

THE PYRALOID PLANET

Volume 1 - 1 June 2006 - Issue 1
A newsletter for the Pyraloidea fans

The Pyraloid Planet was founded on the 21st of March 2006 in Dresden, Germany by most of the participants of the first GlobIZ workshop (see text below). We, in order of appearance on the photograph below (starting from the left, Christian Schulze, Shen-Horn Yen, Andreas Segerer, Houhun Li, Bernard Landry, Gregor Kunert, Matthias Nuss, Alma Solis, and Christian Schmidt) were united at the Isola bella, an Italian restaurant in Dresden, and after some debate on how we should vote on the 15 or so possible names that we had sug-

gested the night before with great enthusiasm, the name **The Pyraloid Planet** was chosen by plebiscite, and quickly became known as PP... B. Landry also proposed to be the first editor, which was adopted unanimously. The photograph below, courtesy of Houhun Li, was taken on this memorable occasion.

The Pyraloid Planet will preferably be distributed as a pdf to all those interested. Ideally, the rate of publication will be once a year, and the editor will change every

year. The survival of **The Pyraloid Planet** depends on having interesting information to publish. This information can take the form of web site announcements or presentations, congress announcements, field trip accounts, observations on pyraloids, current research projects, advances in GlobIZ, the "Membership" list, etc. New, major publications can also be announced, but shorter, new taxonomic papers on Pyraloidea will not be listed here because their references will be accessible from the GlobIZ web site. Please send any



Picture 1. On the founding night of PP. Photograph by Houhun Li.

item of interest to **The Pyraloid Planet** community (by email, preferably as a MS Word file) to the next editor, Shen-Horn Yen, at shenhornyen@hotmail.com. To be added to (or removed from) the "Membership" list, or for changes to your addresses, please also contact the next editor. The pieces of information that are not signed in this first issue are the responsibility of its editor, Bernard Landry. This issue was made possible with the help of Corinne Charvet, Jim Hayden, Houhun Li, Florence Marteau, Edda Martinez, Matthias Nuss, Amanda Roe, Thomas Simonsen, Alma Solis, and Shen-Horn Yen.

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

GlobIZ – a database on pyraloid names and literature

GlobIZ or the Global Information System on Pyraloidea (Insecta: Lepidoptera) provides easy, up-to-date access to established scientific names and their current status, and the source of the information. It is a **global synonymic catalogue** based on the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999) of the approximately 16,000 described snout moth species. The data are edited and published via the World Wide Web by pyraloid specialists worldwide, from which anyone can make queries to quickly find global answers. The information is provided free of charge, but users are requested to cite GlobIZ and acknowledge the origin of the data.

Check it out at <http://www.pyraloidea.org/>

The **first GlobIZ workshop** was interesting in many ways. Of course, we learned a great deal about the database, but we also heard some presentations on Pyraloidea and web applications. Here are the titles of the presentations that were given:

Day 1

- **Bernard Landry:** The endemic Pyraloidea of the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.
- **Houhun Li:** The Pyralidae of China: Current Situation and Problems.
- **Matthias Nuss:** *Loxostege clathralis* (Hübner, 1813) – colour polymorphism or different species? (Pyraloidea: Crambidae: Pyraustinae)
- **Andreas Segerer:** The *Dioryctria simplicella* complex – a morphological and molecular approach.
- **Christian H. Schulze:** Pyraloidea as a model group for studying changes of

biodiversity along environmental gradients.

- **Shen-Horn Yen:** New insights into the phylogeny of the Acentropinae.
- **M. Alma Solis:** Pyraloidea of Northwestern Mexico. & The Lepidoptera ATOL (Tree of Life) grant.
- **Francesca Vegliante:** The metathorax - looking for more characters for a cladistic analysis of the Pyraloidea.

Day 2

- **Eckhard Groll:** Web base data sources of the German Entomological Institute (DEI).
- **Gregor Kunert:** Perspectives of web applications.
- **Falk Krusche:** A GIS module for GlobIZ?
- **Andreas Weck-Heimann:** How to get GBIF data into a map?

The data already included in GlobIZ as of March 22, 2006 are:

- family group names: 94 (+ 43 synonyms)
- genus group names: 2245 (+ 1036 synonyms)
- species group names: 5829 (+ 1643 synonyms)
- generic combinations: 804
- changes of status: 730
- literature references: 2865

Recent publications on Pyraloidea systematics

Are you interested to learn more about recent publications on Pyraloidea systematics? Go to www.pyraloidea.org, enter the database, go to the literature report, and type the year you are interested in. If you come across a paper on the systematics of Pyraloidea that is not in GlobIZ, please advise Matthias Nuss (address below) or the Editor of **The Pyraloid Planet**.

