



ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN

NEWSLETTER

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EDITORS COMMENTS

Wayne and I would like to welcome Mary Matheson to the E.S.S. editorial team. She graciously volunteered (no arm twisting required) to help us with the newsletter and her efforts are greatly appreciated.

This summer's newsletter is accompanied by the minutes of the spring meeting held April 17th, 1989 at the Saskatoon Research Station, as well as a copy of the revised E.S.S. constitution (for those not present at the spring meeting). This year's fall meeting to be organized by Peter Mason, John Kozial and Peter Kusters will be held in Saskatoon on Oct. 26th and 27th. Details will follow later this summer.

NEWS FROM AGRICULTURE CANADA - SASKATOON

Russian Wheat Aphid (RWA) Update - Mary Matheson. Two projects on Russian Wheat Aphid at Agriculture Canada Research Station have received funding support from the Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund. A study on monitoring the population distribution of RWA, evaluating aphid damage to cereals and investigating other factors which influence the pest status of the RWA is being conducted by Dr. Owen Olfert, Lloyd Harris, Murray Braun and Alynn Neil. Dr. John Doane, Lloyd Harris, Mary Matheson and Tim Nelson are developing a biological control program for RWA in Saskatchewan.

Surveys of fall rye and winter wheat fields in the southwestern region of the province yielded no overwintering RWA. In mid-April, Dr. John Doane and Murray Braun collected one *Coccinella septempunctata* (L.), a known predator of the RWA, from fall rye near Leader, Sask.; this is the first confirmed record of the 7-spotted ladybird beetle in

Saskatchewan. Lloyd Harris also collected one 7-spotted ladybird beetle at Pennant, Sask.; this has not yet been confirmed.

We have now established eight spring wheat fields as sampling sites in the southwestern region of the province which will be sampled weekly for aphids and their predators and parasites. Six fields in the Regina and Moose Jaw area will be sampled weekly by Lloyd Harris and his summer students. Suction traps have been set-up in Indian Head, Saskatoon, Scott and Swift Current to monitor migrating insects. In the laboratory, nine Berlese funnels have been set-up to provide information on the seasonal distribution and abundance of aphid species collected from the sampling sites. Procedures for rearing and handling aphids are being examined using the bird cherry oat aphid, *Rhopalosiphum padi* (L.). Also, we are presently preparing a list of predators and parasites of cereal aphids in the U.S.A. and Canada.

Retirements. Agriculture Canada, Saskatoon has recently seen the retirement of two well-known entomologists Drs. Alf Arthur and Larry Burgess. The following notes have been prepared by their colleagues in Saskatchewan.



Alfred Pibus Arthur
B.Sc. (McGill), M.Sc. (Mich.), Ph.D. (Ohio)
Born: 15 March 1924.

Alf started out as a summer student in 1949 at the Dominion Parasite Laboratory in Bellville, Ontario where he later became a research officer. While in Bellville, Alf studied the behavior of parasites and their host relationships, including kairomones. During

his time there, he received the Centennial Medal for his community work and, together with Murray Maw, founded the Quinte Gem and Mineral Club. For many years he taught Sunday School in the Baptist church.

He was transferred to the Saskatoon Research Station in 1972, where he continued his work in biological control, including research on the use of Bacillus thuringiensis on oilseed insects.

The interspecific behaviour of the bertha armyworm parasites, the native, Banchus flavescens (Cresson) and the exotic Microplitis mediator (Haliday) were the focus of Alf's research in recent years. This work has culminated in release of the exotic species to enhance the control effected by the native B. flavescens.

Alf is the author or co-author of more than 40 refereed publications, two pheromone patents and more than 50 proceedings, reports, and technology transfers. He was an invited speaker several times at meetings in the United States. To acknowledge his contributions, two insect species have been named in his honour. Arthur's sunflower moth Cochylus arthuri (Dang) was discovered by Alf when he was studying sunflower pests in southeastern Saskatchewan.

Alf served as Vice-President of the E.S.S. in 1980, and as President the following year. He has also served on the following committees: Teaching of Entomology at Sask. Universities (1982, 1983), the Proceedings in 1973, and the Honours and Awards Committee in 1980, 1983-1985 and 1989. A retirement party was held in Alf's and Larry's honour at the Elk's Hall in Saskatoon on Feb.16, 1989. However, he seems unable to break his 40 year work habit (we just noticed him going down the hall a few minutes ago). Alf is an ardent stamp collector and proud grandfather of seven (plus two on the way) grandchildren.

All his colleagues and friends wish him a happy retirement.



