

# CURCULIO

An International Newsletter for Curculionoidea Research

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## CONTENTS

Featured Researcher .....	1
Editorial Comments .....	2
Research Activities .....	3
Past Specialists: Chittenden .....	5
Bulletin Board .....	11
Recent Publications .....	12
Directory of Researchers .....	15

### Academic Background

Bachelor of Science in Biology, Radford University, USA - 1998

Graduate Program (Entomology/Systematics),

University of Minnesota, USA - 2003 to present

Associate Researcher at the Smithsonian Institute,

National Museum of Natural History, USA - 2003

### Research interests

Taxonomy, systematics, and biology of Curculionoidea from the Indo-Australian region, with a focus on Cryptorhynchinae from the Papuan subregion.

It has been a circuitous path that led me to study weevils. After finishing my undergraduate studies in biology, my wife and I moved to a small village in the mountains of the Gulf Province in Papua New Guinea (PNG) where we ran a small village school for two years as United States Peace Corps volunteers. During this time I began collecting beetles in the rainforest, in part to supplement my science classes and also to satisfy my own curiosity. One of first insects I ever collected was a large, black, entimine weevil with thorn-like projections protruding from its elytra (*Gymnopholus weiskei* Heller) - it made an immediate impression. This and many other remarkable weevil specimens I collected in New Guinea quickly endeared me to Curculionoidea. It was not long before I began seeking out weevils exclusively in my collecting and studying them on paper. The more I learn the more fascinated I am by these marvels of evolution.

### Featured Researcher

## Gregory Setliff

Department of Entomology  
University of Minnesota, USA



(Gregory Setliff collecting weevils in Minnesota)

When I returned to the United States, I took my PNG collection to the National Museum of Natural History in an attempt to identify some of the specimens. There I met Steve Lingafelter and Alexander Konstantinov at the USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory who offered me space to work and were very generous with their time. I spent the next year volunteering in the Smithsonian weevil collection, mounting and labeling specimens, working in the library, and eventually took a job doing curatorial work.

(continued page 2)

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## Editorial Comments

Welcome to volume 51 of CURCULIO! Gregory Setliff is the new featured researcher informing us about his substantive work on Papua New Guinean weevil taxonomy and natural history. We are also indebted to Horace Burke for another outstanding chapter on Frank H. Chittenden in the "Notable Weevil Specialist of the Past" series (p. 5). Miguel Alonso-Zarazaga and Christopher Lyal have a progress report on the rapidly expanding Electronic Catalogue of Weevil Names (p. 11).

The past volumes of CURCULIO have oscillated in size. This volume is shorter than I would have liked, and therefore I wish to renew my call to all readers to frequently submit reports on their research in the field and laboratory. On the other hand, I

am happy to see that the list of publications (p. 12) represents our community at a global scale. The newsletter will continue to come out twice each year.

I should also report that the Proceedings of the 2004 Phytophaga Symposium in Brisbane, Australia (see CURCULIO 49: 8-12), will *not* be published as previously envisioned. According to an update from Rolf Oberprieler, several author teams had difficulties making the manuscript submission deadline. Others have decided to submit their work independently and to different outlets. As many as three papers are still scheduled to appear together in an upcoming issue of *Invertebrate Systematics*. These developments are disappointing, but they should not stop us from making another attempt at the next symposium in South Africa, 2008. As always, many thanks to everyone who contributed to the new CURCULIO.

NMF

### Gregory Setliff (continued)

In October of 2002, I returned to PNG for one year as the field manager of an insect ecology project (with collaborators) at the Binatang Research Center based in the lowland rainforest of the Madang Province (see <http://www.entu.cas.cz/png>). There I joined a research project focused on determining the larval host plants and host specificity of wood-boring Coleoptera in lowland rainforest trees. For the purpose of conducting this study, identified trees are killed and left standing *in situ* for one month to allow infestation with beetles. The trees are then cut and portions of the trunk, stems, roots, and twigs are placed in box extractors. Target plants were selected to include both closely related plants (congeneric species and confamilial genera) and also more distantly related plant lineages. This experimental design allows us to observe larval host specificity at the level of plant orders, families, genera, and species. My focus is collecting all wood-boring Curculionoidea except bark beetles, which are being studied by my predecessor and colleague Jiri Hulcr. Thus far, more than 3,000 weevil specimens representing almost 100 species have been reared from 33 tree species representing 13 orders, 18 families, and 29 genera. The project is still in its early stages and sampling continues today through the work of local parataxonomists.

Identifying these specimens has occupied much of my time since. The work has been greatly aided by visits to type collections in Australia, England, France, Germany, Hawaii, etc. One result of the project so far has been my work on a species-level checklist of New Guinean Curculionoidea. To date, that checklist includes 534 genera, 2776 species, and 330 synonyms. Also included are all previous binomial combinations for 813 species that have at one time or another resided in a different genus. Under each specific epithet I list the authority, a refer-



*Eupholus geoffroyi* (Guérin-Méneville) on a native yam vine, photo by G. Setliff.

ence to the literature (date and pagination), synonymies, and distribution. There are citations for 84 keys to species under the appropriate generic heading, with more to come. A complete taxonomic bibliography is included as well.

At the end of my second stay in PNG, I joined Susan Weller's lab (University of Minnesota) to finally receive my first formal training in entomology and systematics.

(continued page 3)



## Gregory Setliff (end)

Currently, I am working on a review of the genus *Asyteta* Pascoe (Cryptorhynchinae), and a revision of the larger species-groups.



Lateral habitus of *Asyteta humeralis* Pascoe; photo by G. Setliff.

*Asyteta* are long-legged, almost spider-like cryptorhynchines with a stout sub-globular body and a raised circular carina on the head just above the eyes. They are commonly referred to as "crowned weevils". At present the genus includes 27 described species that occur from the Philippines to the Solomon Islands. The group's greatest diversity is documented on New Guinea. I have borrowed 1,251 specimens and type material for all but

three species. A preliminary study has shown that "*Asyteta*" is likely comprised of at least three distinct genera and numerous species-groups within *Asyteta sensu stricto*. Additionally, more than 70 new species are in my cabinet awaiting description thanks in part to the fine collections sent to me by Alexander Riedel and the volumes of material I found in the Bishop Museum from Gressitt and Sedlacek's collections. Since my thesis project has grown to the size of a Ph.D. dissertation, I have petitioned to change my status to a Doctoral student.