New publication

Häuser, C. L., A. Steiner, J. Holstein & M. J. Scoble (Eds.) 2005. Digital Imaging of Biological Type Specimens. A manual of best practice. Results from a study of the European Network for Biodiversity Information. Stuttgart, viii + 309 pages. ISBN: 3-00-017240-8. Available from the Editors, Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Rosenstein 1, D-70191 Stuttgart, Germany.

This very interesting book compiling 24 articles by 37 contributors from Europe and three from the U.S.A. is an introduction to the digital imaging of museum

specimens. The first chapters cover general subjects. They are titled as follows: "E-types – A new resource for taxonomic research;" "Image metadata standard and practices;" "Colour management;" "Image file management;" "Online acquisition of scientific-archive documents – A survey and manual;" "Taxonomic grade images;" and "A photographer's viewpoint." Then, two series of chapters deal with Different approaches for different groups of organisms and Case studies. Of particular interest to us are the papers on **digital imaging of butterflies and other Lepidoptera** (4 papers), and beetles and other more three-dimensional insects (4 papers). Tips are given in some chapters for the use of Auto-Montage and Adobe Photoshop, as well as the effects of various ways of illuminating specimens for imaging. One can also find the description of a very efficient light box using a circular light tube. The various chapters are provided with ample illustrations, most often in colour. I recommend it highly!

Congresses

- The **XVth European Congress of Lepidopterology** will be held in Erckner near Berlin (Germany) from 8 to 12 September 2007. The Congress organizer is Wolfram Mey (see address below) and more information is available at www.socourlep.org. A workshop on **Pyraloidea** is planned to be held during this congress.
- The **57th Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society**, co-hosted with the Southern Lepidopterists' Society and the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera is held at the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, Gainesville, Florida, U.S.A., between June 14 and 18, 2006. For information on the 2007 meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society, please check www.lepsoc.org.

New websites of interest

Two global initiatives to understand better the **phylogeny of the Lepidoptera** have made their web appearance recently. The first, financed for 5 years by the US National Science Foundation under the Tree of Life programme, is mostly aimed at a better understanding of the phylogeny of all the families of Lepidoptera using molecular markers (see <http://www.leptree.org>). The other is a consortium of European lepidopterists formed in April 2006 and seeking funds (see <http://www.lepsys.org>).

As of Spring 2006, the **Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society is on line** at <http://www.lepsoc.org>. More than 3000 articles of the journal, i.e. the articles from all but the most recent 5 years of the Journal, are freely available as scanned portable document format (pdf) files.

The following link will take you to the **site of Lynn Scott**, a naturalist interested in moths. She has taken hundreds of pictures of moths at rest in her backyard near Ottawa, Canada, including pyraloids: <http://www.heiconsulting.com/dls/moth-home.html>.

Neave's Nomenclator Zoologicus on line: <http://www.ubio.org/index.php?page=Neave>

This Nomenclator is of great importance to systematists involved in introducing new names of the genus group as it provides the names of all genera and subgenera published in zoology from the 10th edition of Linnaeus' *Systema Naturae* until 2004. Names are listed alphabetically, with a bibliographic reference to the original description of each one and an indication of the animal group to which it belongs. There are an estimated 340,000 genera represented in the text as well as approximately 3000 supplemental corrections. However, I received the following word of caution, when using this online database:

«Dear Nomenclator Zoologicus users:

I just happened across a curious problem with many generic names in Vol. 9 of the printed version of Neave's Nomenclator Zoologicus, particularly for names dated 1992-1994, which is faithfully carried over into the online version of the Nomenclator at: <http://www.ubio.org/NomenclatorZoologicus/>

Specifically, many of the names of authors are truncated, with the last 1-2 letters chopped off. Some examples (there are multiple generic names for each):

- Erw 1994 should be Erwin 1994
- Ja 1994 should be Jach 1994
- Morro 1994 should be Morrone 1994
- Perki & Balfour-Browne 1994 should be Perkins & Balfour-Browne 1994
- Spring & Goodri 1994 should be Springer & Goodrich 1994
- Wa 1992 should be Watt 1992

etc. etc.

the winner: Declinia "Nikits Lawren, Kirejtsh & Gratsch 1993" should be Nikitsky, Lawrence, Kirejtshuk & Gratshev 1993!

