

TORTS

Newsletter of the
Troop of Reputed Tortricid Systematists

MARIANNE HORAK AWARDED FIRST J. O. WESTWOOD MEDAL

The Royal Entomological Society and the Entomology Department of the Natural History Museum, London, recently announced that the winner of the first J. O. Westwood Medal for excellence in insect taxonomy was Marianne Horak, Curator of Lepidoptera at the Australian National Insect Collection in Canberra. She received the award for her outstanding monograph entitled "The Olethreutine Moths of Australia (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae)," which is volume 10 of the landmark series Monographs on Australian Lepidoptera (CSIRO Publishing). The work also featured a contribution by Furumi Komai. The 522-page opus received high praise from the distinguished international selection panel: "*.....a massive undertaking and meritorious achievement.*" "*A monumental work... I would have no hesitation in recommending this work to students as a model of what a contemporary monograph should be: a high level of scholarship is evident throughout the work and the quality of every component of the monograph is absolutely exemplary.*" "*If I were a young lepidopterist, I don't think I could ask for a better platform from which to begin my investigations.*"

Congratulations Marianne!
You rock!

DR. YANG-SEOP BAE VISITING McGUIRE CENTER IN 2008

Professor Yang-Seop Bae, from the University of Incheon, Incheon, South Korea, will be working at the McGuire Center and the Florida State Collection of Arthropods during a 12-month sabbatical in 2008-2009. He arrived in Gainesville on 28 February 2008. The main emphasis of his work will be the study of the Taiwanese and Southeast Asian Olethreutinae.

We welcome Dr. Bae to the U.S., and we hope that we can get together with him at meetings and other gatherings of U.S. lepidopterists.

NEW LITERATURE INITIATIVE FOR TORTRICID WORKERS

Over the past 10 years or so I have compiled a database of papers on Tortricidae. Many of these are included in the annual issues of the TORTS newsletter that summarize the recent tortricid literature. Although the database is far from complete, it includes most of the critical papers on the family. The bibliography will be posted soon on Todd Gilligan's website – tortricid.net. If you find shortcomings or errors in the bibliography, please share these with me so we can make this a useful global resource.

The overall goal of this initiative is not just to compile a comprehensive bibliography on Tortricidae, but to “populate” it with PDFs of all “available” articles, creating an electronic library of papers on Tortricidae that will be available to everyone via the internet. Dr. B.-K. Byun has agreed to assume the lead role regarding the acculumation of PDFs. Hence, if any of your published papers on tortricids are available in PDF format, please forward them to Dr. Byun (bkbyun@foa.go.kr). During a recent browse of the web, I found PDFs of nearly 50 published papers on tortricid moths, and Lief Aarvik already has contributed PDFs of his papers, so we are off to a great start. If you have the capacity to produce PDFs, please send as many as you can to Dr. Byun. Twice a year the PDFs will be forwarded to Todd Gilligan to be linked to the literature database.

Kevin Tuck warned me to be careful of articles published in European journals because of copyright issues. In contrast, brief discussions with editors of several North American journals (e.g., Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington, Journal of the Lepidopterists’ Society, and Journal of Research on the Lepidoptera) assured me that there would be no problem with copyright of these U.S. journals. Actually, the last two already have most or all their back issues freely available via the web. For these and other papers already available (e.g., some papers published in Zootaxa), we will merely function as a “clearing house” where articles on tortricids are brought together for easy access and retrieval. Our goal is 250 PDFs by the end of 2008 and 500 by the end of 2009.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this initiative, please feel free to contact me or Dr. Byun. Thanks in advance for your contributions to this proposed “e-library.”

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEPIDOPTERISTS’ SOCIETY

The combined 59th meeting of the Lepidopterists’ Society and the annual meeting of the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera was held at Mississippi State University, 24-27 June 2008. The meeting, hosted by Richard Brown, was a huge success by any measure. TORTS “members” in attendance included John Brown, Richard Brown, Charlie Covell, Jason Domroskie, Loran Gibson, Todd Gilligan, Jean-François Landry, Eric Metzler, Bill Miller, Jerry Powell, Felix Sperling, and Don Wright – an eclectic mix of personalities. In addition to several fine papers on Tortricidae (and other less interesting topics, of course), highlights of the meeting included the awarding of the Karl Jordan medal to Gaden Robinson (The Natural History Museum, London). Todd Gilligan (Colorado State University) received the Alexander B. Klots Award for the best student presentation, and Bill Miller (University of Minnesota) received the William D. Winter Service Award from the Society. Congratulations guys! An additional highlight was Andreas Zwick’s revealing of the long-awaited tortricid phylogeny, based on morphological and molecular data, resulting from the collaboration between Marianne Horak and Felix Sperling. Great stuff.

The barbeque featured superb blues by Jesse Robinson and 500 Pounds of Clay, with Richard Brown accompanying on harmonica. The master-of-ceremonies for the banquet was the ever-entertaining John Acorn, the nature nut. The meeting was extremely well organized, and everyone in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the food, the music, and the comraderie. Great job, Rich!

NEW BOOK ON NORTH AMERICAN OLETHREUTINAE

Gilligan, T. M., D. J. Wright, and L. D. Gibson. 2008. *Olethreutinae Moths of the Midwestern United States. An Identification Guide*. Ohio Biological Survey Bulletin New Series. Volume XVI Number 2. vii + 334 pp. ISSN: 0078-3994; ISBN-13 978-0-86727-160-7.

Abstract. The Olethreutinae comprise the second largest subfamily of Tortricidae, a worldwide family of “micro-moths” with larvae known for their leaf-rolling or stem- and root-boring habits. Host damage associated with such behaviors often has economic impact, consequently the best known olethreutines are those that are pests.

This volume is an identification guide to olethreutine moths that occur in the Midwestern portion of the United States. It treats 306 species, which amounts to approximately one-third of the Nearctic fauna. Designed to be useful to both amateur lepidopterists and professional entomologists, it provides background information on the subfamily, key characters for genera and species-level identification, life history summaries, more than 420 photographs of the adults, some 650 photographs of genitalia characters, and an introduction to the immature stages.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I presents an overview of the Olethreutinae followed by a collection of biographical sketches of individuals who have been influential in the development of Nearctic olethreutine taxonomy. It closes with a section on morphology that introduces the terms utilized in the species accounts and illustrates their application in a variety of situations. Part II presents the taxa, including brief introductions to each genus and a detailed account of each species. The species accounts include: size, flight period, geographic distribution, biology, adult photos,

genitalia photos, and notes on distinctive features. Part III is an overview of the immature stages. It features illustrations of olethreutine eggs, larvae, and pupae, a brief discussion of these stages, and basic information on rearing adults from eggs and larvae. A key to the larvae of some commonly encountered species and genera also is provided.

Book reviews of this new book on Olethreutinae and of Jozef Razowski's recently published Palaeartic Tortricidae, Part I will be forthcoming in the TORTS newsletter volume 10(1).

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