University of California, Riverside

No. 14, Spring 2002

Friends of the Entomology Research Museum

Newsletter

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Ferm field trips

For both trips contact
Contact Gordon Pratt :
Euphilotes@aol.com. 787-9703

May 4-5, 2002 Sage Flats
The first 20 people to sign up. It is in the southern Sierra Nevada foothills, west of Haiwee Reservoir in Inyo Co.

June 28-30, 2002 China Lake Trip
First 12 people to sign up. You need to provide social security number. Participants will meet in Ridgecrest on Friday evening, 28 June or carpool

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 file using one of the following two methods: (1) an attachment via email to the editor (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. If you have questions please contact the FERM Newsletter editor:

Rick Vetter (vetter@citrus.ucr.edu)

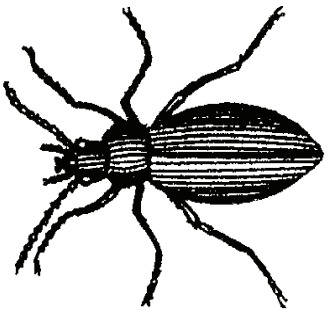
FERM Meeting

Thursday, 23 May, 7:00 pm
Entomology Museum, rm 103

Dr. Art Evans

Title: "Sky Islands, Desert Seas - Arthropods of South-eastern Arizona"

Dr. Arthur V. Evans has visited southern Arizona for over 30 years, first as a scarab taxonomist and later as an educator, writer and photographer. He is a research associate with the Smithsonian Institution and the Virginia Museum of Natural History. He received his B.A. (entomology) and M.S. (biology) degrees at the California State University of Long Beach and his D. Sc. (entomology) at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. For 12 years he was the director of the Insect Zoo at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. He now lives in Richmond, Virginia where he writes, lectures and photographs arthropods to raise public awareness of these fascinating animals and their role in the environment. He is co-author (with Charles Bellamy) of An Inordinate Fondness for Beetles published by UC Press. Art is working on a new book for UC Press entitled Introduction to California Beetles with James Hogue.



Entomology Research Museum receives NSF grant to install compactors

by Doug Yanega, Senior Museum Scientist

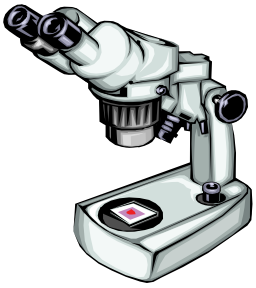
Last year, a group of us associated with the ERM (myself, Serguei Triapitsyn, John Heraty, and John Pinto) wrote a grant proposal, submitted to the National Science Foundation this past September, asking for over $350,000 in funds to pay for the installation of a compactor storage system in the Museum. We were finally notified in March that we've been awarded the full amount requested, and so we expect to have the system installed in August of this year. This will increase our storage capacity by about 80%, which is enough space for at least 20 more years of growth. The existence of the FERM organization, and the offer by FERM to donate $6,000 for new museum drawers, was a definite factor in the success of the proposal, and was cited by the awarding Committee as a condition that must be met in order for them to give us the grant. I and the others who worked on the grant would like to take this opportunity to thank the other FERM officers who approved this donation, and **especially** thank all of the FERM membership, whose dues and other contributions (such as revenues from the butterfly courses) gave us enough finances to be able to make the offer in the first place.

