

Spring 2005

# American Society of Parasitologists Newsletter, v. 27, no. 1, Spring 2005

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Gardner, Scott Lyell, "American Society of Parasitologists Newsletter, v. 27, no. 1, Spring 2005" (2005). *Newsletter of the American Society of Parasitologists*. 18.

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Volume 27, No. 1

Spring 2005

American Society of Parasitologists

# NEWSLETTER



## Newsletter:

Released on the ASP web-server [<http://asp.unl.edu>]  
March 31, 2005

## From the *Editor of the Newsletter*

The ASP newsletter accepts information and news of a parasitological nature from all disciplines. Please assist me in making the content of the ASP newsletter highly relevant. We will be posting material on the web as they are generated by you, the **reader** and **contributor**. **Send new material to [slg@unl.edu](mailto:slg@unl.edu).**

Scott L. Gardner, Curator  
Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology  
University of Nebraska State Museum

# NEWS

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT – Dennis Minchella

When I was trying to decide on a topic for the President's annual letter to the membership, one of my students suggested that I compare my campaign promises of 2002 to the reality of the 2005 ASP administration. This is certainly not a common approach among elected officials, but it seemed like a reasonable exercise. Three years ago I wrote, "As a

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Society, we must continue to develop our efforts to engage one another, other scientists, our students, and the general public in the diverse facets of parasitology.” I think that we are making progress in our efforts to be more responsive to the needs of our members (see below), but have been less successful in communicating our story to non-members. Thus, we are still experiencing declining membership.



We need your assistance to help realize our Society’s potential. Please find time to participate more actively in the Society and to encourage students and non-members to join. In order to help accomplish this task, you will first need to know which of your colleagues are current ASP members. Thanks to the efforts of Bruce Christensen and John Janovy, you will be receiving the updated ASP-member directory bundled together with an upcoming issue of *The Journal of Parasitology*.

The Presidential and Student Symposia at this summer’s annual meeting will feature three evolutionary ecologists who work with parasites, but are not active members of ASP. This will be an excellent opportunity for us to showcase the quality of our science and our students. Here are some other ways to help our Society:

1. Complete the ASP Survey. A comprehensive demographic and informational assessment of our membership has not been done recently, and the ASP Council felt that a current "snap shot" of our members would be critical for rectifying the Society’s immediate issues and for establishing future directions. Thus, the Priorities Committee (chaired by Tim Yoshino) has created a form soliciting your opinions on key topics such as ASP membership, meeting participation, and *The Journal of Parasitology*. Information regarding where and how to access the survey form will be available soon. I hope that all of you will take the time to participate in the survey in order to help enhance and improve our Society.

2. Nominate a colleague for an ASP award. Our Society honors a number of individuals each year, but the number of nominations for these awards is declining. You probably know an individual who merits special recognition in one of the award categories. Take the time to initiate the nomination process and help the Society express our thanks and admiration. Here is a list of nomination deadlines for many of our honorary prizes.

Ashton Cuckler New Investigator - deadline no later than February 15, 2005

H.B.Ward Medal - calling for 2005 and 2006 with deadline no later than February 15, 2005 (Remember that the 2006 Medalist will be speaking at ICOPA XI in Glasgow.)

C.P.Read Mentor awardee for 2005 is Gerhard Schad - there is no deadline set for 2006 but the committee is looking for nominees for 2006 when the acceptance speech will be given at ICOPA XI in Glasgow.

Stoll/Stunkard Lecture for 2006 - there is no deadline, but the committee is looking for nominees for the 2006 meetings in Glasgow.

