



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETAS INTERNATIONALIS ODONATOLOGICA
AND THE U.S. NATIONAL OFFICE

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X INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF ODONATOLOGY

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The X International Symposium of Odonatology will be held at East Tennessee State University during 6-12 August 1989. Registration Forms are available from me at the address given above. Abstracts and Registration Fees are due by 15 March. The I.U.C.N. Odonata Specialist Group will meet on Sunday, 6 August, at 10 A.M. Housing accommodations are available on Saturday night for those who wish to arrive early. In order to accommodate certain participants who wish to split their week between competing meetings, we have agreed to schedule papers about "adult behavior" on Monday or Tuesday and those about "larval ecology" on Thursday or Friday. The mid-symposium collecting trip to Bays Mountain Park will be on Wednesday. The S.I.O. Business Meeting and Banquet will be Thursday afternoon and evening. A post-symposium tour, led by Ken Tennesen, will depart on Saturday morning, 12 August, and return on Sunday afternoon.

The Organizing Committee has awarded \$10,000 of Travel Grants to partially cover the expenses for 12 of 20 applicants requesting more than twice the funds available. We have also asked certain colleagues to prepare review papers to lead off topical contributed paper sessions: Hans Klaus Pfau on "phylogeny"; Wolfgang Schneider on "biogeography"; Robin Wootton on "functional morphology"; Kiyoshi Inoue on "larval taxonomy"; Frank Carle and Dale Schweitzer on "conservation"; Mike May on "physiology"; Peter Morin on "larval ecology"; and Ola Fincke on "adult ecology." These papers, and those contributed by travel grantees should make this a particularly interesting symposium.

PLENARY SEMINAR: X INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF ODONATOLOGY

Philip S. Corbet
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There is never any shortage of interesting topics to discuss at these seminars; but if any member of S.I.O. wishes a particular topic to be included in the seminar at Johnson City would he or she kindly notify me as soon as possible and in any case no later than 31 March 1989?

SPURS ON ODONATA LEGS

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While there is a great deal of indiscriminate use of the following terms, I believe that most entomologists recognize 3 major types of exoskeletal extensions in insects: 1) **Setae**--single celled movable projections. These may be of various shapes such as the hairlike setae on an odonate thorax, the tridentate setae on the tarsi of odonate larvae, or flattened into scales as in the Lepidoptera. 2) **Spines**--multicelled immovable projections, usually pointed. Examples of these in Odonata would be the spines on the femora or spines on the cerci. 3) **Spurs**--multicelled but movable projections. These are similar to spines but have a flexible joint at the base, as in the distal tibial spurs of grasshoppers and beetles.

The largest projections on the tibiae of Odonata are too large to be single celled, but have a hinge joint at the base. Their movable nature can be proved by bending them in a living odonate, when it will be seen that they can easily be folded parallel with the tibiae and pointing distally. Thus these tibial projections fit the definition of spurs. I suggest that odonatologists use the term **Tibial Spurs** to bring our terminology in line with specialists in other insect groups.

SELYSIA
A Newsletter of Odonatology

Edited by
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This newsletter is designed to disseminate facts and news about the activities of Odonatologists and Odonatology. It is not intended as a journal nor an organ for the publication of articles or technical papers. The name is based upon that of the "Father of Odonatology", Baron Edmond de Selys Longchamps.

SELYSIA was founded in 1963 by Dr. B. Elwood Montgomery at Purdue University, and edited from 1970-1986 by Dr. Minter J. Westfall, Jr., at the University of Florida. With V. 13, #1 (1 March 1984) it was recognized as the official newsletter of the Societas Internationalis Odonatologica as well as the U.S. National Office of S.I.O.

SELYSIA is issued semi-annually, 1 March and 1 September. Items submitted should reach the editor no later than one month before publication date.

This newsletter is produced as a public service of the Department of Biological Sciences, East Tennessee State University.

**LOCATIONS FOR FUTURE SYMPOSIA
ANNOUNCED**

Bastiaan Kiauta
S.I.O. Central Office
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THE NETHERLANDS

As Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Organization of International Symposia of Odonatology, I announce that formal invitations have been received and decisions have been made to hold future Symposia of Odonatology as follows: 1991 in Italy organized by C. Utzeri; 1993 in Thailand, by A. Pinratana; 1995 in Japan, by K. Inoue.

