



ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9 Issue 3
December 12, 1988

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Editors Comments

We wish to extend to all members the very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. With P.K. on holiday in Asia at present, I thank all those who contributed to the completion of the newsletter.

News of the 36th Annual Meeting

The 36th Annual Meeting of the ESS was held in Regina on Oct. 26th and 27th, 1988. The meeting was a great success thanks to the excellent arrangements by the organizing committee - Diether Peschken, Keith Roney, Frank Bellamy, Murray Maw, Roberte Makowski, Lloyd Harris and Grant Duke.

A symposium entitled 'Today's Approaches to Pest Control' was held featuring talks by Peter Harris, Alf Arthur, John Doane, and Ken Pivnick.

The ESC was represented by Dr. George Gerber of Winnipeg, whom some may remember from his days as a graduate student of the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatoon Agriculture Canada Research Station. His good news was that page charges have been reduced for Can. Ent. and Memoirs from \$75 and \$50 to \$25 per page. His bad news was that membership dues have been increased from \$45 to \$80 effective January 1, 1989.

A.R. Brooks and Student Paper Prize

The recipient of the 1988 A.R. Brooks

memorial prize is Vonnie Shields. The prize is awarded each year to an outstanding entomology student from either the University of Saskatchewan or the University of Regina. Ms. Shields was also awarded the Student Paper Prize for her paper entitled "Stimulant and ion diffusion pathways in gustatory sensilla on the galea of the Bertha armyworm". Vonnie is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program in the Biology Department of the University of Regina and is working under the supervision of Dr. Russ Zacharuk.

New E.S.S. Executive

President: Diether Peschken
Vice President: Martin Erlandson
Secretary: Owen Olfert
Treasurer: Bruce Neill
Auditors: Dorothy Murrell
Peter Kusters
Doug Smith
Russ Zacharuk

Ballot for Regional Representative

The position of Regional Representative will be decided by a mail vote. Two nominations were received: John Doane and Ken Pivnick. **Please mark the enclosed ballot and return in the envelope provided before January 15, 1989.**

News from Agriculture Canada/Saskatoon - Ross Weiss

The Saskatoon Research Station hosted the 1988 Meeting of the Western Forum, October

17-19. Dr. J. Doane chaired the Western Committee on Crop Pests. A special feature of the WCCP was a workshop on the Russian Wheat Aphid. The workshop was highlighted with presentations by Dr. S. Halbert, University of Idaho and Dr. F. Peairs, University of Colorado. Discussion centered around the extent of RWA infestation, biological, cultural and chemical control methods and possible plant resistance.

In October, Lorraine Braun and Ross Peters were back from Arusha, Tanzania for a short visit. Lorraine reported all was well and that she and Ross were still getting settled into their new surroundings. Lorraine is currently recovering from back injuries sustained in a car accident (no she did not drive into and elephant!) but says, "don't worry... be happy." CARS extends a welcome to Ken Pivnick, who will begin work at the station on December 12. Ken will be filling Larry Burgess' position and will work with insects associated with oil seed crops.

News from the Sask. Museum of Natural History - Ron Hooper

New Saskatchewan Butterfly Record - While adding some specimens to the Museum collection I came across an overlooked butterfly record. It is a female Eastern Tailed Blue Everes comyntas comyntas (Godart), that I had collected at Gainsborough in the southeast corner of Saskatchewan, on June 26, 1980. This species had formerly been taken in E. North America and west to S. Manitoba, E. North Dakota, and E. Colorado.

The Eastern Tailed Blue differs from the Western Tailed Blue in that its underside colour is smoky white instead of chalk white. On this white background, the rows of spots are a little more distinct, although some individual specimens of Western Tailed Blue have very distinct spots. As well, the orange lunules at the base of the tails on the hind wings are much broader in the Eastern Tailed Blue. The females on the upperside have less or (none) of the normal purplish colour. The specimen from Gainsborough is totally dark brown on the upperside.

This brings our total number of butterflies for Saskatchewan to 146 species and our total

number of Blues to 16 species.

