data set is always available for all GlobIZ team members when using the old fashioned taxon report via their login.

Thanks to all who contributed improving GlobIZ!

Matthias Nuss Dresden, May 12, 2010

News from Richard Mally

A few months ago, I started working on my Ph.D. at the Senckenberg Museum of Zoology in Dresden under the supervision of Matthias Nuss. After completing my diploma thesis on the phylogeny of European species of *Udea* Gn. (manuscript in prep.) based on morphological and molecular data, my interest moved to Spilomelinae in general.

Very little is known about the phylogenetic relationships in Spilomelinae, and even the monophyly of this group is doubtful. To test the hypothesis of its monophyly, I recently started working on a molecular phylogeny, restricting the taxon sampling mainly to representatives of the spilomeline genus groups proposed by Munroe (1995) in his Neotropical Checklist. Apart from spilomeline taxa, I am going to include several species of Pyraustinae s. str. as well as taxa from Evergestinae and Midilinae in the analysis. For the molecular phylogeny my plan is to sequence at least three nuclear and one mitochondrial genes. Since especially the single copy nuclear genes are prone to DNA degradation, I am in need of fresh, i.e. recently collected material. Although I got access to fresh material from Europe, the Neotropics (thanks to Bernard Landry), and from the Philippines, I am still interested in recently collected, quickly dried specimens of species of the abovementioned subfamilies.

For Spilomelinae, there are no unambiguous morphological synapomorphies known so far. Therefore, in addition to molecular data, I am going to investigate morphologi-

cal characters of the sampled taxa. In this respect, the method described by Knölke et al. (2005) of DNA extraction from the specimen's abdomen, followed by dissection of the genitalia has proven quite efficient. By comparing the morphology and molecular based phylogenies, I hope to discover patterns of morphological evolution in this large group, which will help to establish a stable taxonomic system for Spilomelinae.

Since I have already worked on *Udea* (see Fig. 9), I am going to study its phylogenetic relationships by investigating genera like *Lamprosema*, *Atomopteryx*, *Rhectosemia* and *Leucinodes*, classified by Munroe (1995) as the *Udea* genus group.

Another project that I am (co-)working on is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pyraloidea volume of "Microlepidoptera of Europe", for which I am largely responsible for the Spilomelinae.

#### References

Knölke, S., S. Erlacher, A. Hausmann, M. A. Miller & A. H. Segerer 2005: A procedure for combined genitalia dissection and DNA extraction in Lepidoptera. – Insect Systematics & Evolution, Copenhagen 35: 401–409.

Munroe, E. G. 1995 a: Crambidae (Crambinae, Schoenobiinae, Cybalomiinae, Linostinae, Glaphyriinae, Dichogaminae, Scopariinae, Musotiminae, Midilinae, Nymphulinae, Odontiinae, Evergestinae, Pyraustinae). Pp. 34–79. – *In*: Heppner, J. B., Atlas of Neotropical Lepidoptera. Checklist: Part 2. Hyblaeoidea - Pyraloidea - Tortricoidea 3. – Association for Tropical Lepidoptera & Scientific Publishers, Gainesville.

Richard Mally richard.mally@senckenberg.de

# News from James Hayden

Jim Hayden finished his Ph.D. from Cornell University in December 2009 with a dissertation entitled "Phylogenetic classification of the eurrhypine Odontiinae and revision of the major Neotropical genera.". He has submitted his revision of Cliniodes Guenée for publication, comprising 28 New World species. If you want to sort and identify eurrhypines in your collection, please contact him for a preliminary key and illustrated characters. In large part, the goal of the analysis is to provide diagnoses for taxa and to synonymize many of the numerous genera of tropical Odontiinae. However, completion of the higher-level analysis will take some time to improve the sampling of species and outgroups for the subfamily.



Fig. 9. Udea costalis (Eversmann). Photographed by R. Mally.

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Jim is now a postdoctoral researcher at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania). As he is finishing the odontiine work, he is looking into new projects in other subfamilies, in part to find outgroups of the Odontiinae. The CMNH has exceptional pyraloid holdings, including possibly the best Afrotropical coverage of any North American collection and many new species from a recently concluded Caribbean survey. The collection is historically significant because Gene Munroe borrowed most of these holdings as one of his first career moves, which many of his early papers reflect. Nevertheless, there is much that he did not get around to treating. and the collection continues to grow by the hour. Please contact Jim, John Rawlins, or Bob Davidson (Collection Manager) with inquiries.

New address: See 'Membership List'.

http://iz.carnegiemnh.org/inverts/izhome.html http://sites.google.com/site/jehayden63/ Home

James Hayden

# Early stages of East African Lepidoptera by D. G. Sevastopulo

Manuscript document held in the Entomology library of the Natural History Museum, London (S.58)

Each species has black & white photographs and a typescript description of the larva, foodplant and life history.

The volume on Pyralidae includes the following species (listed as in the volume):

Sceliodes laisalis Wlk.
Zebronia pheenice Cr.
Zincknia fascialis C.
Pagyda traducalis Zell.
Pagyda salvalis Wlk.
Lamprosema indicate F.
Botyodes asialis Guen.
Sylepta derogata F.
Filodes costivitralis Guen.
Agathodes musivalis Guen.
Glyphodes prasinalis Sals.

Glyphodes unionalis Hbn. Glyphodes angustimargo Warr. Glyphodes bonjongalis Plotz. Glyphodes sericea Drury Glyphodes stolalis Guen. Glyphodes bicolor Swains. Margaronia argyraspides Tams Terastia meticulosalis Guen. Neostege holoxutha Hamps. Noorda margartactalis Hamps. Crocidolomia binotalis Zell. Pachyzancla aegrotalis Zell. Udea ablactalis Wlk. Pyrausta incoloralis Guen. Macalla sp.n. Phycitinae sp. Phycitinae sp. Pyralid sp. Sylepta sp. Glyphodes sp.

D.G. Sevastopulo lived in East Africa in the mid 20th Century, and most of the localities are Kampala, Nyali, Kwale, and Mombasa.

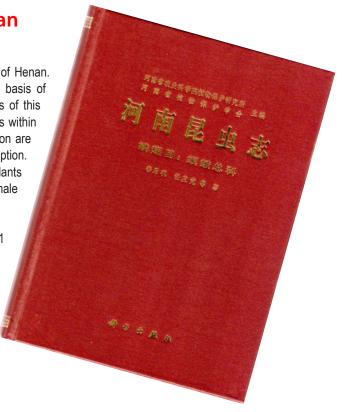
David Agassiz 3 March 2010

# Introduction to Pyraloidea of Henan

This work on Pyraloidea is part of the series Insect Fauna of Henan. It deals with the Pyraloidea fauna of Henan Province on the basis of ten years of successive collecting throughout the main regions of this province. A total of 277 species in 146 genera of 12 subfamilies within two families are described in detail. The synonyms of each taxon are listed in chronological order, with reference to the original description. The available data on the geographical distribution and host-plants are also given. 96 plates of adults (19 in colour) as well as both male and female genitalia are included.

The series Insect Fauna of Henan treats 8700 species in 11 books, published or to be published by Science Press, Beijing. Other than Pyraloidea, two other books treat other families of Lepidoptera while the others are focused on Hemiptera, Diptera, Hymenoptera, Arachnida, and Acarina.

Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea. by Li, H. H., Ren, Y. D., Zhang, D. D., Du, X. C., Li, W. C. and Ping Y. 2009: ix, 440 pp.



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