In addition to *Asyteta*, I am also working on two other small projects with Indo-Australian cryptorhynchines. One is a description of a new species of *Hypsophorus* (formerly *Protopalus*) from Australia that was intercepted in New York and Virginia on imported Australian black walnut (*Endiandra palmerstoni* [C. T. White]). The other is a species-level revision of *Dysopirhinus* Roelofs from Australia and New Guinea with five new species.

My goals for the immediate future are to get the checklist into review as soon as possible and focus my efforts on finishing *Asyteta*. As for the more distant future, I hope - as we all do - to continue working with weevils and in the region that I started with. Perhaps it would be best to leave it at this... I will go where there are weevils to work on. Does that narrow it down?

### Request

**I am interested in borrowing any specimens of *Asyteta* and/or *Dysopirhinus* and their allies, identified or otherwise.**

Please contact me at:

Gregory P. Setliff

University of Minnesota, Department of Entomology, 219 Hodson Hall, 1980 Folwell Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108-6125, USA.

Tel: (612) 624-7268; Fax: (612) 625-5299 or: setl0003@umn.edu. I will return a generic diagnosis and images.

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## Research Activities and Requests for Specimens

**Dilip Amritphale** (India: dilipamritphale@yahoo.co.in). Interested in insect seed predation studies in milkweeds. Presently working on pre-dispersal seed predation in the milkweed *Calotropis procera*. One important pre-dispersal insect seed predator (larval stage) on this species in India is a weevil, a *Paramecops* sp. (possibly *P. farinosus*). However little information on this weevil could be gathered. **Kindly requesting sketches, photographs, or key to distinguish larval stages in *Paramecops* spp.** Also requesting information about **host fruits parasitized by *Paramecops* spp.** in addition to *Calotropis*. Any assistance in identifying these weevils is greatly appreciated.

**Robert Anderson** (Canada: randerson@mus-nature.ca). Continuing work on weevil systematics with an emphasis on taxa from the Americas. Hoping to finish the revision of *Theognete* soon but still finds new species as new areas are explored and sampled. Planning to work on other Lymantini starting with a generic revision to redefine *Dioprophorus*, *Epibaenus*, and relatives. Has just published a paper describing a new genus and species of Oxycorynidae from Costa Rica and a new *Allo-corynus* from Peru. Also finished work on an abundantly illustrated INBio webposting of the Dryophthoridae of Costa Rica and Panama. The results are accessible at the following website:

(continued page 4)

## Research Activities (continued)

<http://www.inbio.ac.cr/pruebas/Dryophthoridae/indice.htm>). Is assisting with faunistic studies in Canada in the maritime provinces, and has two multi-authored papers on weevils from these areas in press. Has documented along with some colleagues the presence of *Orchestes alni* in North America on elms. Finally, has taken on a new M.Sc. student, Pam Horsley, who will work on the systematics of the entimine genus *Trachyphloeomimus*.

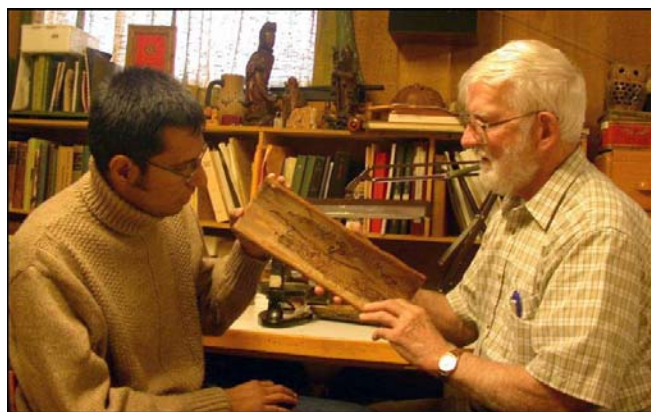
**Roberto Caldara** (Italy: r.caldara@tin.it). Continuing to work on the revision of Mecinini and Cionini of the world. Presently the revision of Afrotropical *Cleopomiarus*, including descriptions of 17 new species, is in press.

**Wayne Clark** (USA: clarkwe@auburn.edu) and **Horace Burke** (USA: hrburke@tamu.edu). Currently revising Dietz's *Anthonomus squamosus* group. A revision of *Cnemocyllus* Dietz is in press. Also underway is a newly initiated review of the tribe Anthonomini in North America, including Mexico. Over the years we have published, either individually or in collaboration, 75 papers on the biology and systematics of the tribe in the Western Hemisphere. Our overall plan for this work has been to revise genera, subgenera, and species groups as material and time became available. With the exception of some relatively small groups, we have completed or have in process revisions of most of the recognizable genus-level and species-group taxa. Since the numerous papers resulting from this research are widely scattered in journals and the information contained therein has not yet been correlated, we believe that summarization and assessment of the work completed on North American members of the tribe is needed. We have begun such a review, including descriptions and diagnoses of North American genus-level and species-group taxa, synonymies, keys to genera, subgenera, and species groups, a catalogue of species, and an in-depth review of the natural history, especially the plant associations, of species. References will be provided to information on the taxonomy (including location of keys) and biology of the species. Much time and effort have also been expended on study of Central American and South American taxa, but we believe that concentration on summarization and assessment of North American taxa (ca. 300 described species) of the Anthonomini should take precedence at this time. It is expected that a similar review will be accomplished for the remaining Western Hemisphere Anthonomini in the future.

**Nico Franz** (USA: franz@nceas.ucsb.edu). A manuscript authored jointly with Roberta Valente (see CURCULIO 49: 1-4) on the evolutionary trends in derelomine flower weevils is now in press in *Invertebrate Systematics*. Two additional manuscripts

on derelomine taxonomy and biology have been initiated. Has accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor in insect morphology and taxonomy at the University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez Campus, starting January 2006.

**Malcolm Furniss** (USA: malfurniss@turbonet.com). Has recently met with Javier Victor (see photo), a graduate student at the National School of Biological Sciences, Mexico City, to discuss the gallery system of the Douglas-fir beetle, *Dendroctonus pseudotsugae* Hopkins, at Furniss' residence in Moscow, Idaho. Javier is studying the phylogeny of *Dendroctonus* species based on morphological characters. He was visiting the W. F. Barr Entomological Museum at University of Idaho, which has specimens of every *Dendroctonus* species including *Dendroctonus pseudotsugae barragani*, described by Furniss from Chihuahua, Mexico.