The Distinguished Service Award- deadline is January 10, 2005

Eminent Parasitologist Award- deadline is February 15, 2005

3. Nominate a student for an ASP research grant or forward this announcement to a non-member who has students working with parasites. Thanks to the efforts of Lee Couch, Scott Seville and the Education Committee, we have created an undergraduate and graduate student research grants program. Funding for these research grants will come from income generated from other sources in our budget as well as from a generous gift from the Reid Family. The stipulation that awardees must be Society members will hopefully encourage non-members who work on parasites to join our ASP. A second advantage of requiring the mentor to be a member is that the mentor will oversee spending of the grant. For more information go to <http://asp.unl.edu/students/>

4. Contact the Membership Committee about possible colleagues or students who might be interested in joining ASP. The Membership Committee is currently contacting non-members who are reviewing manuscripts or submitting articles to the Journal. They are also developing a "new member welcome kit" to introduce new members to the Society's resources. A special effort is being made to recruit foreign members and accommodate scientists in developing nations. In fact, an ad hoc committee will soon begin exploring possible joint ventures with the Sociedad Mexicana de Parasitologia beyond our 2007 joint meeting.

As always, if you have suggestions about your Society, please feel free to contact either myself or any other member of the ASP Council. Have a happy and productive 2005, and I hope to see you in Mobile in July.

## **Part II of our ongoing series in Latin American Parasitology**

As a tribute to the members of the ASP across the New World, we are presenting a series of articles that summarize the activities of our colleagues in Latin America. This is the third article in the series.

## Report from the Neotropics. By Agustin Jimenez Ruiz, Ph.D.

We are taking a pause in our series of Laboratories and Museums across the New World to talk about my own personal experiences visiting the laboratories we dealt with in the past two issues. I will also use this opportunity to highlight some of the topics that our guest writers treated in the descriptions of their programs during the past two issues of the ASP Newsletter.

The reason to do that is that re-reading the last two issues brought back lots of good memories, especially because when I visited those laboratories I was received in a warm and human way and treated as a peer. Now I would like to share those views and experiences with the entire American Society of Parasitologists, the members of which eagerly read every single page and word of our newsletter.

### Coleção Helminológica Instituto Oswaldo Cruz

Let me start with the *Coleção Helminológica Instituto Oswaldo Cruz*, one of the largest and most impressive collections of helminth parasites I know of. I initially contacted the curator Dr. Dely Noronha via e-mail to go there and check the vials including types and vouchers of all the described species of the family Aspidoderidae. She helped me getting a place in the *Casa Amarela* a place inside the facilities of the IOC where students coming from all over the country stay for a very affordable price so they can use the first rate facilities that some laboratories have. In that place I got to know an REU student from the Bronx, and three foreign scientists; two from Cuba and one from Uruguay, because of these students all in one place from different parts of the world, meals (*café da manha* and dinner) were pretty much international. I also get to know Dr. Reinaldo Silva, who started a collection of parasites of amphibians and reptiles in Botucatu, São Paulo.



Fundacao Oswaldo Cruz.



Dr. Dely Noronha, Curator of CHIOC.



Dr. Amilcar Arandas Rego.

As a visitor I was requesting lots and lots of items from the curators and from the staff, mainly specimens and supplies. During that time they were saving electricity so it was kind

of hot in the laboratory and lactophenol evaporated quickly, so I had to request that quite often.

One thing that impressed me a lot was the library of the Instituto, they really have a huge library condensed in a small space and they were engaged in creating an electronic database of all of their references and scanning some of the older papers. The pressure to do so was that temperature and humidity are so high inside the building that it is threatening to damage the documents. They were also entering the records of the helminth collection into an electronic database, and the importance of that activity and the latest update was explained in Noronha *et al* (2003).

Their staff included a secretary and a technician that took care of reagents, substances and general laboratory and office supplies. I remember that they were surprised by my consumption of lactophenol and Dr. Pinto once inquired if I was drinking it. The fact is that my slides were evaporating at a fast rate since they had to cut electricity at 4:00 to save some energy, so room temperature increased during the nights with no air conditioning.



Drs. Dely Noronha and Roberto Pinto.



Colecao Helmintologica.



(Left) Dr. Joaquim Vicente and wife.