For those of you unfamiliar with compactor storage systems, the principle is rather straightforward; instead of setting the cabinets on the floor, they're set onto a framework under which is a system of rails, wheels, and gears. By turning a crank, one can then move an entire bank of cabinets from side to side - meaning that instead of requiring an aisle between every set of cabinets, you only have one aisle open at any given time, while all the other cabinets you're not accessing are compacted together out of the way on either side of that one open aisle. This may be a little less convenient, in terms of quick access, but it's incredibly efficient, holding the maximum number of specimens in a limited amount of space (a new building was not an option for us). This sort of system is used in many libraries and various businesses that have large archives. What is especially nice is that the grant isn't simply for installing the system of frames and rails, but it also buys us brand-new, state-of-the-art steel cabinets. Each new cabinet holds two ranks of 35 drawers, with two gasket-sealed doors, and pull-out shelves to permit some work within the collection itself. None of the drawers should require the ladder to reach them, either. Each compactor unit will hold twelve such cabinets, and we'll have eleven compactor units plus a number of stationary cabinets against the walls at either side. A noteworthy side-effect of this is that we'll have over 150 old cabinets to dispose of. We're hoping to negotiate an arrangement with the people at UCR Equipment Management that will allow us to sell many of these old cabinets to FERM members, once we've sold a portion of them to various Departments within UCR.

Assuming we can clear the last few hurdles of bureaucracy and red tape, our timetable is presently to have some ductwork rebuilt in April or May (so it won't interfere with the compactors), get things tidied up in June, and then hire some movers in July to carry all the old cabinets and drawers into the nearly-vacant old Entomology building. The timing of the Entomology Department's move from the old building to the new one is actually a huge stroke of luck for us, since it means we only have to move the cabinets a matter of several yards to go from the door of the Museum across to the ground floor of the old building. While the cabinets are out of the Museum, I'll start the process of reorganizing the drawers - they'll be put back into the compactors in a sequence reflecting the actual relationships of the families, rather than the alphabetic family sequence presently in use. That way, when a family name is changed in the future, or families are split up or joined together, the specimens won't need to be moved very far, if at all, to reflect the change in classification. This will greatly improve people's ability to find things on a long-term basis (sort of like using the Dewey Decimal System in the library to group books by topic, not just strictly by title). The entire compactor installation process should take only a few weeks, and will also involve pouring a new floor surface up to the top of the rails.

Once the installation is complete, I hope to start moving specimens back in late August or September, a few drawers at a time, and leave the old cabinets behind. This promises to be a time-consuming process, and it may be a matter of months before everything can be moved back, since I'll essentially be the only person doing it. This means that the collection will be effectively out of commission for most of that time. Alternatively, it looks like we may try to get student or volunteer help to physically move everything into the compactors, and if we decide to do it this way, we may try to organize a FERM Moving Day, where we ask as many FERM supporters as possible to come and help move drawers, sort of like an old-fashioned house-raising. Keep your eyes peeled in the next newsletter for a possible announcement along those lines. Even if you don't hear anything, people who might be interested in helping move specimens should contact me, either via e-mail (dyanega@pop.ucr.edu) or phone (909-787-4315), and I can make a list of people to keep informed of the timetable. At the very least, expect that folks who show up for Museum Nights on Thursdays this coming fall will be drafted into helping get things organized.

With any luck, then, we're hoping to have everything in place by December at the latest, and I suspect we'll have some sort of grand re-opening celebration when it's all finished. Again, look for an announcement regarding this in future newsletters. Until then, wish us luck that it all goes smoothly!!



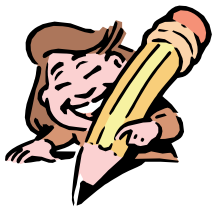
NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

by Doug Yanega

This past quarter has been very important for the Museum, primarily with regards to the NSF grant for installation of a compactor storage system (see article elsewhere in this newsletter). Meanwhile, Michele Sanford spent the quarter working hard on the L.D. Andersen immatures collection, and was able to get over half of the collection transferred into leak-proof vials; this means we now have only a few thousand vials left to do, so it looks like we'll have everything ready before we start renovations.

The Museum database now has records for over 45,000 specimens, though it looks as if the coming year is not going to see much more material added. The spring weather has been incredibly poor, with record low rainfall, and it seems unlikely we'll have anything like a normal year's collecting, let alone the bonanza we had in 2001. Clearly this year will be devoted to the reorganization of the collection, and it may not be until the end of this year before things get back to normal.