Javier Victor (left) and Malcolm Furniss (right) discussing *Dendroctonus* biology in Moscow, Idaho. Photo courtesy of M. Furniss.

**Levent Gültekin** (Turkey: lgul@atauni.edu.tr). Currently working on four main projects: the biology of the Turkish species of *Larinus* Dejean (Curculionidae: Lixinae); a taxonomic revision of *Larinus* of the Palearctic region; bio-indicators of desertification and erosion in Turkey; and Lixini (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) biodiversity in Turkey - revision of select groups. **Would be happy to receive any *Larinus* specimens for examination** (Palearctic and world).

**Henry Hespenheide** (USA: hahiii@ucla.edu). Starting to complete and write up a study of North American *Laemosaccus*. Both *L. nephele* (= *L. plagiatus*) and *L. texanus* are complexes of more than one species. Almost all specimens from the Southwest (western Texas to Arizona and southward) pertain to undescribed species. **Would like to see any North American material of the genus.** Work on Costa Rican conoderines continues with a review of one genus in review and the write-up of another soon to commence. Both genera are specialists on plants of the genus *Cecropia* and the papers are in collabora-

(continued page 5)

## Research Activities (end)

tion with former student Louis LaPierre. **Willing to look at any conoderines from Costa Rica and still hoping to review North American *Cylindrocopturus*.**

**Analía Lanteri** (Argentina: alanteri@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar). **In need of samples of *Naupactus leucoloma*, *N. cervinus*, and *N. xanthographus* (Entiminae: Naupactini) preserved in 100% ethanol, for molecular studies (10 specimens per population).** Two graduate students, Marcela Rodríguez and Noelia Guzmán, are conducting a phylogeographic study of these species, under the direction of Viviana Confalonieri (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina) and Analía Lanteri (Museo de La Plata, Argentina). Furthermore, Analía Lanteri and Guadalupe del Río (Museo de La Plata, Argentina) are currently revising the genera *Melanocyphus*, *Myociphus*, and *Cyphopsis*. Analía Lanteri and Andrea Sequeira (Wellesley College, USA) are traveling to the Galapagos Islands in January 2006, in order to collect species of *Galapaganus* (Entiminae: Naupactini) for molecular studies (phylogeography and historical demography).

**Antonio Machado** (Canary Islands: antonio.machado@telefonica.net). Continuing research on the systematics and phylogeography of the genus *Laparocerus* (Entiminae) in Macaronesia. **In need of specimens preserved in 100% ethanol of any species of *Aomus*, *Aphyonotus*, *Asmarothrox*, *Cyrtozemia*, *Merimnetes*, *Neomerimnetes*, or *Straticus*, for the purpose of conducting DNA studies.**

**Antoine Mantilleri** (France: amantill@mnhn.fr). **Is looking for specimens of Brentidae Stereodermini, Hoplopisthiini, and Microtrachelizini for study.**

**Massimo Meregalli** (Italy: massimo.meregalli@unito.it). Cur-

rently revising *Niphadonyx* (Curculionidae, Molytinae, Aminyopini). The species of this genus occur in the Himalaya region, from Kashmir to western China (Yunnan, Tibet, Sichuan, and Qinghai). Seven species were known, and about 25 new species are presently in description. They pertain to about 50 populations and make up some hundred specimens, mostly collected recently. In many cases the new species have a small range, known from a single mountain chain only. This genus is easily identified by the presence of a small visible tooth inside the claw (appendiculate claws). It is related to *Niphades* but is wingless and usually occurs above 3000 m. Other closely related genera are still unnamed. It is probable that some researchers have specimens of *Niphadonyx* that almost certainly pertain to new species. **Kindly requesting all CURCULIO readers to check whether they might have *Niphadonyx* specimens or undetermined Molytinae: Aminyopini, for the purpose of including them in this study.** The attached picture shows the holotype of *N. przewalskyi* (Faust) for reference. Upon completion of the study, all specimens pertaining to new species will be returned as paratypes. Holotypes of species (as of now) unknown will be returned to their original collections.



Holotype of *Niphadonyx przewalskyi* (Faust); photo by M. Meregalli.

**Helio Pierotti** (Italy: hpierotti@notariato.it). Studying palearctic Peritelini, **looking to exchange or purchase Peritelini from North America.**

## Notable Weevil Specialists of the Past

**By Horace R. Burke** (USA: hrburke@tamu.edu)

Frank H. Chittenden is among the earliest in a long line of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists who contributed to our knowledge of the biology and taxonomy of North American weevils. Because of his extensive contributions to entomology and long tenure as a scientist in the USDA's truck crops and garden insect investigations, a fair amount of biographical information is available about him. For revealing insights into his personality and work habits we have the very readable first-hand account by Doris Blake (1951,

1952) who served as Chittenden's assistant for many years. Brief biographical sketches by L. O. Howard and other prominent entomologists followed his death in 1929. However, even with all of this information at hand, there are still gaps in our knowledge of Chittenden, especially during his youth and for about a decade before his employment by the USDA began in 1891. Among Chittenden's diverse activities in entomology was a special interest in weevils, first studying the life histories, plant associations, habits, and control of pest species, and then concentrating more on their taxonomy. The following is an assessment of Chittenden's work on weevils pre-

(continued page 6)



sented against background information on his life and overall contributions to entomology.

## Frank Hurlbut Chittenden (1858-1929)

Frank Chittenden was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on November 3, 1858. At an early age he moved with his family to the small nearby town of Elyria where he grew up. His father died when Frank was quite young and his mother, a school teacher, reared Frank and his sister. None of the several biographical accounts written about Frank, including some by close associates and friends, mention anything about his early education. It can only be assumed that he had a typical primary and secondary education for the era during which he was encouraged by his school teacher mother to excel. At some time during this early period in his life he must have become interested in insects since his friend and USDA associate Leland O. Howard (1929) described him as a "born entomologist" who always collected insects. Further proof of an early interest in insects is evidenced by the fact that sometime during the mid 1870s he entered Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) where he studied entomology.