(Above) Rio de Janeiro.

From those good days I did a lot of sight seeing in Rio de Janeiro, some of the times I had the privilege of having the scientists of the laboratory of helminthology to show me some interesting places. Among them Drs. Noronha, Pinto, Rego, and Vicente took me along during some weekends. I have the honor of saying that the students also took care of me and took me to have lunch with them.

I also took some pictures when I went to the city myself; moving around Rio de Janeiro is pretty easy as the whole city is connected by buses. The only thing is that you should make sure to ride the right one, otherwise you may end up in Niteroi.

### **Universidad Nacional La Plata**

After spending three weeks in Rio de Janeiro I went southward and visited La Plata. As you may recall from the first description of this series I spent a very productive time there and I discussed ideas, collected, and drank mate with Dr. Navone, Dr. Cremonte, Dr. Notarnicola, and Cecilia López.

During that time I also had the chance to visit the Museo de Historia Natural de La Plata. The building, very elegant and big, dates from the late XIX Century. Inside, the place is very cold in the Austral winter which in a way guarantees the preservation of specimens stored in formalin and ethanol. The internal room that stores the collection is underneath of one of the main exhibit halls and it receives light through some glass tiles. During that time Dr. Cristina Damborenea, curator of the section of helminthology showed me the facilities. If you can, check their cool website that I am including here <http://www.fcnym.unlp.edu.ar/museo/>

I also present one of my favorite pictures from the front side of the building. Note the couple of sabertooth cats guarding the gates of the building.



Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad Nacional La Plata, La Plata, Argentina.



Dr. Florencia Cremonte.



Agustin collecting rodents in La Plata, Argentina.

I also had the chance to go to Buenos Aires and instead of visiting lots of really interesting places in *Capital Federal*, I visited the Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA). Actually, I would recommend to everyone to go there as it's a very interesting place, especially the *Barrio de la Boca*. I think that we should have an ASP meeting there, as that is a place to have world class recreation.



Buenos Aires on a Sunday afternoon.

In the UBA I had the chance to meet Dr. Verónica Ivanov who talked about her projects and some of the research activities performed by people in her laboratory. She also asked me about my proposal and research and we chatted for quite a while. The point that I would like to highlight is that I walked in with no appointment, yet she took the time to help me and answer questions. I really enjoyed that atmosphere of sharing ideas while I was submerged in Argentina. From that part of the trip I do not have any pictures!

Noronha, D., A. Frisso, and F. B. Mattos. 2003. Desenvolvimento de um Banco de Dados Para a Informatização da Coleção Helmintológica do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz (CHIOC) *Revista Brasileira de Zoologia* 20: 777-778



Saquarema beach, Brasil.

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# FIFTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CESTODE SYSTEMATICS AND PHYLOGENY

âeské Budûjovice, Czech Republic

18-22 July 2005

## BASIC INFORMATION

Hosted by: INSTITUTE OF PARASITOLOGY, Academy of the Sciences of the Czech Republic, âeské Budûjovice, CZECH REPUBLIC

Organised by: Laboratory of Parasitic Flatworms (head Tomá\_ Scholz), Institute of Parasitology, AS CR  
(<http://www.paru.cas.cz/structure/lpf/index.php>)

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Janine N. CAIRA – University of Connecticut, Storrs, USA  
Boyko B. GEORGIEV – Central Laboratory of General Ecology, BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria  
Vladimíra HANZELOVÁ – Parasitological Institute, SAS, Hlinkova 3, Ko\_ice, Slovakia  
Eric P. HOBERG – USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville, Maryland, USA  
D. Timothy J. LITTLEWOOD – The Natural History Museum, London, England, UK  
Jean MARIAUX – The Natural History Museum, Geneva, Switzerland  
Larisa PODDUBNAYA – Institute of Biology of Inland Waters, RAS, Borok, Russia

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## INTRODUCTION

The first meeting on cestode systematics and phylogeny was organised by Jean Mariaux and Claude Vaucher in 1993 in Geneva, Switzerland. This meeting enabled informal and intensive discussions among leading specialists in this research field and established a tradition of cestode workshops.

