

Summer 2001

American Society of Parasitologists Newsletter, v. 23, no. 2, August 2001

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Volume 23, No. 2

August 2001

American Society of Parasitologists

NEWSLETTER



Newsletter:

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

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 newsletter better and more agile. We will be posting material on the web as they are generated by you, the **reader** and **contributor**.

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

**News from the American Society of Parasitologists
Annual Meeting**

The ASP annual meeting was held from 29 June - 3 July, 2001 at the Sheraton Old Town Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Around 175 papers and posters were given (this not including the papers presented in the "late breakers" session on the last day. The council met on the first day and reports of the officers were presented after the call to order of the 91st council meeting by President Phil Loverde.

Agenda items on the slate included recognition of the new officers for 2001 - 2002: President Sharon Patton,

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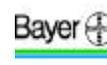
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President Elect Robin Overstreet, Vice-president Bruce Christensen. New Council Members recognized included Gerhard Shad and John Barta. Nominating Committee members included Karen Snowden (Chair), Thaddeus Graczyk, Dennis Richardson, Joseph Camp, Michael Riggs, and Mark Jenkins (Alternate). The New student representative is Megan Wise. Outgoing council members at large included Rebecca Cole and Steve Nadler and student rep. Sean Forrester. Outgoing nominating committee members included Patrick Muzzall, Ann Adams, Cynthia Chappell, Vincent Connors, Nancy Wisniewski, and (alternate) Cheryl Davis.

Financial contributions were acknowledged from:



Bayer Corporation



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Pfizer Inc.

News from the American Type Culture Collection

ATCC representatives were at the ASP meeting and they encouraged the ASP to continue to deposit representatives of viruses and protists into the collection. The ATCC is a global bioresource center so I am including information about the ATCC here.

Mission

ATCC is a global nonprofit bioresource center that provides biological products, technical services, and educational programs to private industry, government, and academic organizations around the world. Our mission is to acquire, authenticate, preserve, develop, and distribute biological materials, information, technology, intellectual property, and standards for the advancement, validation, and application of scientific knowledge.

History

ATCC was established in 1925 when a committee of scientists recognized a need for a central collection of microorganisms that would serve scientists all over the world. The early years were spent at the McCormick Institute in Chicago until the organization moved to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., in 1937. As research in the biosciences expanded, ATCC began to diversify its holdings, and as the collections grew ATCC occupied a series of sites, each providing more storage space. ATCC moved to its current state-of-the-art laboratory in 1998.

Facility

Our 106,000-square-foot facility has nearly 35,000 square feet of laboratory space with a specialized air handling system and Biosafety Level 2 and 3 containment stations. The repository area houses 8,200 square feet of storage space, which includes 55 ultra-low mechanical freezers and space

for 65 vapor-phase liquid nitrogen freezers. A multi-level security system is in place throughout the facility featuring card access and continuous in-person and electronic monitoring of critical building and equipment functions. ATCC also occupies space in a nearby building shared with George Mason University. Research laboratories and bioinformatics staff are located there.

Governance

ATCC is governed by a Board of Trustees composed of 14 members drawn equally from scientific leaders and the community at large who advise the president on organizational business matters. A Board of Scientific Directors composed of representatives from affiliated scientific societies advises the collections.

Status

ATCC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible. (SIC Code #2836 - Biological Products, excluding diagnostic substances)

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POETRY

The Parasitologist

the teachers at school
made me repeat it endlessly
a word of six syllables
the meaning of which
they were unsure
 but I knew, age seven,
though not the exact routes
of the tiny scalpels
and hooked wire tools
nor the mechanics
of delicate glass slides
multi-tentacled microscopes
the formaldehyde scent
of fermenting dreams
 mother knew
the secrets inside of things

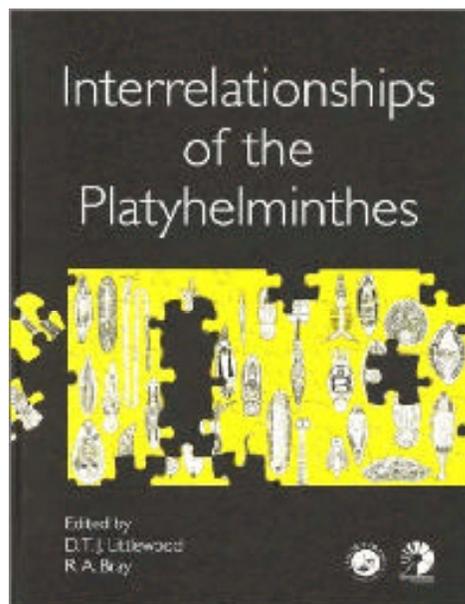
fish her specialty
sea slugs and fans
coral, anemones
 in her lab:
frogs and chicks to culture
worms a feisty iguana
who belonged to someone else

they were her kingdom
familiar and subjects
 and mother knew
how we live with what makes us ill
how we carry disease inside ourselves
how the cause of death is often mistaken
 also:
 the form
of primitive cells the basic needs
for organic life that the lowest
on the chain can possess
the most beautiful shape
 and symmetry.

(A poem about his mother, Hilda Ching, by Andy Quan from "Slant", published by Nightwood Editions, Harbour Publishing, Vancouver, BC.)

Note: The newsletter accepts poetry and other original work of artistic nature. Please send to the newsletter editor in word or wordperfect format via e-mail.

Book Review



Interrelationships of the Platyhelminthes

—
D. T. Littlewood and R. A. Bray (eds.). 2001. Taylor and Francis Publishing Co., London, England. The Systematics Association Special Volume, Series 60. 356 pp. ISBN: 0748409033. \$125.00 (hard cover).