The problem seems to start at about 1990 and become worse until about half of the

1994 authors have truncated names. So, if you use the Nomenclator to check a generic name and the author name(s) look funny, and it dates to the early 1990's, check the generic name on Google and you will usually find the correct full author name (but occasionally Google will find the truncated author name because the data were extracted from the Nomenclator!).

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Research on Pyraloidea systematics in China, a brief summary

Taxonomic studies on Chinese Pyraloidea have been carried out in the **Lab of Lepidoptera, College of Life Sciences, Nankai University**, Tianjin, China, since 1999 under the continuous support of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Special Program). Eleven postgraduates so far have engaged in the study of this superfamily, four of which have received Ph. D. degrees while three have received M. Sc. degrees. Here, our knowledge on the taxonomy of the Pyraloidea of China is reviewed.

Early period

In the IXth and early XXth centuries the Chinese fauna of Pyraloidea was studied by Zeller (1863), Walker (1863), Erschoff (1864), Butler (1880, 1875, 1881), Moore (1877), Christoph (1881), Swinhoe (1890), Hampson (1896, 1906-1916), South (1901), Strand (1918-1926, 1919), Wilman & South (1919), and Shibuya (1927, 1928). More recent taxonomists include Munroe (1958), Whalley (1963), Roesler (1965-1993), and Mutuura (with Munroe, 1968-1971). Caradja (1925-1939) and Caradja & Meyrick (1933-1938) did most of the taxonomic work on Chinese Microlepidoptera and have described many pyraloid species based on specimens collected by Dr. H. Höne (1917-1937) in different areas of China. In more recent years, Yamanaka (1972, 1992), Speidel (1984), Yoshiyasu (1991), Inoue (1992), and Yen (1997) described or recorded pyraloid species occurring in Taiwan and Mainland China.

However, few people outside China currently know who worked or who is currently working on this group in the Chinese Mainland. Wu (1938) compiled his famous

"Catalogus Insectorum Sinensium" (vol. 4, Lepidoptera), in which he recorded 587 pyraloid species based on the papers of Caradja (1925). This catalogue was supplemented by Lu and Guan (1953a, 1953b), who increased the list to 1174 species and 106 subspecies. Thereafter, Pyraloidea research in China was halted for more than twenty years due to various reasons. In 1977 Yang published his work "Moths of North China (I)" in which 93 species under 8 subfamilies of Pyraloidea were included. Then, the "Lepidoptera: Pyralidae" by Wang (1980) came out; it was part of the publication series *Economic Insect Fauna of China*. This book recorded 224 species in 124 genera and 10 subfamilies, but only a few genitalia figures were provided. Nevertheless, it played an important role in the identification of Chinese species of Pyraloidea in the agroforestry field. Later, Wang and Song, his assistant, published more than ten papers on the fauna of Chinese Pyraloidea before Wang's retirement in 1986.

After Wang, Song continued doing identifications based on Wang's work and the material collected by him. His work ended in 1994 when he retired. During this period, additional specimens were collected from different nature reserves in southern China. The results of these studies were mainly published in about ten investigation reports or paper collections. The most important book "Fauna of Pyralidae of Wuyishan Nature Reserve in China" (Wang, Song, Wu & Chen 2003) includes 398 species in 183 genera belonging to 12 subfamilies of Pyraloidea from Fujian Province. Chen, the fourth author of the book, was guided by Song, her assistant supervisor when she was a Ph. D. candidate. Chen's doctoral dissertation dealt with the Crambinae of China, recording 268 species in 40 genera, including 1 new genus, 23 new species, and 18 new country records.

Current situation

Presently, Chinese Pyraloidea are mainly studied in the Lab of Lepidoptera in Nankai University. Some Lab members also study other Microlepidoptera families of China. The postgraduates who studied or are studying Chinese Pyraloidea in Nankai University under my guidance are as follows:

H. M. Li, M. Sc., 2002, A Taxonomic Study on Several Genera of Crambinae from China (Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea: Crambidae). This study focused on the taxonomy of six genera of Crambinae from China: *Glaucocharis* Meyrick, *Euchromius* Guenée, *Metaeuchromius* Bleszynski, *Miyakea* Marumo, *Crambus* Fabricius, and *Catoptria* Hübner. Thirty-four species were

fully described with genital structures illustrated, including five species described as new.