The second workshop was organised in 1996 in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA, by Scott Gardner, Eric Hoberg and Ron Campbell. Several working groups discussed suitable

characters for subsequent phylogenetic analyses of most cestode orders. As a result, a series of papers that summarised results of phylogenetic analyses have been prepared and published in *Systematic Parasitology* in 1998 and 1999.

The third workshop was organised in Sofia, Bulgaria in 1999 by the Boyko B. Georgiev group. Among others, the terminology of cestode larvae was intensively discussed, which enabled Lenta Chervy to summarise the main conclusions and publish them in her paper in *Systematic Parasitology* in 2002.

The fourth and lastest workshop took place in Storrs, Connecticut, USA in 2002. This meeting was prepared by Janine Caira and her team and facilitated discussions concerning new working hypotheses about apical structures and microtriches, surface structures typical of cestodes. Perhaps most importantly, the preparation of a worldwide, online cestode database was formulated and launched.

The fifth workshop on cestode systematics and phylogeny will be hosted by the group of T. Scholz from the Institute of Parasitology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. The conference will take place in âeské Budûjovice, Czech Republic, in mid July 2005.

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## **Some web sites of interest that deal with Parasitology include:**

The Monography of the Diphyllidea, Lecaniccephalidea, and Tetraphyllidea

<http://www.tapeworms.org>

This site is run by Janine Caira at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. There is a database on cestodes that can be accessed and several layers of information on the current PEET grant that is run through UCONN.

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The Global Mammal Parasite Database: <http://www.mammalparasites.org>

This site is run by Charlie Nunn and colleagues and is a compilation of records of parasites and their hosts that have been documented in the published scientific literature. As the quote above suggests, mammals are an extremely well-studied group of animals, and there are thousands of published reports and scientific studies describing their parasites and the abundance of parasites in wild populations.

We have systematically searched the literature on mammalian parasites to produce three primary databases covering **primates, carnivores and terrestrial hooved mammals** (which includes all perissodactyls and artiodactyls). All of the entries in this database come from wild populations. In the future we will be expanding out taxonomic coverage to other groups of mammals.

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<http://www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/~parasite/home.html>

This site contains over 550 images of more than 180 species of parasites, as well as information about the "biology" of many of these parasitic species.

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Steve Upton maintains the Division of Parasitology site at Kansas State University.

<http://www.ksu.edu/parasitology/>  
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NEON is in the planning stages – go to the NEONINC.ORG web site and read the pdf files of the committee reports as they are being developed. You can make comments on them as they are open for comment now - go to <http://neoninc.org>.

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## **Science and Governance Conference: Synopsis Paris, January 24 -28**

Here's the link to (<http://www.recherche.gouv.fr/biodiv2005paris/en/appelparisbiodiv.htm>) the Paris declaration and attached a statement from the "Biodiversity: Science and Governance" conference in Paris last week.

It was a big meeting with over 1,000 participants initiated by the French president Chirac and the director General of UNESCO, Koichiro Matsuura, including among others the president of Madagascar and various ministers.

At least in one way, this was a quiet unusual meeting. This time, real data played an important part. And it was not the North who made the case, but the President of Madagascar and Mexico who actually, following their top politicians, are now using taxonomy based data to make political decisions.

It was a clear demonstration of the yield of sharing globally data, modern technological advances, and the importance of single scientists who actually have the vision to build up such infrastructures and do it.

It was also a clear sign of the importance of institutions like GBIF and with it the drive to develop, or help to develop such tools as digir and other protocols which at the end help to go back to single specimen rather than getting lost somewhere in expert opinions, and to make each single, open access collecting an important part in this global endeavour.