REPRINTS OF RECENT WORK REQUESTED

Philip S. Corbet
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From January 1989 (after an unavoidable interruption of about five years) I shall be resuming active work on the second, revised and updated, edition of *A Biology of Dragonflies* (Witherby 1962 and Classey 1983). It would assist me greatly in this task if members of S.I.O. would send me promptly reprints of their published work on Odonata. I ask that any members able to oblige me in this way herewith accept my sincere thanks for their help. I also take this opportunity to thank most warmly those colleagues who continue to send me copies of their publications.

**"BREAKOUT", A POEM WITH LARVAL
EMPHASIS**

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— *breakout*
out and ahhh, relief,
copepods look down
undulating midges disregard your grotesque form
you feed, you grow;
Pressure building,
chitin prison cramps
rent rip
relax, step out,
legs from legs and head from head
the old and worn-out falls away,
expand, glorious, pale, no scars;
many moults, much time
'til even old Chironomous will writhe, futile,
at your lightning labial strike,
despot of invertebrates until;
an urge to scale, to leave familiar jungle
find the stem, the branch, the dock,
that rises piercing silver sky,
press against it,
break
oppressive weight, brilliance, desert-dryness
-hold on, attach, squirm within the skin too small
the end of old the birth of new
split, stretch, climb out
shed your squat and homely drabness
new phase new form
swan your cygnet is complete.
Spread glassy wings, vibrating,
a hundred facets colour-drinking,
from stealth to speed
the whole game changed;
seek your complement and couple
nuptial flight
fecund weight draws down to water, there to
dip - drop seed, dip - drop seed, dip - drop
seed sinking slowly seeking sediments
grow, develop, crack
— *breakout*
out and ahhh, relief,
copepods look down
undulating midges disregard your grotesque form
you feed, you grow . . .

Landis Hare

NEOTROPICAL ODONATOLOGIST'S MEETING

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Those of you who did not attend the Neotropical Odonatologist's Meeting 25- 31 Aug 1988 missed a great one. The meeting was organized by Enrique Gonzalez S., ably assisted by Rodolpho Novelo G., Virginia Garcia C., and Rolando Mendoza T. Attendees from the United States included Jerrell Daigle, Sidney Dunkle, Rosser Garrison, Michael May, John Michalski, and Minter Westfall. The 10 of us met at Mexico City, then drove in two-story vehicles to the Los Tuxtlas Biological Station on the mountain slopes of the state of Veracruz near the Caribbean Coast. The station has excellent facilities with several white masonry buildings, including a cafeteria/laundry, laboratory, library/meeting room, and several dormitories. The station buildings are set in a 700 ha Tropical Rain Forest Preserve. We collected little within the reserve, but instead collected along an edge of it and in the surrounding area.

Our Mexican hosts took us to the best collecting spots (and they were fantastic), showed us what to look for, interpreted the rapid-fire Spanish of the friendly local people, and even presented papers in English. Talks presented during the evening sessions included the following: 1) *Triacanthagyna* sp. breeding in treeholes, and 2) Male color phases and reproductive behavior in *Paraphlebia*, by E. Gonzalez; 3) The larva of *Agriogomphus tumens*, by R. Novelo; 4) The Zygoptera of Morelos State, Mexico, by V. Garcia; 5) The Odonata of Trinidad by S. Dunkle and J. Michalski; 6) The systematics of female *Hetaerina*, 7) A computer key to *Hetaerina*, and 8) Odonata collecting in French Guiana, by R. Garrison; 9) Foraging behavior of Odonata, by M. May; and 10) The relationship between *Dythemis* and *Elasmothemis*, new genus, by M. Westfall. Dr. Richard Vogt, resident herpetologist at the station, gave an excellent talk on 11) The reptiles and amphibians of the Los Tuxtlas area. On one evening we enjoyed a banquet of native Veracruz food (minus the chili peppers!) and folk music.

