

TORTS

Newsletter of the
Troop of Reputed Tortricid Systematists

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CHANGES IN THE LEPIDOPTERA COLLECTION AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, LONDON

The following message was received from Kevin Tuck on 28 April 2009.

“This is a circular message to provide an update on the move of the BMNH Lepidoptera collections to the new “Darwin Centre 2” (DC2) facility at the BMNH’s main site in South Kensington, west London.

Please accept my apologies that it has been necessary to delay sending this update until now. There have been many uncertainties, and rather than give constantly changing information it was better to wait until the key matters were finalised. Even so, some dates and priorities might still change as a result of unexpected events or possible slippage.

From 01 May 2009 the BMNH Lepidoptera collections will be closed to visitors until the move has been completed. The move contractors will start to label collection tranches from that date and the move will initiate on 18 May. The move sequence is highly complex and will also involve the curatorial staff moving in three phases. For this reason it is not possible to indicate exactly when particular collections will cease to be accessible and hence staff unable to answer enquiries about them.

Several curatorial staff including myself will remain at the Wandsworth outstation to oversee the departure of the collections until the move has been completed in November 2009. After that we will still need a short period to establish new working regimes in DC2 and to remap and consolidate the new layout.

Inevitably there will also be some interruptions to communications as staff transfer to other office areas or because they are out accompanying contractor’s vehicles. Please therefore accept my apologies in advance should there be any delays in responding to correspondence or phone calls.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these upheavals. The new DC2 facility is intended to provide state-of-the-art collections storage, working environs and ancillary services for the Museum’s collections, and I look forward to welcoming many of you as scientific visitors there in due course.”

Kevin Tuck

EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF LEPIDOPTEROLOGY

The 16th European Congress of Lepidopterology was held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 25-31 May 2009. The meeting drew a large international group of lepidopterists,

including a number of TORTS members: Joaquin Baixeras, John Brown, Richard Brown, Jason Dombroskie, Todd Gilligan, Peter Huemer, Jerry Powell, Dan Rubinoff, and Marja van der Straten, plus several other tortricid enthusiasts (e.g., David Agassiz, Ingvar Svenson).

The program featured an afternoon workshop focused on tortricid phylogeny organized by Todd Gilligan, with formal contributed talks by Boyan Zlatkov, Dan Rubinoff (with co-author Jerry Powell), Jason Dombroskie, Todd Gilligan, and Richard Brown (with co-author Joaquin Baixeras), and informal presentations by Jerry Powell and Joaquin Baixeras. After the workshop, and again the following morning, several folks got together to continue discussions regarding problems with the current familial classification. The consensus is that we have a long way to go before we understand relationships among tribes...or actually are able to define some tribes.

The meeting provided ample opportunity for interactions with colleagues and friends, and the food and drink were outstanding. The next Congress is scheduled for 2011 in Luxemburg.

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