The increasing awareness that disregard of environmental services are leading to big environmental and humanitarian disasters for which not business is paying for, but in most cases the poor - one of the disconnects of the privilege to eat cheap shrimps and the much higher impact of the Tsunami on areas with removed mangrove forests due to shrimp farming was a clear warning finger.

Still, it was just another conference, but the British, seconded by the French promised to make biodiversity an important issue at the forthcoming G8 summit hosted by the UK. Hopefully, we can pick up on this development.

Statement from the International Conference on "Biodiversity: Science and Governance"

This statement is based on the presentations and discussions during the conference and the "Appeal" by the Scientific Committee of the conference. Recalling the commitment of governments to the global target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 as a fundamental condition for sustainable development. Recognizing that:

..Biodiversity is a vital and poorly appreciated resource for all of humankind that underpins the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

..Biodiversity is being irreversibly destroyed by human activities at an unprecedented rate, and this demands urgent and significant action to conserve, sustainably use and equitably share the benefits of biodiversity;

..Unless the rate of loss of biodiversity and the resulting degradation of ecosystem services are significantly reduced, efforts to combat poverty, reduce hunger and provide clean water and a healthy environment will be undermined;

..A major effort is still needed to fill the gaps in knowledge, but there is already sufficient information available for improved management of ecosystems. Therefore the participants of the international conference on "Biodiversity: Science and Governance" urge:

..Governments to take all necessary actions, including capacity building, needed to realize the 2010 biodiversity target, consistent with their sustainable development goals;

..Civil society, including local and indigenous communities and the private sector, to take actions consistent with the 2010 biodiversity target;

..The scientific community to develop greater national and international coordination;

..That the necessary public and private resources be mobilized for the inter-disciplinary scientific research and monitoring required to improve our current understanding and to address the cost of conserving biodiversity;

..Improved communications and partnerships among the scientific community, decision makers and civil society, including local and indigenous communities;

..Parties and Secretariats to the multilateral environmental agreements to build greater cooperation and synergy. And recommend, in response to the call for action made by President Chirac at this Conference, the launch of an international multi-stakeholder consultative process guided by a balanced multi-stakeholder steering committee. This process would assess the need for an international mechanism which would:

..provide a critical assessment of the scientific information and policy options required for decision-making;

..build on existing bodies, current and recent activities.

## MEETINGS

### **2005 Helm Soc Spring meeting with SSP (2nd announcement Second Announcement) Joint Meeting Extravaganza**

5 Scientific Societies  
APRIL 6-9, 2005

37th Southeastern Society of Parasitologists  
56th Animal Disease Research Workers in the Southern States  
20th Southern Conference on Animal Parasites  
7th Southern Conference of Researchers in Aquatic Diseases  
689th Helminthological Society of Washington

Donaldson-Brown Hotel and Conference Center  
VIRGINIA TECH

BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA  
APRIL 6-9, 2005

2005 Annual Meeting Information Packet (128kb - .pdf)  
Download with this link:  
<http://asp.unl.edu/pdf/SSP-2005AnnualMeetingInformationPacket.pdf>

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## POSITIONS

### **POSTDOCTORAL POSITION UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

It is anticipated that a postdoctoral research position will become available starting in March or April 2005 to investigate differential gene expression in early intramolluscan larval stages of the blood fluke *Schistosoma mansoni*. Current research efforts are focused on identifying and characterizing genes potentially involved in larval development, especially those regulating establishment/maintenance of larval infections in immunocompetent snail hosts. Gene microarrays and functional genomics, as well as conventional biochemical and molecular approaches, are being applied to address these challenging areas of schistosome biology. Recent Ph.D.'s with experience in molecular biology, cell biology and/or physiology, and a strong interest in parasite-host interactions are encouraged to apply. Specific experience in the genomics/proteomics also is desirable, but not required. Send complete curriculum vitae with cover letter detailing background training and interests, and the names of three references (including email addresses) to:

Timothy Yoshino

Department of Pathobiological Sciences  
University of Wisconsin  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
2115 Observatory Drive  
Madison, WI 53706 U.S.A.  
Email: yoshinot@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is a equal opportunity employer. Applications from women and underrepresented minority candidates are especially encouraged.

