University of California, Riverside

No. 8, Summer-Fall 2000

Friends of the Entomology Research Museum

Newsletter

Editor: Rick Vetter

This article is based largely on an interview with L. D. (Andy) Anderson conducted at his home in Riverside on 12 May 2000 by Greg Ballmer and David Hawks. Andy energetically recalled events in his life extending back to his childhood in Kansas. It was with some surprise, therefore, that the authors learned in mid August that Andy's health had declined precipitously; he died on August 25 at age 91.

In Memoriam - Professor Lauren D. Anderson World's Oldest Immature Entomologist

Lauren D. (Andy) Anderson, a natural born entomologist, came into this world on April 10, 1909 at Morganville, Kansas. Andy's interest in insects and other small creatures began early in life (he could recall catching and racing earthworms on the sidewalk while still in his "crawler stage"). His naturalist proclivities were enhanced by fishing and hunting while growing up on the farm that his grandfather had homesteaded during the 1850s on the Republican River of northern Kansas. Andy's entomological career underwent a number of transformations, often revolving around the study of immature insects. Because of his intense interest in immature insects, playful personality and sense of humor, Andy's many friends often referred to him as the world's oldest immature entomologist.

Andy metamorphosed from farm boy to entomologist at the University of Kansas, earning a Bachelor's Degree in 1930 and Master's Degree in 1931. There, he accompanied professors Phil Readio and Ray Beamer on extended summer field trips collecting insects throughout the western states for the KU insect collection. Andy's primary entomological interest in those days was aquatic Hemiptera, especially Gerridae (water striders).

The FERM Newsletter is published quarterly and contains articles written by FERM members. If you would like to submit an article, please send it as a Word/Wordperfect article in one of the following two methods:(1) an attachment via email to the editors (see below) or (2) a hard copy version on disk. Submissions will be published in the order they are received in accordance with space availability and relevancy to the FERM general readership. For further questions please contact FERM editor:
Rick Vetter (vetter@citrus.ucr.edu)

Andy's next life stage (17 years) was spent at the Virginia Truck Crop Experiment Station (VTES) at Norfolk, VA. A condition of employment was that Andy continue his studies toward a PhD degree at Ohio State University. Using accrued leave time to attend classes, it took nine years to earn the degree, which was awarded in 1941. During this period Andy developed a close working relationship with Alvah Peterson, his degree advisor, and contributed numerous larval samples in support of his mentor's classic works on identification of immature insects. Many larval samples were reared and adult vouchers sent to the USNM for identification. Andy's continuing interest in immature insects also led him to build his own collection of immatures.

While in Virginia, Andy met and married Mildred Dudley (1935); their first son, Lauren Jr., was born in 1937; second son Robert in 1939, and daughter Ruth (aka Kelly Wilder, who now works in the UCR Entomology Department) in 1943.

During WWII, Andy took a leave of absence from VTES to work at the USDA Lab in Beltsville, MD where he led a team of physical chemists and entomologists in converting the army's smoke screen generator to an insecticide fogger. Among those who worked for Andy on the fogger project were the young Bohart brothers (George and Robert). In an early test of the device, observers were astonished when it killed immense numbers of insects of all kinds in a patch of forest at the VTES. This same technique is now employed by researchers studying arthropod biodiversity in tropical forests. When subsequent tests demonstrated that the DDT fogger killed mosquito larvae up to two miles downwind, the Army immediately sent it to Guadalcanal, where it was used to eliminate the threat of malaria mosquitoes.

While still at the Beltsville USDA lab, Andy was visited by Al Boyce, who recruited him to establish a research program for insect control on vegetable crops for the Citrus Experiment Station (CES) at Riverside. After a three-year delay to complete other research commitments, Andy moved his family to Riverside and joined the CES faculty in January 1948. At the CES (and later UCR), Andy's research projects included control of insect pests of vegetable crops, insecticide toxicity to honey bees (with the late Larry Atkins), and aquatic midge control.

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In the 1960s Andy metamorphosed again to become a popular teacher of courses in identification of immature insects and field entomology. Andy's long-time friend and Staff Research Associate, Hank Nakakihara, became one of the first 'guinea pig' students for his course in identification of immature insects (first offered in 1961); Hank thereafter contributed substantially to the growth and maintenance of the immatures collection. Andy's persistent enthusiasm for Entomology was apparent in the classroom, where he refused to allow any student to fail a lab exam. If necessary, he would extend class hours and stand over a student's shoulder to offer helpful hints for keying out difficult specimens. Andy's infectious enthusiasm further stimulated his students and coworkers to collect and contribute specimens to his growing collection of insect larvae.