Got an idea for a FERM article???



Do you have anything buggy-related that might be of interest for the FERM newsletter? We really would be tickled pinkish if you would send "stuff" in. Remember, this newsletter won't have much in it unless we have material submitted from you folks that we can publish. Feel free to send in photos, articles, recent publications related to insect taxonomy or natural history and even stories about how the Entomology Research 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 is on the front page of this newsletter.

*****Deadline for submission of material is July 4th*****

Friends of the Entomology Research Museum Membership Form

☐ Check here if you are renewing (renew by July each year)

Name _____

Address _____

Interests _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:		**Please Check**
Basic Membership	$10.00	☐
Sustaining Member	$25.00+	☐
Donor	$100.00+	☐
Benefactor	$500.00+	☐
Patron	$1000.00+	☐

Submit your membership form and dues to:

David C. Hawks, Treasurer
Friends of the Entomology Research Museum
Department of Entomology - 041
University of California
Riverside, CA 92521-0314

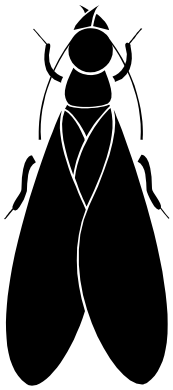
Dues and other contributions are payable by check to the **UCR Foundation,** noting "**Entomology Museum**" on the memo line on your check. (It is very important to note "Entomology Museum" in order for your donation to be deposited in the Friends' UCR Foundation account.)

Curious Arthropod Scientific Names

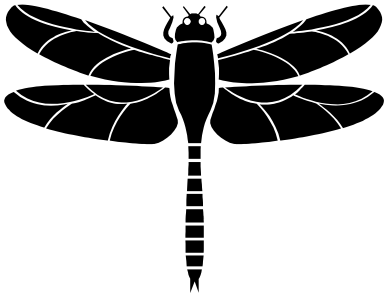
Part II: Names familiar in other contexts, wordplays, and homophones
compiled by Doug Yanega

The following is a list of arthropod genus names some of which also happen to be names or words familiar in other contexts (mostly English), others which are intentional plays on words or phrases, and others which unintentionally sound or look like some other word(s) or simply sound or look peculiar. These are excerpted from my webpage at http://entmuseum9.ucr.edu/staff/yanega.html. I only have authors and years of publication for a subset of them.

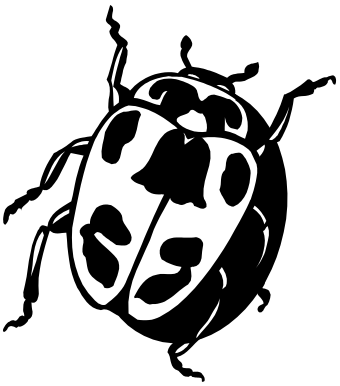
FAMILIAR IN OTHER CONTEXTS:



Acadia, Vockeroth (fungus gnat)
Alienates (gnat bug)
Apocrypha, Eschscholtz 1831 (darkling beetle)
Appalachia (grasshopper)
Balboa (lygaeid bug)
Balsa (noctuid moth)
Bandera, Ragonot 1887 (pyralid moth)
Camera, Townes 1962 (ichneumon wasp)
Car (weevil)
Chinchilla, Girault 1928 (Encyrtid wasp)
Cis (fungus beetle)
Conga, Evans 1955 (skipper)
Corcovado, Lane 1973 (longhorn beetle)
Creator, Alekseev (megaspilid wasp)
Decodes, Obratsov 1961 (tortricid moth)
Delta, de Saussure 1855 (wasp)
Euphoria, Burmeister 1842 (scarab beetle)
Formica, Linnaeus (ant)
Gonzaga (lacewing)
Gyros, H. Edwards 1881 (pyralid moth)
Hiatus, Cresson 1906 (otitid fly)
Idea (danaid butterfly)
Iron, Eaton 1883 (mayfly; now placed in Epeorus)