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## **Postdoctoral Fellowship: DNA Barcodes for Helminth Parasites of Canadian Vertebrates**

**Position Description:** This project seeks to assemble voucher specimens and DNA barcodes for all species of helminth parasites living in Canadian vertebrates. This work will contribute to an international research program that will gather DNA barcodes for all helminth parasites.

**Position Requirements:** Candidates for this position must possess a Ph.D. in the biological sciences. Experience in systematics and in field-based collections is desirable. Prior experience in molecular evolution is not essential, but a willingness to gain such expertise is.

**Project Coordination:** This project will be coordinated by Dr. Dan Brooks (University of Toronto).

**Location:** This position will be based at the Department of Zoology, University of Toronto, with laboratory work at the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario, University of Guelph, and fieldwork throughout Canada.

**Application Procedure:** Send your curriculum vitae and contact details for 3 references to Dan Brooks at [dbrooks@zoo.utoronto.ca](mailto:dbrooks@zoo.utoronto.ca).

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## **Parasitology Team Leader**

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development, National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL) is seeking to hire a qualified individual to work as a parasitologist in the Microbiological and Chemical Exposure Assessment Research Division, Biohazard Assessment Research Branch <http://www.epa.gov/nerlcwww/mceardwww.epa.gov/nerl>. This position, Ezhire Announcement # RTP-DE-2005-0077, for a Research Biologist/Microbiologist is located in Cincinnati, OH.

The individual will serve as the science lead for a group of researchers dedicated to

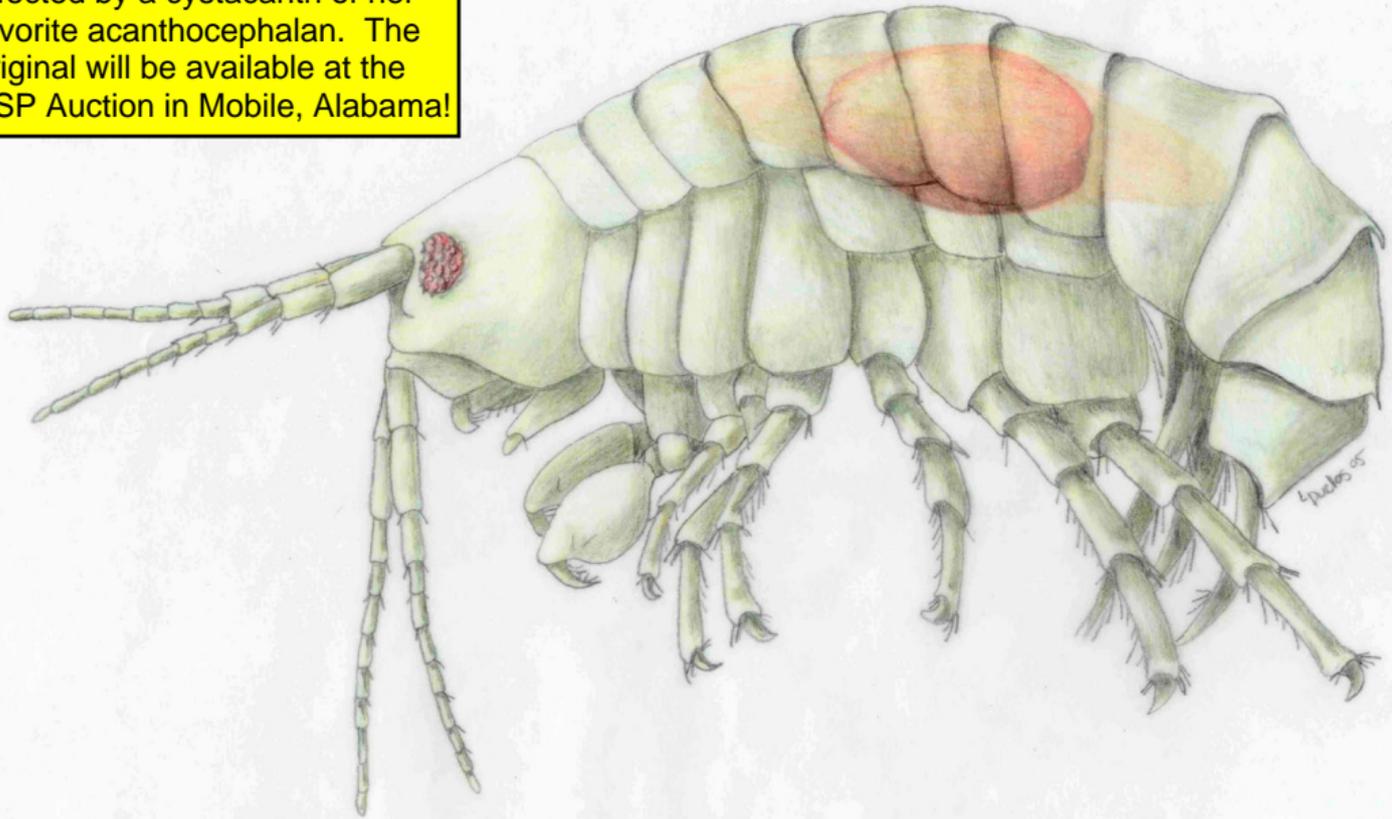
developing novel methods to detect parasitic protozoa and other similar pathogens of public health concern in water and related matrices. Experience with molecular techniques, microscopic detection methods, infectivity studies, antibody based assays and protozoan culturing methods is essential. The ability to concentrate, purify, and quantitate helminth eggs from a variety of matrices would also be desirable. In addition to in-house research, this position may require the development of contracts or cooperative agreements.