The Odonata of the Los Tuxtlas area are outstanding. We observed and collected at least 93 species, including numbers of *Cora marina*, 6 spp. *Hetaerina*, 2 spp. *Paraphlebia*, 2 spp. *Heteragrion*, 4 spp. *Palaemnema*, 9 spp. *Argia*, 3 spp. *Triacanthagyna*, 2 spp. *Phyllogomphoides*, 4 spp. *Brechmorhoga*, and many others. Among the rare catches were the metallic green *Archilestes latialatus*, the phantom-like *Perissolestes magdalenae*, the giant *Megaloprepus caerulatus*, 2 spp. *Protoneura*, the fast and tricky *Anax concolor*, *Coryphaeschna secreta*, *Agriogomphus tumens*, 3 spp. *Erpetogomphus*, a large form of *Elasmothemis*, the iridescent red *Libellula herculea*, and others. Certain odonates, such as *Epigomphus*, eluded all of us.

Other fauna observed always makes field work on Odonata more interesting. As Dr. Vogt pointed out, the Los Tuxtlas Reserve is a good start on biota conservation, but is too small to preserve many of its indigenous species. The large cats, peccaries, and tapirs are gone. However, Howler Monkeys are still present and woke us with their dawn chorus. We also saw a Four-eyed 'Possum (?), and rabbits. Large birds such as parrots, toucans, and hawks were present but uncommon. Iguanas were rare. Dr. Vogt stated that when they

migrate to the beach to lay their eggs, they are caught and eaten by the local people-- "they go out, but they don't come back!" Yellow-and-brown striped Basilisks and smaller lizards were abundant. I saw only one snake, a Garter Snake, but the dangerous viper *Bothrops asper* is the most common snake in the area. Butterflies were common, including the huge and spectacular white *Morpho polyphemus*, and the iridescent blue *M. peleides*. Some large scarab beetles have disappeared from the reserve in the last few years, and we saw none, but we did see a number of interesting beetles, orthopterans, and other insects. In addition to collecting trips, we visited the Laguna Nixtamalapa Crocodile Reserve, where we saw at close range a couple of the 40 resident *Crocodylus acutus*, and most of us also took a boat trip on a mangrove-edged lagoon.

Altogether, this was one of the best meetings I have ever attended, though it was physically demanding. Minter Westfall, representing S.I.O., thanked Enrique for putting together the meeting, and I would like to thank him again now for all of us who attended. Enrique is thinking of organizing another meeting at a biological station in western Mexico, and we all hope that such meetings in different parts of the Neotropics can become a regular event.

CORA STUDY

George & Juanda Bick
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We have begun a taxonomic study of the genus *Cora*. We would be pleased to examine all specimens in order to check determinations and record the data. Except for exceptional specimens, an early return is promised. We would also appreciate having any notes on personal collecting experiences which you may care to share with us.

DR. OBANA, MNAIS SCHOLAR, DIES

Kiyoshi Inoue
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My dearest friend of odonatology, Dr. S. Obana, passed away on July 12, 1988. He had been very eager to study the *Mnais* polymorphism. In the mountainous areas of Okayama Prefecture, *Mnais pruinosa nawai* has three male forms: *nawai* (orange winged), *sahoi* (orange vein winged) and *kadowakii* (hyaline winged) accompanied by two female forms: *nawai* (orange vein winged) and *taketoi* (hyaline winged).

Another subspecies *M. p. pruinosa* has three male forms and two female forms inhabiting near the habitat of *M. p. nawai*, and sometimes they are seen flying together at the boundary. They give us such complicated problems, and I am to follow Dr. Obana's work!

OTHER RECENT DEATHS

Earnest R. Tinkham (Indio, California) died February 1987.

Nick Prendergast (United Kingdom) died recently.

REPORT TO S.I.O. MEMBERSHIP

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At the S.I.O. Business Meeting in Paris in August 1985, a committee consisting of Mike May (Chairman), Philip Corbet, and Jean-Guy Pilon, was assigned the task of recommending on the best arrangement for secretarial duties in S.I.O. At that time, S.I.O. had two Secretaries, a Secretary-General and a Council Secretary. The Committee submitted its Report in December 1986, the views of Council were solicited during 1987, and the Report and its Recommendations were accepted by the Council Meeting in Madurai in January 1988. In order to put the recommendations of the May Committee into effect, acceptance of the proposals by the general membership of S.I.O. is necessary.