Details of Chittenden's education at Cornell are meager although we have some brief but intriguing glimpses provided much later by Howard and others. Doris Blake (1951) said that he was sensitive about the fact that although he spent the requisite period as a fulltime student at Cornell, upon graduation in 1881 he received only a licentiate rather than the bachelor's degree that was usually awarded for completion of such study. Blake further stated that Chittenden only vaguely explained the reason for this. Howard, himself an 1877 graduate of Cornell, wrote that Chittenden pursued his entomological study at Cornell under William S. Barnard instead of John Henry Comstock, Cornell's eminent teacher/entomologist. Comstock was on leave with the USDA in Washington during most of Chittenden's last two years at Cornell. Chittenden's individualistic nature and "prickly" personality seem to have manifested themselves early in his career as he did pretty much as he wished while under Barnard's direction - much to the latter's displeasure. This problem between teacher and student probably explains why Chittenden did not receive the coveted bachelor's degree. The question of how Chittenden's education was influenced by John Henry Comstock remains unanswered in published accounts. According to Howard, Chittenden had a dislike for Comstock as he did for Barnard. Comstock and Chittenden obviously had some interaction at Cornell for Blake relates that Comstock once angered Chittenden by telling him not to whistle (a lifetime habit of Chittenden's) while working in the entomology laboratory. However, as the story goes, Mrs. Comstock told Chittenden

she liked his whistling and encouraged him to continue.

Chittenden's disappointment about not receiving the bachelor's degree at Cornell must have been at least somewhat assuaged when in 1904 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by the Western University of Pennsylvania (now University of Pittsburgh). William J. Holland, eminent entomologist/naturalist and director of the Carnegie Museum, sponsored Chittenden for the degree based on his entomological contributions in the USDA. Blake noted concerning this event: "It had been a satisfactory performance for Doctor Chittenden who loved to relate it to me, even to the wearing of the borrowed black-tasselled 'louse cage,' as Professor Holland had called the academic cap that he had lent Chittenden for the ceremony. In spite of his rancor against Cornell for not giving him a degree, I think that the time he had spent there was the happiest of his life."

Another void in knowledge of the life and activities of Chittenden spans most of the decade of the 1880s following his graduation from Cornell. According to Howard (1929), he moved to Brooklyn after graduation and became associated with the Brooklyn Museum. Howard further relates that while in Brooklyn, Chittenden was one of the founders of the Brooklyn Entomological Society. Since the society was founded in 1872 and Chittenden was not elected to membership until 1887, this was obviously not the case. However, after he was elected a member, he became deeply involved in the activities of the society, serving on its executive committee, and as corresponding secretary, curator of Coleoptera, and for a short time as assistant editor of *Entomologica Americana*. Chittenden collected Coleoptera locally during his residence in Brooklyn and was in the process of building a sizeable personal collection. A fire in the Brooklyn Institute in 1890 destroyed part of his collection and his library sustained considerable water damage. This loss did not deter Chittenden's love for collecting and, according to Blake (1952), he accumulated a large collection of beetles during his career.

Chittenden's first scientific paper on beetles - consisting of a brief note on the food habits of some cryptocephaline chrysomelids - was published in 1889 in *Entomologica Americana*. This was followed by notes on stridulation by a carabid, remarks on some buprestids, and a few short accounts on flies, spiders and other subjects. He apparently had been collecting curculionoids for many years and his first publication on weevils, in 1890, was based on observations on the habits of species of the cossonine genera *Phoeopagus* and *Stenoscelis*. A second paper appeared the same year on the habits and hosts of 47 species of curculionoids. Both of these papers were published in *Entomologica Americana* of which Chittenden was assistant editor at the time. At that point in his career Chittenden was primarily interested in the natural history of weevils. It was not until later that he also became involved in

(continued page 7)

## Frank Chittenden (continued)

taxonomic studies of the group.

Chittenden's entomological research career began in 1891 when he was appointed as Assistant Entomologist in the Division of Entomology of the USDA. Leland Howard, his friend and fellow Cornellian, probably encouraged him to apply for this position and helped him obtain it. Charles Valentine Riley was in charge of the division at the time but this position was later held by Howard who became Chittenden's supervisor and staunch supporter for most of the latter's career. Chittenden's responsibility in the USDA involved study of a diverse group of pest insects, including those of gardens, truck crops, stored-food products, and households. Howard considered Chittenden to be the most learned man in America about garden and truck crop pests. A steady stream of papers, mostly in USDA bulletins, started to appear under Chittenden's name on the life histories, plant associations, and damage caused by many species. Since Chittenden did not travel widely in his personal collecting, most of the species about which he wrote were obtained from USDA field entomologists stationed throughout the country. Where possible, specimens sent in by entomologists were reared in Chittenden's Washington laboratory and insectary. He supplemented the biological information obtained through such rearings with that previously published to provide excellent up-to-date reviews of the life histories and damaging characteristics of pest species. These papers often included high quality illustrations of the pests and their damage to plants.

Many of the pest species Chittenden wrote about were weevils, for example: *Anthonomus signatus* Say (strawberry bud weevil), *Anthonomus nigrinus* Boheman (potato bud weevil), *Asynonychus godmanni* Crotch (Fuller rose beetle), *Ceutorhynchus pallidactylus* (Marsham) (cabbage seedstalk curculio), *Ceutorhynchus rapae* Gyllenhal (cabbage curculio), *Chalcodermus aeneus* Boheman (cowpea curculio), *Epicaerus imbricatus* (Say) (imbricated snout beetle), *Lixus concavus* Say (rhubarb curculio), *Merhynchites bicolor* (Fabricius) (rose curculio), *Scolytus rugulosus* (Müller) (shothole borer), and *Trichobaris trinotata* (Say) (potato stalk weevil). He also did a great deal of work on chrysomelids, as evidenced by the fact