News from Agriculture Canada/Regina - Diether Peschken

Roberte Makowski, who has worked at the Regina Research Station since 1983 and completed her Ph.D. thesis in 1987, has joined the staff of the Regina Station. She will work on the biological control of weeds with plant pathogens. Roberte received her letter of appointment, won \$10 in a lottery, and, with her husband Ed, completed purchase of a house, all on the same day.

News from the University of Saskatchewan - Cedric Gillott

Little that is newsworthy seems to have occurred in the last few months. In Cedric Gillott's lab, Michael Cheeseman continues to 'commit atrocities' against male grasshoppers but in a new twist he now spends hours watching to see whether they can perform when put with members of the opposite sex! In similar vein, Will Fick is pushing finely pointed instruments into the private parts of female wax moths. He notes that the most common effect of this operation is death! Cedric Gillott seems to be praying a lot these days (perhaps hoping for help with the above mentioned) as he is usually facing east. Closer scrutiny reveals, however, that he is merely gazing at the (blank) screen above his new toy (oops, computer). One floor below, Dale Parker continues to wade through his pond samples!

Eric Whiting, a former member of the department, has a one year appointment in the Department of Biology, St. Francis Xavier Univ., Antigonish, N.S. Meanwhile, Kevin and Rosemarie (DeClerk) Floate are up to their necks in course work in the Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona Univ., P.O. Box 5640, Flagstaff, Az., 86011. Apparently, K. and R. experienced some difficulties in trying to cross the border with the 'States at Wild Horse (their visas were post-dated, which is normal, apparently, and their 'old banger' did not comply with EPA regulations). However, when they tried elsewhere (Sweetgrass), they were welcomed in with open arms. Apparently, they will have to

drive the car back into Canada before the insurance expires and buy another vehicle in the USA. Despite their academic activities, K. and R. have found time to discover the beauty of the area around Flagstaff. They hope that any of their Friends that travel through Arizona will pay them a visit; they (and Eric, too) would enjoy hearing from their friends in the Society.

Center for Insect Identification formed in Michigan - Diether Peschken

A new company, The Center For Insect Identification, has been formed to provide accurate and timely identifications of insects and other terrestrial arthropods. Further information regarding the center will be provided in the near future according to Gregory A. Dahlem, founder and director. Routine identifications will be provided within four weeks. The center will use a network of systematists from the U.S.A and Canada and keep a voucher collection. Full details concerning the services offered are available by writing to the Center for Insect Identification, P.O. Box 26245, Lansing, MI 48909. U.S.A.

23rd Annual PUBS Seminars
-Ross Weiss

The 23rd annual Prairie Universities Biological Seminars (PUBS) will be held from February 16 to 18, 1989 at the University of Saskatchewan (Dept. of Biology). PUBS gives students (graduate and undergraduate) a chance to present papers or posters in an informal environment and as well, an opportunity to meet students from across western Canada. Papers are allotted 15 minutes (12 minutes for presentations and 3 minutes for questions). The deadline for paper and poster presentations is January 13, 1989. All correspondence should be addressed to:

P.U.B.S. Organizing Committee
Dept. of Biology
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 0W0

Russian Wheat Aphid Update - L.Loyd Harris

The Russian wheat aphid has finally made it to Canada. On July 28, 1988 it was collected from a barley field near Aden, Alberta and on August 4, 1988 from wheat near Consul, Saskatchewan. Since then the aphid has been detected in five counties in S. Alberta and 16 municipalities in SW. Saskatchewan.

Damage to crops has been relatively light in Saskatchewan and Alberta. However, in Alberta several fields had infestation levels that were high enough to destroy winter wheat crops. In Saskatchewan infestations on winter wheat and fall rye, generally less than 20% of the plants were infested.

It is anticipated that the aphid will overwinter as adult aphids on fall seeded grains and several grasses. If this occurs, the aphid is likely to be found as far east as Indian Head and as far north as North Battleford and Saskatoon by next fall.

This insect is likely going to become a significant pest of cereal grains and pasture grasses, especially in those areas of the province where alternative crops such as flax, lentils, peas, canola and mustard are not well adapted.

To disseminate information to farmers about this aphid, Saskatchewan Agriculture has produced a factsheet about the Russian wheat aphid and will have a 16mm film available by February, 1990.