Consequently, the Recommendations of the May Committee are reproduced below for the information of all members of S.I.O. Any member who disapproves of any or all of the Recommendations should, within three months of the publication date of this issue of *SELYSIA*, send such comment to the address above. No response shall be taken as indicative of approval.

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP TO DEFINE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE S.I.O.

This constitutes the final report and recommendations of the working group charged by Council at the VIIIth International Symposium in Paris to examine and define the responsibilities of the Secretaries of the Society. The report is based upon consultation with the present Secretary General and Second Secretary and on a study of the duties of comparable offices in other scientific societies, as well as on our own observations and judgement. We rather quickly reached a consensus on several main points. First, confusion exists as to the duties required of the Secretaries and the differences, if any, between those of the Secretary General and the Second Secretary. Second, the activities actually undertaken currently by the Secretaries can reasonably be accomplished by one person, probably more efficiently than by two. Third, it is important that the Secretary normally be able to attend Symposia or, in case the Secretary cannot attend, that a mechanism be set up to insure normal performance of Secretarial duties at Symposia. Fourth, that the duties inherent in the office be confined to those normally expected of a society secretary; we make this point because suggestions have come to our attention that the Secretaries assume responsibilities we considered to be outside that normal range of activities. We note that, should the report be accepted in full, certain changes in the By-laws, particularly Article 2, paragraphs a, c, d, and e, would be required.

Recommendations:

- 1) The present offices of Secretary General and Secretary to the Council shall be replaced by a single office of Secretary, appointed as at present (By-laws, Art. 2d); in making the appointment some consideration should be given to the probability that the individual will be able to attend Symposia and can expect support in their duties from their home institution.

- 2) In the event that the Secretary cannot attend a Symposium, he/she should be responsible, with the approval of the Executive, for arranging for another member of the Council to perform the necessary functions.
- 3) It would not be expected that the responsibilities of the Secretary should include fund-raising, publication of *SELYSIA*, or others not closely related to correspondence, record keeping, or distribution of information within the Society. This is not, however, intended to exclude the individual who is Secretary from such activities.
- 4) The Secretary specifically should:
 - a) Prepare and distribute to Council members, in a timely fashion, an agenda for each upcoming Council meeting and the minutes of each meeting.
 - b) Prepare and, in cooperation with the Symposium organizing committee, distribute to those attending Symposia, the agenda for the Plenary Business Meeting.
 - c) Circulate nominations for elected positions as per Art. 2c, and announce election results (normally via *SELYSIA*).
 - d) Announce proposed and agreed changes in By-laws or other changes in the structure or procedures of the Society to members (normally via *SELYSIA*).
 - e) Maintain up-to-date copies of the By-laws and the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the I.O.R.I., and distribute these to incoming Council members and, after substantive alterations, to all Council members.
 - f) Maintain a list of names, addresses, and, if possible, telephone numbers of the Executive, Council, National Offices/Representatives, Affiliated Societies, I.O.R.I. Board, representatives to I.U.C.N. and European Invertebrates Survey, and standing or ad hoc committees or working groups of S.I.O.; distribute this list to members of Council and National Offices.
 - g) Send to all those listed in f. timely reminders of Symposia, Council meetings, calls for agenda items, reports, and other matters as required.
 - h) Notify Council of other matters arising that may require their knowledge or action.
 - i) In consultation with the Executive conduct official correspondence of the Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael L. May, Chair, Philip S. Corbet, Jean-Guy Pilon

WOMEN IN ENTOMOLOGY

Diane M. Calabrese, Ph.D.
PAPILLONS: diversified endeavors
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Women in Entomology, a newsletter with an international scope and list of subscribers, is compiled, printed and distributed each January and June with contributions from subscribers. Founded in 1981, the newsletter focusses on the activities of women in the field of entomology through its five sections: Ideas, Activities, Notices, Exchange, Biographical and Autobiographical Notes. A contribution of one dollar per year is recommended. For information write: *Women in Entomology*, c/o D.M. Calabrese, Editor, at the address given above.