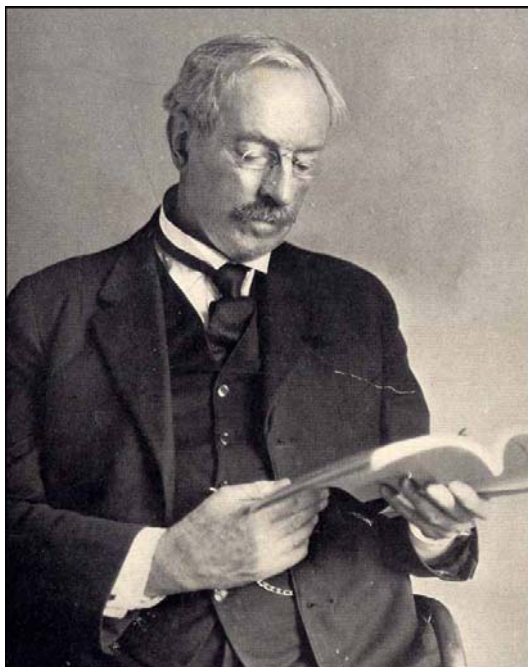
that during the period 1892-1923 he personally wrote 54 papers on the hosts and life histories (and to a lesser extent the taxonomy) of these beetles and coauthored five more (Clark *et al.* 2004).

In addition to conducting research on a large number of pest species, with emphasis on curculionids and chrysomelids, Chittenden spent considerable time editing USDA entomological papers, including those published in *Insect Life*. In

1917 he was placed in charge of the Bureau of Entomology's section of Truck Crops Insects Investigations, a position he held until 1923, at which time he was reassigned to fulltime research duties. During his years of association with the USDA, Chittenden continued to build his personal collection although such collections were discouraged. According to Blake, he was sensitive about this policy: "Once he had been at the point of knocking Dr. Marlatt [C. L. Marlatt, Assistant Chief and later Chief of the Bureau of Entomology] down with his bare fists when that one had argued that the Chittenden collection should be sent to the National Museum." After being relieved of administrative duties in the Truck Crops Insects division, Chittenden's office and laboratory were relocated several times until in 1926 (or possibly 1927) he declared that

his last move would to his home in Washington, D.C. After relocating his workspace to his home, he pursued taxonomic work on weevils in his collection, supplemented with specimens obtained on loan from the National Museum. Having been at odds for many years with Eugene A. Schwarz, curator of Coleoptera at the National Museum, Chittenden had to depend upon Blake's friendship with Schwarz to negotiate the loan of specimens from that collection. These specimens were critical to his research on the taxonomy of *Sphenophorus*, *Curculio*, *Lixus*, and other weevil genera. The two old coleopterists were too "hard-headed" to declare a truce to whatever caused their dislike for each other, although Blake indicates that each seemed willing to reconcile their differences. Chittenden was always eager to hear what Schwarz said to Blake during her visits to the Museum on his behalf. By 1925 there was a degree of reconciliation between the two. Blake provides a detailed, and even somewhat sad, account of the unfortunate rift between these two prominent Washington coleopterists. Chittenden continued to work on weevil taxo-

(continued page 8)



Frank H. Chittenden; photo taken from Howard (1929).

## Frank Chittenden (continued)

nomy at his home until his death on September 15, 1929.

Chittenden's interest in weevils apparently began during his early collecting days at Cornell. His personal collecting was rather localized in the states of New York, New Jersey, and Virginia but in the meantime he received specimens from other collectors across the United States. His work in the USDA on economically important pests provided him with ample opportunities to pursue studies on a wide array of species. As is often the case with entomologists, conducting biological and control studies on insect pests leads to an interest in their taxonomy. Chittenden in his official capacity surely had occasions to be involved in the study of species of *Sphenophorus* (billbugs) as pests of corn and other economically important plants. The taxonomic confusion he encountered in this genus indicated a need for improvements in recognition of species and descriptions of what appeared to be undescribed species. His taxonomic papers on the genus spanned the period 1904-1924. All told, seven papers were published on *Sphenophorus*, each containing descriptions of one or more species and sometimes of varieties. His descriptions were reasonably detailed and habitus illustrations were occasionally provided. Keys for identification of some species groups were also included. According to Vaurie (1951), the most recent reviser of the genus: "The great bulk of these new species [of *Sphenophorus*] was the work of one man, F. H. Chittenden, who, in a series of seven papers between 1904 and 1924, described 40 new species and about a dozen varieties. He had intended to write an illustrated, monographic work on the genus, but the 'press of other more imperative duties' never allowed him to accomplish his purpose. His papers, however, treat of a few groups in revisionary form, with keys, descriptions of some older species, and discussions of synonymies and distribution." Twenty eight of the 40 species of *Sphenophorus* described by Chittenden are still considered valid, either as species or, in four cases, as subspecies.

Later in the study of *Sphenophorus* Chittenden gravitated more toward description of varieties; the largest number were described in his last paper on this genus in 1924. He explained the increase in description of varieties thusly: "The present paper includes descriptions of several distinctly new species and a larger number of variants, some of the latter so different from the typical species to which they are related that without a large series of specimens, it is difficult to indicate correctly their taxonomic status. The availability of considerable material has enabled a better understanding than could possibly have been obtained from a smaller series. While some of these variants are varieties only, there is an indication that certain others may prove to be subspecies or geographical races. In most instances, in a good series for study, the variants here

discussed are easily separable from specimens typical of the species." While his statements concerning the extent of availability of material and its effects on taxonomic decisions appear somewhat contradictory, he seems to be expressing frustration with his inability to determine the status of the material at hand. He was obviously encountering what Vaurie (1951) considered as a great difficulty in the genus, that is, infraspecific variation: "Many species, at first glance, seem very similar; on a second they are seen to differ; and still further investigation shows that they vary so much within the species that it is difficult to decide on the limits of the species." She further states: "This individual variation accounts in part for the fact that nearly one-half of the names, including 'varieties,' are synonyms in a genus in which, to the inexperienced eye, the species all look alike. While Chittenden certainly could not be accused of having an "inexperienced eye," he obviously struggled, as did others, to make sense of a difficult genus of weevils. As indicated above, 57% of the species-level names he proposed survive today. His "varieties" did not fare as well; of the 14 he proposed all but two are now considered to be synonyms. The two that survived were elevated by Vaurie to species rank. Given the difficulty presented by the genus and the incomplete state of knowledge of the group at the time of his study, Chittenden's contribution to the taxonomy of *Sphenophorus* must be considered as a significant one. He is responsible for naming 30 of the 65 valid species of *Sphenophorus* known today from the United States and Canada.