Larry Burgess
B.Sc. (Alta.), M.Sc. (U.W.O.), Ph.D. (Sask.)
Born: 15 December 1929

Larry Burgess retired on March 29, 1989 after 37 years of service with Agriculture

Canada. Larry grew up on a farm near Beaverlodge, Alberta where he developed an early interest in insects and wildlife in general. He enrolled at the University of Alberta where his interest in wildlife biology was channelled into entomology after he met and attended lectures by Dr. Strickland. As a summer student Larry worked on the biting fly project at Fort Churchill and, a year after receiving his B.Sc. degree in 1952, returned to Churchill as a full time employee in the Household and Medical Entomology Division. This later became known as the Veterinary and Medical Entomology Division. He continued with this Division until 1958 but took educational leave from 1954 -1956 to complete an M.Sc. degree under Dr. Tony Brown at the University of Western Ontario. His project was on behavioral cues attracting mosquitoes to man and animals.

Larry returned to Ottawa after receiving his M.Sc. but was soon transferred to Agriculture Canada Livestock Insect Laboratory at Guelph. He again took an educational leave from 1960-1962 to complete a Ph.D. degree at the University of Saskatchewan working with Dr. Jake Rempel on the nervous and neurosecretory systems of mosquitoes. In 1964 he was transferred to the Saskatoon Research Station after closure of the laboratory at Guelph. He continued to work on various mosquito projects until 1971 when he was asked to take up the study of flea beetles attacking rape and mustard crops. In 1972 he was appointed Associate Head of the Entomology Section at the Saskatoon Research Station and remained in that position until 1982.

Larry conducted extensive studies on the ecology and overwintering habits of flea beetles which culminated in a series of papers. More recently he conducted an extensive survey of insects in canola fields and on the relation of the false chinch bug to yeast infections of mustard.

Larry has always been involved in the affairs of the Entomological Society and served as Vice-President and President in 1965-66 and 1966-67, respectively, and on numerous committees. He served on the Program Committee for the BEP meeting (Botany - Entomology - Plant Pathology Joint Meeting) in 1975 and again on the Program Committee for the Entomological Society of Canada in 1985.

Larry retains his interest in entomology and the Society, so we will be seeing him often. We wish Elizabeth and Larry all best regards for their retirement and future.

Grasslands Insect Survey - Ken Pivnick. There are three trips planned for the grasslands national park (west block) for this summer, one of which (June 16-18) will already have taken place as you read this. Generally, we drive down on the preceding afternoon or evening and return in the afternoon Sunday. In most cases the people co-ordinating the trips camp in the park, however, permission must first be obtained from the park superintendent in Val Marie, call (298-2257). If anyone is interested in making any or all of these trips, please contact one the following co-ordinators, all work at:

Agriculture Canada, Saskatoon
Phone: 975-7014

Name: Keith Moore
Proposed Date: July 15-16
Home Phone: 652-7401

AND

Name: Martin Erlandson
Proposed Date: July 29-30
Home Phone: 955-0724

Worthy of note is that Elaine Hooper, a graduate student in Botany, Univ. of Regina, is doing a plant survey in the park this summer. Her supervisor is Dr. George Ledingham a retired botanist from U of R and current curator of the Herbarium.

Butterfly Census - Ken Pivnick. I will be conducting another butterfly census around the Pike Lake area on Sat. June 25; in case of foul weather the census will take place the following day. If anyone is interested in participating, or in carrying out another census in another area, please contact me for details; (Ken Pivnick, Saskatoon, 975-7014 or 652-5240).

E. S. S. Archives - Larry Burgess. At the spring meeting of the E.S.S. it was agreed that the Society should take advantage of an offer to have its archival material stored with the Saskatoon Research Station's Archives Collection in special cupboards in Room 307

of the Research Station. The Societies archival material, consisting of two complete sets of the Proceedings 1962-86, a complete set of minutes of the annual meetings 1952-1977 (more recent minutes are included in the Proceedings), selected correspondence 1952-1980, a Brooks Prize file 1960-1980, and financial reports and ledger pages 1954-1975, have now been deposited in these cupboards. There is provision for an additional 12 linear inches of shelf space for growth of our Society's archives over the next 12-15 years.

Back Issues of E. S. S. Proceedings - Larry Burgess.

We now have on hand some extra copies of back issues of E.S.S. Proceedings. These will be made available at the annual meeting this fall for members wishing to complete or expand their holdings of the Proceedings.

NEWS FROM PFRA, INDIAN HEAD - BRUCE NEIL

I would like to remind those members who have not yet paid their annual dues to please do so.

NEWS FROM SASK. MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY - RON HOOPER

One specimen of Homochlodès fritillaria (Gn.) (Lepidoptera: Geometridae) was collected by Keith Roney by U.V light-trap on May 17, 1988, at Bainbridge Campsite, north of Hudson Bay, Sask. It is apparently the first record for the province. In "Guide to the Geometridae of Canada" (11. subfamily Ennominae 4), W. C. McGuffin reported this species from eastern Canada west to Winnipeg; the larvae feed on ferns. Our specimen was identified by K. Bolte, Biosystematics Research Centre, Ottawa.

NEWS FROM AGRICULTURE CANADA - REGINA

Diether Peschken has forwarded us some information on a new publication entitled "The Butterflies of Manitoba"