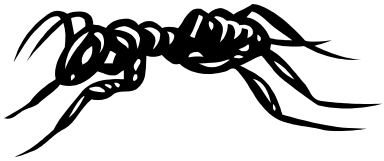
Lapsus, Pacheco 1964 (mud beetle)
Loyola (lacewing)
Maricopa, Hulst 1890 (pyralid moth)
Memphis (butterfly)
Motes (larrine wasp)
Narnia, Stal 1862 (leaf-footed bug)
Nematodes (false click beetle)
Nirvana, Kirkaldy (leafhopper)
Ocala, Hulst 1892 (pyralid moth)
Palmar, Schaefer 1949 (buprestid beetle)
Panacea, Godman & Salvin 1883 (nymphalid butterfly)
Patagonia (pyralid moth)
Peoria, Ragonot 1887 (pyralid moth)
Pepsis (tarantula hawk wasp)
Pima, Hulst 1888 (pyralid moth)
Planes, Rondani 1863 (hoverfly; name preoccupied)
Platypus (bark beetle)
Saga (katydid)
Sarasota, Hulst 1900 (pyralid moth)
Schema, Becker 1907 (shore fly)
Silo, Curtis 1830 (caddisfly)
Sonoma, Casey (rove beetle)
Sphinx, Linnaeus 1758 (sphinx moth)
Sponsor (buprestid beetle)
Stratus, Schaufuss (rove beetle)



Synecdoche (Achilid planthopper)
Tacoma, Hulst 1888 (pyralid moth)
Tampa, Ragonot 1887 (pyralid moth)
Tulsa, Heinrich 1956 (pyralid moth)
Villa, Lioy 1864 (bee fly)

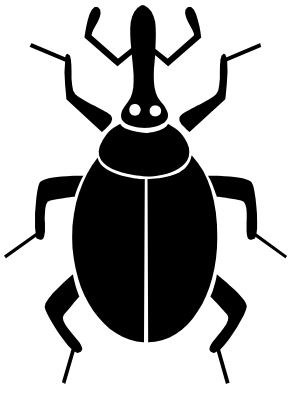
PLAYS ON WORDS/PHRASES:

Amercedes, Casey (weevil)
Anomala, Samouelle (scarab beetle)
Bloodiella, Nowicki (parasitic wasp)
Championa (longhorned beetle)
Compacta, Amsel 1956 (pyralid moth)
Cucarastichus, LaSalle (cockroach hyperparasitic wasp)
Explorator, Pacheco 1964 (mud beetle)
Hottipula, Evenhuis 1994 (fossil crane fly)
Illinoia, Wilson 1910 and *Iowana*, Hottes 1954 (aphids)
Interjectio, Heinrich 1956 (Pyralid moth)
Japania, Girault 1911 (chalcidoid wasp)
Leprechaunus (treehopper)
Meomyia, Evenhuis 1983 (fly)
Mysteria, Thomson 1860 (longhorned beetle)
Omyomymar, Schauff 1983 (parasitic mymarid wasp)
Paraguaya, Girault 1911 (chalcidoid wasp)
Parasitus (mite)
Passadena, Hulst 1900 (pyralid moth)
Problema, Skinner & Williams 1924 (skipper)
Spastica (blister beetle)
Susana (sawfly)



SIMPLY PLAYFUL, ACCIDENTAL HOMOPHONES, etc.:

Barrellus, Nelson & Bellamy 1996 (buprestid beetle)
Blaps, Fabricius (darkling beetle)
Cryomyia, Hull 1973 (bee fly)
Cylistix (hister beetle)
Euerythra (arctiid moth)
Eurygenius (Pedilid beetle)
Glutops (horse fly)
Hornia (meloid beetle)
Inkaka, Girault 1939 (chalcidoid wasp)
Ips (bark beetle)
Ittys, Girault 1911(microscopic parasitic wasps)
Leylaiya, Efflatoun 1945 (bee fly)
Mooa, Girault 1930 (chalcidoid wasp; synonymized)
Moodnodes, Neunzig 1990 (pyralid moth)
Norape, Walker 1855 (megalopygid moth)
Oobius, Trjapitsyn (chalcidoid wasp)
Oozetetes, De Santis (chalcidoid wasp)
Pnyxia (fly)
Prospheres (buprestid beetle)
Schizogenius (carabid beetle)
Stinga, Evans 1955 (skipper)
Templemania, Busck 1940 (tortricid moth)
Texananus (leafhopper)
Ua, Girault 1929 (torymid wasp)
Zyx, Smit 1953 (flea)
Zyxmyia, Bowden 1960 (bee fly)



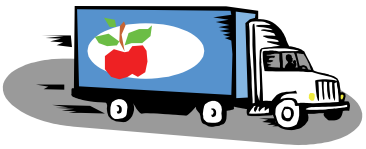
Editor's Note: in an attempt to get more participation by FERM members, I cajoled former UCR entomology graduate student, Mike Gates (Ph.D. from Heraty's Lab) to write up a little blurb about how his life has improved since leaving Riverside to work on systematics on the East Coast.

Since Riverside...

by Michael Gates

At the behest of our pal Rick Vetter for FERM Newsletter filler, and for those of you tired of threats (and follow-ups) from Rick of articles concerning duffing for small spiders, the following is submitted for your perusal.

Only 10 days had elapsed since my dissertation defense in October 2000 until we departed from Riverside with all of our worldly possessions packed into a motorized box 18' in length. This time was characterized by frantic packing and cleaning, haggling with obstinate buyers over the 50¢ price of coffee mugs at our yard sale, and a last-minute call from the binder to ensure that my dissertation was not bound with a purple cover and black lettering. Several kind souls rescued most of our plants from the harsh regime otherwise awaiting them at the hands of the married student housing grounds crew; whose ultimate resolution for "unapproved" vegetation around residences is localized sterilization. For convenience, I have divided my life over the past year into three sections: the move, the transition, and the work.



The Move: We spent the better part of two days packing the truck, only to find that we could not fit our king-size bed as the truck was already COMPLETELY filled. Luckily, my father-in-law is resourceful and constructed a crude bench out of scrap plywood to support our bed from below. In a scene from Sanford & Son, we appressed the mattress and box springs to the back of the truck, secured with ratcheting tie-down straps. Ryder Trucks' generous time allotment of 10 days for our move enabled us to take a leisurely pace across over 2600 miles of desert, grassland, mountains and mesic forest on our way to DC. Lynette and Warner flew to Kansas City, MO where my father-in-law and I were to meet them. After resting for a day in Kansas City, I proceeded with my brother-in-law for the remainder of the trip.

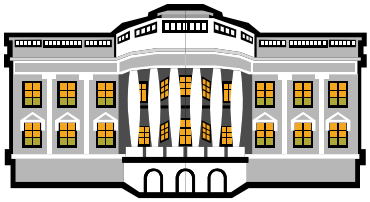
On the second day of our journey, just outside of Las Vegas, we first experienced the "Death Wobble" when we passed over an asymmetric bump in the road. This wobble is characterized by a precipitous rocking to and fro of the bed of the truck such that we feared capsizing. Our immediate reaction is to drastically cut our speed until the wobble plays itself out. This event foreshadowed numerous white-knuckled moments during our trip that ran the gamut from terrifying to hilarious.