While Chittenden left a fairly solid record regarding recognition and description of species of *Sphenophorus*, he was not as successful in his study of *Curculio*, another difficult genus plagued by extensive infraspecific variation and the attendant difficulty of defining species limits. Chittenden apparently had an early interest in species of this genus, yet originally it was from the standpoint of their biology. In 1904 he published an extensively illustrated paper (reprinted as a *USDA Circular* in 1908) entitled "Nut Weevils," covering the biology and control of the chestnut, pecan, and hazelnut weevils. As with other weevils sent to him by field entomologists, he received nuts infested with *Curculio* from many localities in the United States. His interest in the genus also extended to the acorn weevils. Doris Blake writes that when she worked as an assistant to Chittenden she reared adults of *Curculio* from large quantities of acorns collected by others from many species of oaks in different parts of the country. As explained by Chittenden in the introduction to his first paper (1908) on the taxonomy of *Curculio* (as *Balaninus*), he found it necessary to study specimens more closely to identify species and even to determine the sexes of some species. In his first paper he described five new species, one new variety, provided a new name for one of Thomas Casey's species, and discussed the taxonomy of some other previously described species. There was a long wait for

(continued page 9)



## Frank Chittenden (continued)

his next contribution to the taxonomy of the genus. It was not until 1927 that the culmination of his long study of *Curculio* was published. This was his most extensive taxonomic study on weevils and comprised the first comprehensive revision of the genus. Chittenden states: "The paper presented here is a brief monograph, or unpretentious study, brought together as an aid for the identification of the various species of the genus *Curculio* which inhabit America North of Mexico." The paper covers 40 species and three varieties (20 species and two varieties described by the author as new) with keys for identification, descriptions, synonymies, and illustrations. The habitus illustrations of several species and line drawings of characters are of a higher quality and more extensive in number than in most revisionary works of the time.

Chittenden described 30 species of *Curculio* as new, but subsequent studies of the genus have reduced the number of his valid species to ten. In the latest revision of the genus in the United States and Canada, Gibson (1969) explains the problems encountered by Chittenden: "Many of the older names found in current literature have been changed in this paper [Gibson's], but they now agree with the type-specimens - these changes were necessary because the types in European were not available to Chittenden. In some cases the species described by Chittenden have been found to be synonyms. These errors in classification were mainly caused by the availability of too few specimens for proper comparison of males and females, by size variations, and by apparent geographical color variations."

The third large genus studied by Chittenden was *Lixus*. His work on these weevils came late in his life and, in fact, a paper in which he described 22 species and two varieties as new was published posthumously in 1930. He apparently realized that study of his personal collection alone was not sufficient to provide an understanding of the taxonomy of *Lixus*, and so he supplemented it with material borrowed from several institutional and private collections. Since he died before completion of the study we do not know what his ultimate goal was regarding revision of the genus. What is known is that only four of the 23 species, and two varieties he described as new in two papers on the genus, are still considered valid. One has to wonder whether his lack of success in recognizing species in this genus was due to the inherent difficulty of the group itself, lack of examination of types of some earlier described species (especially those of J. L. LeConte and C. H. Boheman), a diminishing capacity to make taxonomic decisions due to age and deteriorating health, or a combination of any or all of these.

In addition to his taxonomic work on *Sphenophorus*, *Curculio*, and *Lixus*, Chittenden described species in *Cocco-*

*torus*, *Himatolabus* (as *Attelabus*), *Listronotus*, *Notaris*, *Ophyrastes* (as *Eupagoderes*), *Trichalophus*, and *Xestolabus* (as *Attelabus*). Of the eight species described as new in these genera, one-half are still considered valid.

If assessment of Chittenden's overall work on the taxonomy of curculionoids is based strictly on the number of his species that are still recognized as being valid, one could assume that it was of poor quality. But what must be taken into consideration is that he pioneered study of some of these groups and his descriptive work exceeded the norms for detail and clarity at the time. In addition, some of his papers contained excellent illustrations, setting a new standard in this regard for taxonomic works of the period. It also should not be forgotten that because of his primary interest was in the biology of weevils, Chittenden provided much new, and still often quoted, information on life histories and plant associations of weevils.

In the final analysis, Frank Chittenden was a totally dedicated entomologist who expanded his long-standing interest in pest species to a wider study of both biology and taxonomy of weevils. His pioneering work was not always successful but he laid the foundation for subsequent study by others of these taxonomically difficult genera of weevils. For these reasons he deserves to be included in our list of notable weevil specialists.

### Publication of Frank H. Chittenden on Curculionoidea (excluding many papers on weevil pests of crops and gardens in USDA publications)

- Chittenden, F. H. 1890a. On the habits of *Phloeophagus* and *Stenoscelis*. *Entomologia Americana* 6: 99.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1890b. Notes on the habits of some species of Rhynchophora. *Entomologia Americana* 6: 167-172.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1904a. On the species of *Sphenophorus* hitherto considered as *simplex* LeConte. *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 6: 127-130.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1904b. On the species of *Sphenophorus* hitherto considered as *placidus* Say. *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 6: 130-137.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1905a. On the species of *Sphenophorus* related to *pertinax* Ol., with descriptions of other forms. *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 7: 50-64.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1905b. New species of *Sphenophorus* with notes on described species. *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 7: 166-182.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1906. The North American species of the genus *Notaris* Germ. *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 14: 113-115.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1908a. New species of *Balaninus* with notes (Coleoptera Curculionidae). *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 10: 19-26.