During their summer vacations, Andy and Mildred traveled and collected insects throughout the western states. Because one of their favorite destinations was Portal in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona, Andy selected that site in 1965 to teach his summer field course in insect collection and identification. Entomology 49 (now superceded by Ent. 149) was a no-credit graduation requirement, which previous UCR students had to take through the UC Berkeley or UC Davis campuses. Those students fortunate enough to participate in Andy's Ent. 49 classes treasure their memories of exploring the diverse habitats of the Chiricahua Mountains, sweaty forays into the surrounding desert, and late-night insect collecting around black lights. The latter events were often terminated by fabulous electrical storms over Cave Creek Canyon. Andy thereby passed on the tradition he experienced at KU in giving young entomology students an intense experience of collecting and studying exotic insects in the field. His enthusiasm for entomology was further proliferated among UCR students when, in 1973, Andy established a general review course in Entomology for non-majors (Ent. 10), which remains popular today.

Andy was also a major force in establishing UCR's Entomological Research Collection. The CES did not maintain a single unified insect collection; instead, each specialist maintained his own specialty collection. Likewise, Andy brought his own sizeable collection of adult and immature insects (primarily of economic importance) from Virginia. After discovering the near impossibility of locating identified reference specimens of insects at the CES, he soon argued for consolidating all collections. In spite of Andy's frequent nagging during the 1950s, it was not until the early 1960s, after Evert Schlinger joined the UCR faculty and added another strong voice for consolidation, that unified research collections were established separately for the Divisions of Economic Entomology and Biological Control. Saul Frommer (another KU graduate), who initially worked for Andy on midge research, became the first Curator of the Economic Entomology Collection in 1964, while Jack Hall was curator of the Bio-control Collection. Even after the two divisions of Entomology were later combined, some individual collections, including Andy's larvae, remained in separate locations due to space limitations. In 1993 a truly unified Entomology Collection under one roof finally became reality with completion of the current Entomology Research Museum Building.

Andy maintained a work desk in the Museum Building and continued to work on his larval collection long after his retirement in 1976. This routine gradually diminished as Andy devoted more time to spend with Mildred until her death in 1999. Thereafter, Andy, suffering the bodily insults of old age, gradually became confined to a home environment.

Andy's legacy prominently includes UCR's immature insect collection, which is perhaps the largest and best in the western United States. The accompanying Anderson photographic slide collection of adult and larval insects is another major asset for research and teaching. Andy also sought to ensure the continued maintenance and operational utility of the immature insect collection by funding the Lauren D. and Mildred D. Anderson Endowed Graduate Assistantship in Immature Insects. Yet, Andy's most enduring legacy may be the students that he taught and trained and who carry on his enthusiasm for Entomology.

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FERM Annual Meeting

Saturday January 6th

7:00 PM Entomol Museum Rm 103

Dr. John Alcock

Regents' Professor of Biology

Arizona State University

We are proud to announce our guest speaker for the January meeting of the Friends of the Entomology Research Museum (FERM). Dr. John Alcock will present his talk, "The Thrill of Insect Behavior" on Saturday evening, the 6th of January, 2001.

Our gathering usually begins with a short business meeting which may include a book auction conducted by the crowd pleasing, master auctioneer Rick Vetter. As usual, the meeting will proceed with the guest speaker and conclude with a scrumptious buffet dinner.

In his talk, "The Thrill of Insect Behavior," Dr. Alcock will address the role of insect behavioral studies in the development of a modern approach to animal behavior. During more than 30 years of research, Dr Alcock has explored aspects of insect natural history, especially in Arizona and Australia. His interest has been in the evolution of insect mating behavior with a great deal of field work focused on insects of the Sonoran Desert. Dr. Alcock is author of numerous popular and technical works. Many of these publications document the variety of male mate-locating techniques. In recent years he has worked with various bees, nymphalid butterflies and dragonflies.

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

by Serguei Triapitsyn & Doug Yanega

The spring and summer quarters were fairly quiet in the museum, with only a few student assistants present. Nonetheless, progress is being made with the transfer of the Andersen Immature Collection into vials suitable for long-term storage, and a museum-wide inventory project is nearly completed, which should give us a detailed estimate of our holdings, general state of curation, and space needs—which will be essential for our upcoming Museum Improvement Grant submission.

The museum continues to receive malaise trap samples from the Russian far east, containing many rare and unusual insects, and we also have similar traps distributed now in Australia, New Zealand, central Russia, Argentina, and Florida. It promises to be very interesting when material starts coming in from these other sites. Also, Dr. Richard Goeden donated 21 boxes of well-curated microscope slides, mostly of scale insects from his past research projects, and hopefully, this autumn, one of the students will integrate these into the general collection. We have also had several donations from FERM members (mostly insects from Thailand), plus a small donation of beetles from Burdette White. Incidentally, one of the insects from Thailand, a tiny nocturnal braconid wasp, has already been declared a new species by Dr. Donald Quicke—there will undoubtedly be more such discoveries from among this material over the coming years (such is the reality of taxonomy) and this sort of rapid feedback is unusual and gratifying.

The Museum database now has records for over 17,500 specimens, and continues to grow. We've also had a number of visitors over the last few months performing identifications for us, including work with our cerambycid and meloid beetles, perilampid wasps, thrips, mantids and more.