For the most part, our trip through the western half of the US is uneventful, with the exception of the "Death Wobble". Utah is particularly beautiful from the oak/juniper scrub to the spectacular uplift/erosional formations in its southern-central region. Things got a bit hairier when we began ascending the Rockies. The motor grunted and groaned as we zipped along at 30 mph, finally breathing easier as we crested the pass. However, our heretofore little-used brakes quickly screamed in protest as they were called upon repeatedly to slow our ponderous bulk. We soon were privy to a shower of bright orange sparks each time the brake pedal was depressed, coupled with an unsettling shuddering in the cab. I could vividly envision our white-hot brake pads, worn wafer-thin, giving way and the calipers fusing together. A nervous chuckle quickly segued into a rictus of terror as we descended into Denver. Luckily, we made it to the outskirts of Denver and a 24 hour IHOP.

The only other harrowing experiences occurred on the second leg of the trip in the form of a series of particularly violent "Death Wobbles". The first wobble my brother-in-law experienced was the worst yet, but I 'drove through' it as he grimaced in terror. Even with prior experience of this phenomenon, I was worried that we might flip into a ditch. My brother-in-law and I ultimately laughed hysterically in an embittered manner, our small avoidance from dwelling on the thought that we could die at any moment were the wobble to get out of hand. Thus, we dubbed our truck "Swayback" for the remainder of the trip.

The Transition: Our first two weeks in the DC area were spent in an Extended Stay America (I have another name for it) as we sought housing for our stay. All initial contacts to area realtors prior to leaving California were met with skepticism, if not derision, concerning our chances of finding a place to rent sight-unseen. Fortunately, one realtor came through and we were able to purchase a small home after determining that we would lose hundreds of dollars per month in rent over what we would pay in mortgage for an equivalently-sized dwelling. We closed in two weeks and moved in about 3 weeks after we arrived.

The Work: I am currently employed as a post-doctoral researcher under Mike Schauff of the USDA-ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory under special cooperative agreement with the University of Maryland. I am housed with other USDA scientists in the combined Entomology Department (now Systematic Biology) of the USDA and Smithsonian Institution in the Natural Museum of Natural History. It's a phenomenal place to work! The people are great and I can get any host moth, scale, beetle or fly identified with ease to genus or species in most cases. My duties consist primarily of work on parasitic Hymenoptera (mostly taxonomy and systematics of Eulophidae and Eurytomidae) of agricultural importance and to perform identifications of specimens sent in from all over the world. Luckily, Mike encourages me to take on other projects, which has lead to my involvement in sorting through Neotropical materials from Colombia, Ecuador and Costa Rica via Mike Sharkey, Terry Erwin and INBio, respectively.



The D.C. area is beautiful with lots to do and see. Sometimes we still don't believe that we actually live here. Lynette and Warner have really taken advantage of all of the museums, galleries, etc. I've done a bit of collecting here and there, but it can't compare to the western U.S. The Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland contains numerous different habitats from vernal pools, deciduous forests, and marshes to pine-blackjack oak scrub, but the sweeping is mediocre as everything here is more "spread out" compared to the West. Specifically, it is difficult to find dense concentrations of Chalcioidea here like what might be expected on a lone blooming *Gossypium thurberi* or *Mimosa biuncifera* in Arizona, around an upper elevation spring in the Coso Mountains or on a group of isolated junipers in the east Mojave. I'm not particularly bitter about this, I simply did not know what to expect. There have been some neat finds like the swarms of Hymenoptera around *Pinus virginiana* infested with *Toumeyella* sp. (scale) and *Cinara* sp. (aphid) or the complement of microhymenoptera (eurytomids, eupelmids, pteromalids, braconids) attacking the scolytid-infested *Juniperus virginiana* in our backyard. As for blacklighting here, a single white-lined sphinx moth is cause for excitement, whereas out west they are "junk bugs". A few nights of this and even Dave Hawks might exclaim of this sphinx, "Wow, that's rare! Collect that!"