Y. L. Du, Ph. D., 2002, A Taxonomic Study on Subfamily Phycitinae of Northern China (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae). In the taxonomic part of the dissertation, a total of 176 species in 48 genera were fully described based on a careful study of over 6000 specimens collected from northern China. One new genus was proposed, thirty-eight species described as new, and nine genera and sixty-one species or subspecies were reported for the first time from the country. Three new combinations and one specific synonym were proposed, one specific misidentification was corrected, and one specific synonym was rejected while its original status was restored.

P. You, Ph. D., 2003, A Study on the Diversity of the Insects in Tianjin Wetlands, with a Systematic Study on the Subfamily Nymphulinae from China (Lepidoptera: Crambidae). This study contains two major parts. In the first part, the wetlands in Tianjin were surveyed, with five nature reserves selected as samples to study the insect diversity in the wetlands. In the second part, seventy species in twelve genera were described in detail based on specimens collected from 28 provinces. Among them, 13 species were described as new, and one genus and 11 species were newly recorded from China.

D. D. Zhang, Ph. D., 2003, A Taxonomic Study on the Tribe Pyraustini from the Mainland of China (Lepidoptera: Crambidae: Pyraustinae). This dissertation mainly consists of two parts: the general part and the systematic part. In the systematic part, 172 species in 54 genera from the mainland of China were described in detail. Three new genera were proposed, 32 species were described as new to science, one genus and 22 species were newly recorded from China, and eight new combinations were proposed.

S. S. Wang, M. Sc., 2004, A Preliminary Study on the Subfamily Pyralinae of China (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae). Fifty-five species in eighteen genera were described in detail, including seven species described as new, and four species recorded for the first time from China. The catalogue of the subfamily Pyralinae was appended, with 150 Chinese species in 32 genera listed.

J. S. Xu, M. Sc., 2005, A Taxonomic Study on Schoenobiinae and Galleriinae from China (Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea). This taxonomic dissertation fully described 40 species in 11 genera of Schoenobiinae and 34 species in 16 genera of Galleriinae.

Ren, Y., Ph. D., 2006, A Systematic Study on Subfamily Phycitinae of Southern China

(Lepidoptera: Pyralidae). This dissertation mainly comprises three parts: a general part, a systematic part, and a biogeographic analysis. In the systematic part, 183 species and subspecies in 60 genera under 3 tribes of Phycitinae from Southern China are described in detail. One new genus is proposed, thirty-one species are described as new, eleven genera are newly recorded to China, three synonyms are established, and four new combinations are made.

The following postgraduates are presently studying for their degrees in my lab:

D. H. Kuang, M. Sc. Student (2004.09-2007.07). Thesis title: A Taxonomic Study on Several Important Genera of Phycitinae (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) from China.

Y. P. Wang, M. Sc. Student (2004.09-2007.07). Thesis title: A Taxonomic Study on the Subfamily Epipaschiinae (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) of China.

X. C. Du, Ph. D. Candidate (2005.09-2008.07). Dissertation title: A Taxonomic Study on the Subfamily Spilomelinae (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) of Northern China.

W. C. Li, M. Sc. Student (2005.09-2008.07). Thesis title: A Taxonomic Study on the Subfamily Scopariinae (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) of China.

Problems

Despite a short history of scientific research, we have made some progress in recent years with the kind assistance received in literature and advice from taxonomists like M. Horak, M. Nuss, M. A. Solis, and others. However, there are still a great number of species awaiting description in China and some problems make further comprehensive study of the Chinese Pyraloidea more difficult. Firstly, most of the early work was done by foreign taxonomists and almost all of the types of those species were deposited in European and American museums; some of these types are untraceable and some are hard to have on loan for various reasons. Secondly, collecting has been far from enough in China compared to its vast territory and diverse fauna. Thus, we still have a long way to go in the taxonomic study of the pyraloid fauna. We hope to cooperate with taxonomists of other countries to achieve more and to make more contributions to the diversity of the world fauna. And we also hope to get help from the museums where the types from China are deposited.

For references, please see the GlobIZ database.

Houhun Li

Pyraloidea studies in North America

Alma Solis, Research Leader, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, U.S.D.A. has been working on various subfamilies of Pyraloidea for several years. She can now count on Support Scientist Mark Metz to help her with her projects. They are currently working on two major genera, *Diatraea* (Crambinae) and *Herpetogramma* (Spilomelinae). Alma is also involved in the projects of two doctoral students and two postdocs.