This is a permanent, full-time position. U.S. citizenship is required. A bachelor=s degree (or higher) is required. Desirable applicants will have a doctoral degree (e.g., Ph.D.) in the areas biology, microbiology, parasitology, or a related biological sciences discipline. Salary ranges from \$62,918 to \$97,264 and is commensurate with qualifications. The selected candidate will be eligible for a full benefits package, including paid relocation, health insurance, life insurance, retirement and vacation and sick leave.

If you are already registered in Ezhire@EPA system, access the vacancy announcement through Registered Users. Otherwise, select New Users and complete the registration process. The vacancy announcement is located in the section AAny Qualified Applicant@. The announcement is open from April 4, 2005 through May 31, 2005. Application materials must be submitted online by the closing date. You need to submit the additional documentation described in the full text vacancy announcement, ( i.e. a copy of your college transcript or a list of college courses including the title, credit hours, and grade), to be considered.

The U.S. EPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer

This drawing was done by Laura Duclos. It is an amphipod that is infected by a cystacanth of her favorite acanthocephalan. The original will be available at the ASP Auction in Mobile, Alabama!



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Annual Midwestern Conference of  
Parasitologists  
Helminthological Society of Washington  
New England Association of Parasitologists  
New Jersey Society for Parasitology  
Northern California society of Parasitologists  
Parasitology Section, Canadian Society of  
Zoologists  
Rocky Mountain Conference of Parasitologists  
Southeastern Society of Parasitologists  
Southern California Society of Parasitologists  
Southwestern Association of Parasitologists

**Note to Members**

The ASP Newsletter welcomes news stories and articles. Please send your text electronically to Scott Gardner as an e-mail and attach as an MS Word 6.0 document. Drawings, photographs, charts, or tables can be sent as B/W TIF files at 300 dpi. Please send TIF files one at a time. A general rule is to limit photograph size to 3x5". You may attach both text and graphic files to your email message.

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