(continued page 10)

## Frank Chittenden (continued)

- Chittenden, F. H. 1908b. An injurious North American species of *Apion* with notes on related forms. United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology Bulletin 64(4): 29-32.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1912. Description of an injurious otiorhynchid. Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 14: 106-107.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1919. Notes on *Sphenophorus* (Coleoptera). Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 32: 269-270.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1920. Description of a new species of *Sphenophorus* from Florida (Coleoptera). Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences 10: 313-314.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1922. Popular and practical entomology, the cocklebur billbug. Canadian Entomologist 54: 217-220.
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- Chittenden, F. H. 1924b. New species and varieties of *Sphenophorus* with notes on certain other forms. Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 26: 145-159.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1925a. Historical notes on *Brachyrhinus rugifrons* Gyll. Canadian Entomologist 57: 290-291.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1925b. A new species of *Trichalophus*. Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 27: 41.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1925c. The genus *Coccotorus* LeConte. Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 27: 129-132.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1926a. A new and remarkably large species of *Eupagoderes*. Bulletin of the Brooklyn Entomological Society 21: 169-170.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1926b. A new species of *Listronotus* from north of Mexico. Journal of the New York Entomological Society 34: 341-342.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1926c. An introduced beetle related to the tomato weevil. Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 39: 71-74.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1926d. Two new species of *Attelabus* with notes. Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 28: 162-165.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1927. Classification of the nut curculios (formerly *Balaninus*) of boreal America. Entomologia Americana 7: 129-207.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1928. Description of a new species of *Lixus* from the Pacific region of the United States. Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 30: 90-91.
- Chittenden, F. H. 1930a. A new species of *Notaris*. Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 32: 48-49.

Chittenden, F. H. 1930. New species of North American weevils of the genus *Lixus*. Proceedings of the United States National Museum 77: 1-26.

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*Alcides praenustus* (Guérin-Méneville) on *Macaranga* sp. (Euphorbiaceae) in Oahu, Madang Province, PNG; photo by G. Setliff (see page 1).

## The Bulletin Board

### News About Weevils

**Miguel Alonso-Zarazaga** (Spain: mcnaz39@mncn.csic.es) and **Christopher Lyal** (United Kingdom: c.lyal@nhm.ac.uk) report on **WTaxa: the Electronic Catalogue of Weevil Names**. Over the past year the web catalogue of weevil species names, "WTaxa" has grown to include more than 100,000 names thanks to the efforts of the team. It is now in its 9<sup>th</sup> version (see <http://wtaxa.csic.es>). There are, inevitably, many problems to solve, both in the content and the technology underlying the data presentation. For the latter we are working on the interface for querying the database, and elements of the internal configuration of the database.



The main problems in the content are: (1) the Scolytinae (incl. Platypodini) family and genus group names are still absent. We have spotted many nomenclatural problems in this group, and are preparing a paper with solutions to these. (2) The species group names for some groups are not yet included: Apionidae, Brentidae, Ceutorhynchinae, Conoderinae, and Nanophyidae. (3) Because of the method of data gathering the species placements and synonymies are still those of the *Junk Catalogue* except for Scolytinae, which follow Wood and Bright's catalogue and subsequent supplements. In the next phase of the project we will be working to bring the taxonomy up to date. (4) Species names after the publication of *Junk Catalogue* up to 2000 are currently being entered. After this, all names up to 2005 will be added.

We furthermore expect to have the following improvements in place in the near future: (1) the bibliography of the 1999 family and genus name catalogue will be completely rechecked and corrected. A single journal list has been built (with bibliographical information) and many dates added (including some changes!). The list will be made completely searchable. (2) Improvement of the query interface to avoid ambiguities. (3) Taxon pages completely available; for the moment only lists are accessible through the interface. (4) Completion of content up to 2005. (5) Some new people joining the WTaxa crew.

In a longer term, other facilities will be added: (1) validation of taxa by rechecking all the original descriptions. (2) Installation of geographical and biological relationships modules. (3) PDF files of original descriptions and works to be consulted on-line.

We would like to thank all our friends and colleagues who are encouraging us and for offering help. We will accept their

offers as soon as the on-line data entry facility is ready for them. We would find it very helpful if everybody publishing papers on weevil taxonomy (or, indeed, other papers which would assist our work on this project) would send us each copies, either in paper form or as PDFs.

**Brian Farrell** (USA: farrellb@oeb.harvard.edu) and collaborators have received **funding by the National Science Foundation for the Assembling the Beetle Tree of Life project**. The developing project website is located at <http://beetletree.org>. Potential contributors may also subscribe to the BTOL listserv at the following location: <http://www.lsoft.com/scripts/wl.exe?SS1=LISTSERV.ARIZONA.EDU>

**Rolf Oberprieler** (Australia: rolf.oberprieler@csiro.au) reports on the **recent establishment of the Zimmerman Weevil Research Laboratory at the Australian National Insect Collection in CSIRO Entomology**. The official inauguration of the new ZWRL on June 17, 2005, the first anniversary of Elwood Zimmerman's death (see CURCULIO 49: 20-22). The facility houses Zimmie's large and valuable collection of weevil literature, his private and working collections of specimens, and his medals, awards, photo albums and memorabilia. The laboratory has ample space for visiting scientists working on weevils or other Coleoptera in the ANIC. The first visitors were Adriana Marvaldi (February 2005, working with Rolf Oberprieler on the phylogeny of Oxycoryninae), Neal Evenhuis and Gordon Nishida (February 2005, sorting through Zimmie's material of Pacific weevils as well as his correspondence dating back to his tenure at the Bishop Museum in Hawaii), and John Lawrence (May/June 2005, working on Coleoptera with Adam Slipinski). Current activities include the pinning of a large backlog of unmounted weevils and the sorting and curation of his collection, with help from a student volunteer, Thomas Wallenius. For further information on the ZWRL refer to the website at <http://anic.ento.csiro.au>, or contact Rolf Oberprieler.

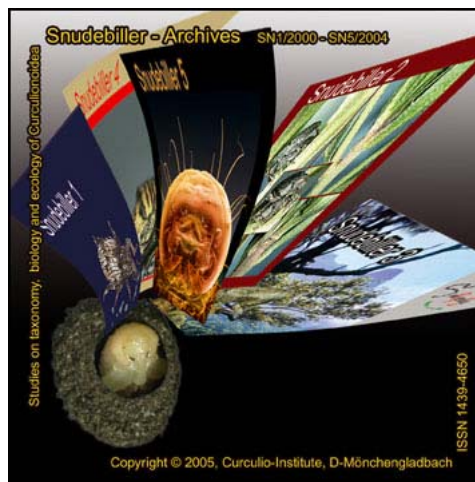
**Peter Sprick** (Germany: psprickcol@t-online.de) announces that the **Fourth International Meeting of the Curculio-Institute will take place in Cotignac, France, from April 16-23, 2006**. Anyone interested in participating should refer to the meeting website at <http://www.curci.de/meeting/meeting0505.html>. Finally, **four new issues of Weevil News have been published** at <http://www.curci.de/inhalt.htm>. Issue 30 is particularly noteworthy; it presents a new illustrated key to the Central European Cryptorhynchinae.