James Hayden is a doctoral candidate at Cornell University. He wrote "I am studying Eurrhyni (Odontiinae), specifically working on a revision of *Cliniodes* Gn. in the context of putative relatives that feed on Thymelaeaceae. My webpage: <<http://www.people.cornell.edu/pages/jeh63/>>."

Edda Martinez, also a doctoral candidate, wrote the following account of her research: "I am working on my PhD at Mississippi State University under Richard Brown, with Alma Solis also serving on my Graduate Committee. The research project for my dissertation involves a revision and phylogenetic analysis of *Donacaula* Meyrick and related Schoenobiinae. This genus has never been revised, and many species are known only from their original descriptions. Based on recent examinations of genitalia of specimens from only a few collections, 20 morphotypes have been differentiated from the United States and Canada, although only 12 species are listed for this region. In addition to traditional characters of genitalia, I will also be searching for informative characters of denuded whole bodies. My research will involve establishing the monophyly of *Donacaula*, the type species of which occurs in the Palaearctic Region, and postulating phylogenetic relationships of species in the genus. I will also be testing the hypothesis by Lewvanich that *Donacaula* is closely related to *Scirpophaga*, *Niphaodos*, *Helonastes*, and *Catagela*.

I am very interested in obtaining Palaearctic specimens of *Donacaula* and other Schoenobiinae, especially the following type species: *Donacaula mucronella*, *Scirpophaga praelata* (= *phantasmata*), and *Schoenobius gigantella*. If possible I would like to obtain specimens that we can keep in the Mississippi Entomological Museum in order to make preparations of denuded whole bodies. We have a list of pyraloid species in our Museum that would be available for exchange for any schoenobiines from other areas of the world.

After completion of my doctoral degree, I hope to continue working on this family and other groups of moths in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. My Webpage: <http://>

www.msstate.edu/orgmississippiantmuseummuseumpersonnel.EddaMartinez.htm.”

Amanda Roe is soon to become a postdoc. She wrote: “This summer I will be defending my thesis on species problems in the genus *Dioryctria* and starting a postdoc with Susan Weller at the University of Minnesota working on the Morphology Initiative for the Lepidoptera ATOL. I will also continue my work on *Dioryctria*, and begin working on the Chrysauginae in collaboration with Alma.” For more information click on: http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/faculty/felix_sperling/index.php?Page=3428.

Thomas Simonsen obtained his PhD. in Copenhagen and he is currently enjoying the more extreme climates of Western Canada. He wrote “I’m currently working on the cactus feeding phycitines and relatives. I have taken up a general interest in Phycitini phycitines (especially the subtribe Acrobasiina) and hope to be able to work on the group in the years to come. You will find more information on: http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/faculty/felix_sperling/index.php?Page=3848.”

Do dead moths have a special smell ?

I am sure that most of you never thought that this question would have any importance in your work, and you are abso-

lutely right. However, during the GlobIZ workshop in Dresden, Alma Solis noticed the sweet smell of pyralid specimens in a collection drawer. Then, B. Landry and M. Nuss recalled the smell of specimens they had collected. Bernard had noticed that his Galapagos samples smelled of caramel (or butterscotch or toffee), but he hadn’t noticed if this was caused by only one or more moth species. Matthias had noticed the same smell independently from moths of the pantropical genera *Agathodes* and *Terastia* (Spilomelinae), but his nose recognised the smell of lovage (*Levisticum officinale* – Apiaceae)! The importance of this discovery seemed crucial at the time, but we failed to maintain our interest... But perhaps the moths or their larvae are exceptionally good to eat!

B. Landry & M. Nuss

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Tempted by pyraloid caterpillars for a meal ?

The following picture was taken by Shen-Horn Yen in Yunnan in 2004. He wrote that these caterpillars are a popular meal in Yunnan (China) and Thailand. Shen-Horn mentions that the species is said to be *Chilo fuscidentalis* Hampson (Crambinae) in some Chinese literature, but he is not certain of the validity of this identification. In much Thailand literature, this species is identified as *Omphisa* sp. (Spilomelinae). Quote Shen-Horn: “Mmm.....it’s delicious, really.”

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The *Strepsinoma croesusalis* complex (Acentropinae) comprises a bunch of species with unresolved taxonomic relationships ranging throughout SE Asia. The larvae dwell in fast running water, building silken-webs on rocks, and feeding on diatoms. The adults often rest gregariously beneath a big tree leaf. Photo taken by S.-H. Yen in Hongkong in 2005.