More Entomological Quotes

"More courtship lives in carrion flies than Romeo"
Billy Shakespeare Romeo and Juliet

"To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee."
Emily Dickinson

"What is a butterfly? At best, he's but a caterpillar dressed."
Benjamin Franklin

"In case of chronic ulceration with a gaping wound, apply locally some bedbugs, the heads of which should be removed." A System of Pharmacopoeia, 1590

"Fleas! Lice! A horse peeing by my pillow."
Basho, seventeenth century Japanese poet on staying at a roadside inn

"Laws are like cobwebs, which may catch small flies, but let wasps and hornets break through." Jonathon Swift, A Critical Essay Upon the Faculties of the Mind

"To a worm in horseradish, the whole world is horseradish" Yiddish proverb

PINE : PARTNERS IN NATURE EDUCATION

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

Birds of Joshua Tree National Park $150 [Enroll through the Desert Institute: (760) 367-5525] [Fri. 6-8 pm, May 3/Sat. 7 am-4 pm, May 4/Sun. 7 am-12 noon, May 5]

Reptiles and Amphibians of Joshua Tree National Park $200
[Enroll through the Desert Institute: (760) 367-5525] [Fri. 6-10 pm, May 10/Sat. 8 am-2 pm & 7 pm-11 pm, May 11/Sun. 8 am-2 pm, May 12]

Geology and Volcanic Hazards of Mammoth Mountain $155 (14N32)
[Sat. 9 am-5 pm, May 18/Sun. 7 am-3 pm, May 19]

Natural History of Fire in Southern California $120 (14P21)
[Fri. 6-8 pm, May 31/Sat. 8 am-5 pm, June 1]

Field Natural History of the San Gorgonio Wilderness Area $195 (14P11)
[Tue. 6-8 pm, June 18/Fri. 9 am-4 pm, June 21/Sat. 9 am-5 pm, June 22/Sun. 9 am-4 pm, June 23 (approximate hours)]

Wildlife of the San Jacinto Mountains: Upper Plateau $185 (21N33)
[Fri. 5-8 pm, June 28/Sat. 9 am-4 pm, June 29/Sun. 8 am-4 pm, June 30]

Ancient Forests of the Sierra Nevada $205 (21P22) [Tue. 6-9 pm, July 9,\
Fri. 8 am-4 pm, July 12/Sat. 8 am-4 pm, July 13/Sun. 8 am-4 pm, July 14 (approximate hours)]

Plant Life of the San Bernardino Mountains $150 (21P20)
[Fri. 6-8 pm, July 12/Sat. 8 am-4 pm, July 13/Sun. 8 am-4 pm, July 14]

Field Study of Birds: Southeast Arizona $295 (21P23)
[Tue. 6:30-9:30 pm, July 16/Trip: July 21-27 (times vary)/Thur. 7-9 pm, Aug. 1]

Field Study of the San Andreas Fault: San Bernardino to Palmdale
$95 (21N31) [Sat. 8 am- 5 pm, Aug. 10]

Geology and Natural History of Yosemite: A Weekend of Discovery
$125 (22N19) [Sat. 9 am-6 pm, Sept. 21/Sun. 8 am-3 pm, Sept. 22]

ALSO OF INTEREST:

Intermediate Spider Identification -taught by Rick Vetter**** $215 (21P03)
[Sat. 9 am-4 pm, July 27-Aug. 24]

Astronomy $60 (21P67)
[Sat. 5-10 pm, Aug. 3, 10]

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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Triapitsyn, S. V., L. G. Bezark and D. J. Morgan. 2002. Redescription of *Gonatocerus atriclavus* Girault (Hymenoptera: Mymaridae) with notes on other egg parasitoids of sharpshooters (Homoptera: Cicadellidae: Proconiini) in northeastern Mexico. Pan-Pacific Entomologist 78: 34-42

Vetter, R.S. and **T. P. Prentice**. 2002. The spider fauna associated with litter under woodrat middens in Southern California. Pan-Pacific Entomologist. 78: 23-33