(continued page 12)



## The Bulletin Board (end)

**Peter Stüben** (Germany: p.stueben@t-online.de) announces the **publication of the first *Snudebiller-Archives* in DVD format in October 2005**. The DVD includes volumes 1-5 of *Snudebiller*, with about 1,500 text pages, more than 7,000 illustrations and photographs, 850 distribution maps, and about 50 audio- and video-documentations. It also features a powerful search function for species and authors, as well as cross-references to valid names and synonyms. The price is • 175.00. Please send purchasing orders or membership applications directly to: CURCULO-Institute, Hauweg 62, D-41066 Mönchengladbach, Germany, or via e-mail: curculio@t-online.de. Internet: www.curci.de



## Recent Publications on Curculionoidea

- Alonso-Zarazaga, M. A., and A. Goldarazena. 2005.** Presencia en el País Vasco de *Rhyephenes humeralis* (Coleoptera, Curculionidae), plaga de *Pinus radiata* procedente de Chile. Boletín de la Sociedad Entomológica Aragonesa 36: 143-146.
- Barlow, N. D., B. I. P. Barratt, C. M. Ferguson, and M. C. Barron. 2004.** Using models to estimate parasitoid impacts on non-target host abundance. *Environmental Entomology* 33: 941-948.
- Barratt, B. I. P., R. G. Oberprieler, C. M. Ferguson, and S. Hardwick. 2005.** Parasitism of the lucerne pest *Sitona discoideus* Gyllenhal (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) and non-target weevils by *Microctonus aethiopoidea* Loan (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) in south-eastern Australia, with an assessment of the taxonomic affinities of non-target hosts of *M. aethiopoidea* recorded from Australia and New Zealand. *Australian Journal of Entomology* 44: 192-200.
- Beaver, R. A. 2005a.** A remarkable new species of *Cyclorhpidion* Hagedorn, and new records of bark and ambrosia beetles from Gabon (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae and Platypodinae). *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* 141: 113-119.
- Beaver, R. A. 2005b.** A new *Coriacephilus* Schedl from Brunei (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae). *Serangga* 9: 55-61.
- Beaver, R. A., and H. Gebhardt. 2005.** Notes on the tribe Hyorrhynchini (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae). *Serangga* 9: 91-102.
- Caldara, R., and L. Diotti. 2005.** Note su *Lissorhoptrus*, genere del Nuovo Mondo introdotto in Italia, e su due altri generi "endemici" per l'Italia, *Lostianus* e *Siratton* (Coleoptera Eriirhinidae). *Bollettino della Società Entomologica Italiana* 137: 119-126.
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- Gontarenko, A. V., and V. Yu. Nazarenko. 2000.** [Materials to the fauna of weevils from subfamilies Alophinae, Hylobiinae, Hyperinae, Rhytirrhinae (Coleoptera, Curculionidae)] [Pp. 41-50]. In: *Tshtenija pamjati A. A. Braunera. Materialy mezhdunarodnoj nautshnoj konferentsii* [Readings in Memory of A. A. Brauner. Materials of International Scientific Conference]. "AstroPrint", Odessa.
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- Guedes, C. J., A. A. Lanteri, and J. R. P. Parra. 2005.** Chave

(continued page 13)

## Recent Publications (continued)

- de identificação, ocorrência e distribuição dos curculionídeos das raízes dos citros em São Paulo e Minas Gerais. *Neotropical Entomology* 34: 577-584.
- Gültekin, L. 2004a.** Weevils associated with musk thistle (*Carduus nutans* L.) and biology of *Lixus filiformis* (Fabricius) (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) in northeastern Turkey. *Journal of the Entomological Research Society* 6: 1-8.
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- Gültekin, L. 2005a.** Host plants range and biology of *Lixus nordmanni* Hochhuth (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) on hogweed *Heracleum* L. in eastern Turkey. *Journal of Pest Sciences*. Published on-line; DOI: 10.1007/s10340-005-0106-5.
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- Gültekin, L. 2005d.** New ecological niche for weevils of the genus *Lixus* Fabricius and biology of *Lixus obesus* Petri (Coleoptera: Curculionidae, Lixinae). *Weevil News* 24: 1-3.
- Gültekin, L.,<sup>a</sup> Güçlü, and O. N. Nikulina. 2003.** The life history of the capitulum weevil, *Larinus latus* (Herbst) (Coleoptera, Curculionidae). *New Zealand Journal of Agriculture* 46: 271-274.
- Gültekin, L., H. Zengin, and R. Hayat, R. 2004.** Life history of *Lixus bardanae* on curly dock (*Rumex crispus*) in Turkey. *Phytoparasitica* 32: 97-99.
- Hamilton, R. W. 2005.** *Omolabus* Jekel in North and Central America (Coleoptera: Attelabidae). *Zootaxa* 986: 1-60.
- Hespenheide, H. A. 2005.** Weevils of the genera *Archocopturus* Heller and *Zygopsella* Champion, sibling species, and mimetic homoplasy (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Conoderinae). *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 104: 856-862.
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- Komez, N., and C. Germann. 2005.** New conclusions on the distribution of *Onyxacalles portusveneris* (Mayet, 1903) in France (Coleoptera: Curculionidae, Cryptorhynchinae). *Weevil News* 27: 1-5. Available at <http://www.curci.de/inhalt.html>
- Lanteri, A. A., and M. G. del Río. 2005.** Taxonomy of the monotypic genus *Trichaptus* Pascoe (Coleoptera: Curculionidae): a potential weevil mimic of Mutillidae. *Coleopterists Bulletin* 58: 47-54.
- Legalov, A. A. 2004a.** Reconstruction of the phylogeny of the rhynchitids and leaf-rolling weevils (Coleoptera, Rhynchitidae, Attelabidae) using the Synap method: Communication 1. *Entomological Review* 84: 764-770.
- Legalov, A. A. 2004b.** A new species of the genus *Haplorhynchites* Voss (Coleoptera, Rhynchitidae) from India. *Entomological Review* 84: 994-997.
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(continued page 14)

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(continued page 15)



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