A recent FERM purchase, a heat-sealer used for shipping insects in vials, has already been seeing some use, and works very nicely. No more worrying about vials leaking or breaking in transit and losing the specimens, since each is in its own individual miniature airtight plastic bag. Finally, FERM has approved the purchase of a number of parasitic wasps in Baltic amber for the museum, including some extremely rare and scientifically valuable specimens. They are the very first insects in amber in the ERM collection, so it's a bit of a milestone.

THE 2000 FERM COLLECTATHON

Just a brief note that this year's FERM Collectathon (our second annual) went smoothly, with 3 teams competing to see who could collect the most families of insects within a 24-hr period, at the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve north of Fallbrook. The final tallies are not yet in, but it looks like it could be a close race (sound familiar?). We'll have the final results and more details in our next newsletter including a report from our youngest participant, 12-year old, Zachary Porca.

Got an idea for a FERM article???

Do you have anything buggy-related that might be of interest to for the FERM newsletter? We really would be tickled pinkish if you would send "stuff" in. Remember, this newsletter won't get published unless we have material submitted from you folks. Feel free to send in photos, articles, recent publications related to insect taxonomy or natural history and even stories about how the Entomology Reasearch Museum has assisted you in your bug-related endeavors. Send them to vetter@citrus.ucr.edu, preferably as attachments (not in email text), additional information on the front page of this newsletter.

CALLING ALL DUFFERS!!!!

Have you ever wondered how you could break into the incredibly exciting world of spider taxonomy????!!!! Well, okay probably not. However, if you are interested in helping with a spider project, Rick Vetter is working on a genus of very small, dare we even say, teensy spiders that are found in montane leaf duff and has a manuscript in review describing a new species and synonomizing another. There are 2 locally available species of which only the female is described. The spiders are not often found in arachnological collections however, this is not because the spiders are rare but because they live in leaf duff and not many arachnologists sully their fingertips in this type of collection manner. If you are interested in helping, its is simple and easy. All you gotta do to help is anytime you are in the local mountains in the autumn and winter months, grab a grocery bag or two of leaf litter. So far the spiders appear to be most common in oak leaf litter however, this does not mean that they aren't elsewhere as well and maybe, just maybe, the males of the undescribed species will be found in the litter of other plant material. The types appear to be found in the mountains in San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego counties and most often above 4000 feet. So if you care to bring back a bag or two of leaf duff, it would be most appreciated. Please coordinate with Rick first to make sure that he is around to process the material immediately because he will be gone a lot this fall and winter attending his parole meetings (um .....pesticide-education seminars).

PINE : PARTNERS IN NATURE EDUCATION

FERM members are entitled to 20% discounts* on the following UCR Extension field nature study courses:

- Natural History of the Santa Rosa Plateau $105 (02N13) [Wed. 6:00-8:00 pm, Nov. 1/Sun. 8:00 am-4:00 pm, Nov. 5]
- Geology and Natural History of Death Valley $140 (02N25) [Sat. 9 am-6 pm, Nov. 4/ Sun. 8 am-3 pm, Nov. 5]
- A Field Study of Birds: Winter $185 (02P23) [Tue. 7:30-9:30 pm, Jan. 9, 2001/ Field trips all day Sat. Jan. 13, 20, Feb. 3, 17, 24]
- Field Study of the San Andreas Fault: San Bernardino to Mecca Hills $90(03N24) Sat. 8 am-5 pm, Feb. 3, 2001]
- Winter Ecology in Yellowstone $345 (03P01) [Mon. 5-8 pm, Feb. 5, 2001/ Tue.-Thur. 8 am-4 pm, Feb. 6-8]
- Geology and Natural History of Death Valley $140 (03N25) [Sat. 9 am-6 pm, Mar. 10, 2001/ Sun. 8 am-3 pm, Mar. 11]

ALSO OF INTEREST:

- Nature Writing: A Hands-On Workshop $215 (02N21) [Fri. 8:00 am-9:00 pm, Dec. 1/ Sat. 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Dec. 2/Sun. 8:00am-2:00 pm, Dec. 3]

For current listing of courses at any time, bookmark www.unex.ucr.edu/ns/fns1/classes in your web browser. For further information, contact:

Natural Sciences UCR Extension 909.787.5804 909.787.2456 (fax)
*some restrictions apply

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FERM SEMINAR!!!!!!!!

"INSECT TRAVELOGUE OF THAILAND"

by Greg Ballmer, Ken Osborne and Doug Yanega

Tuesday, November 28, 2000 at 7 p.m.,

UCR Entomology Research Museum, Rm 103

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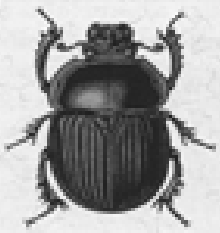

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY FERM MEMBERS:

(Please submit titles of your recently published taxonomy and natural history articles to FERM editor!!)

Pinto JD. 1999. Systematics of the North American species of Trichogramma (Hymenoptera: Trichogrammatidae). Memoirs of the Entomological Society of Washington 22(1998), 287 pp.

Pinto JD and Bologna MA. 1999. The New World genera of Meloidae (Coleoptera): a key and synopsis. Journal of Natural History, 33: 569-620.