When news of this volume first came out those of us who study various groups of flatworms were excited because at last we would get one stop shopping of a summary of the phylogenetic/evolutionary relationships of our beloved dorsoventrally flattened, relatively small, semi-cosmopolitan, free-living, and symbiotic, acoelomate worms. The sales rank of this book in August 2001 at Amazon.com was 1,188,844, meaning that 1.18 million other books are selling faster than this one. This is because this book represents the first general and phylogenetically based summary for biologists interested in relationships among most of the major groups comprising the phylum Platyhelminthes. It is a major step beyond the pre-cladistic summaries of Hyman

(1951) and Grassé (1961) and represents a massive expansion of the overview of flatworms found in Brusca and Brusca (1990).

"*Interrelationships of the Platyhelminthes*" was derived from papers presented by researchers interested in the origin, evolution, and diversity flatworms at a meeting (of the same name) held in London in 1999 and sponsored by the Linnean Society of London. Littlewood and Bray conceived of the idea and, to their credit, arranged the symposium and brought in most of the participants on grant funds. The participants presented papers at the symposium, and afterward, contributing authors submitted their papers for inclusion in the current volume. The 49 contributors were asked by the editors to summarize their work instead of presenting results of new studies; however, it is unclear what this request actually accomplished, as most of the papers presented in *Interrelationships of the Platyhelminthes* do show original and new results.

The book is composed of four sections. Section I, Early Origins and Basal Taxa; Section II, Free-living Groups; Section III, Symbionts and Parasites; and Section IV, Characters and Techniques. In each section contributing authors' papers are presented as a chapter. For phylogenies that are presented, most chapters also include the corresponding character matrices.

In general, this is a very useful book and should be on the bookshelves of parasitologists with interests in flatworms.

-Scott Gardner

Field collection of parasites is not as easy as it seems. Scott L. Gardner, Manter Laboratory of Parasitology

Specimen based research collections provide the foundation for present and future studies of the biological diversity of the

planet. As such, there are already well-established protocols and procedures for depositing representatives of organisms collected from throughout the biosphere into the many existing well-maintained natural history collections world-wide. Although protocols and numbering systems vary for each museum, these protocols define numbering systems that can be used for any number of entries for nematodes or other organisms.

A generic method for assigning a number to a specimen is absolutely essential for any large-scale collecting that is proposed or underway. The primary problems with tracking biological specimens collected anywhere or anytime is improper data-labels, duplicated numbering systems, or use of some unknown prefix or suffix to a number that can never be finally tracked or identified. Natural History Museums are like libraries, the specimens are tracked and stored with a goal of good data and specimen storage of >500 years.

Normal field-data that should be recorded by investigators of biodiversity include host plant species, or soil type, or stream mud location, or benthic location, or whatever kinds of data that can be recorded that provide the most information to present and future researchers to allow them to know exactly where the habitat existed from which the nematode was collected. Other data that **must be** collected include exact altitude, latitude, and longitude. Other data that are commonly included with collections are time of day, temperature of air or soil or water, and in the case of parasites, a voucher specimen of the host animal or plant and all the associated information from this data-set. Of course, collecting these data increases dramatically the complexity of the situation by requiring that voucher specimens of the host plant or the host animal be deposited in a museum with the correlated field-collection number of the nematode or other symbiont. Identifications to the level of the species using the binomial system of nomenclature, and description of

the individuals making up the species if it is diagnosably distinct from other such entities is required. Just sticking a number on a specimen is not sufficient.

The chunks of DNA that are deemed useful as phylogenetic or biogeographic - genetic markers or characters today will probably, in the future, be shown to be wholly inadequate. The main point here is that normal collections operations in established museums in the world already provide data tracking methods (specimen numbers) that work to correlate specimens with localities, DNA –either amplified or extracted and stored, hosts and a myriad of other parameters.

Development, implementation, and actual use of specimen based databases is critical for systematists and ecologists to be able to know which species are important in natural systems. Modern museums fulfill these requirements and are the storehouses of the genetic and morphological diversity of the earth. Museums should be utilized as such, and they should also be funded appropriately.

A note from the Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology

YOUR SPECIMENS! YOUR LITERATURE!

These “tools of the trade” are valuable resources — to you now, and to your successors.

We suggest that any scientists with scientific collections and (or) personal libraries arrange ahead of time or insert a clause in your will to have your professional materials (1) deposited in a public museum that has (2) an active Parasitology Department/ Division that (3) can preserve and (4) will catalogue your materials and (5) make them available to visitors or on loan to other professionals.

Many times collections such as those that YOU might have, will sometimes be called “Orphan” or “Endangered” Collections, if they are boxed up and stored in departmental hide aways, residential basements or garages. If you know of such a collection, please relay the information to an appropriate museum.

One such depository is The Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology, which stands ready to preserve specimens and literature. It currently has several hundred thousand specimens representing parasites from localities worldwide.

The Library has more than 110,000 reprints and books. Write to the Manter Laboratory Staff before shipping any materials. These contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Another such depository is the U.S. National Parasite Collection in Beltsville, MD. Contact: Eric Hoberg or J. Ralph Lichtenfels for information.

One caveat: Specimens donated should have data on the slides, on tags in the vials, or in accompanying collection books. At the very least, this should include data on host, locality, or the series of experiments involved. The more data, the better. Also, remember that your original correspondence will be kept with the specimen record, so it is wise to use acid-free paper and ink to record your data.

Thank you.

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Report from the Southeastern Society of Parasitologists

ASP Representative: Ed Rowland

Report submitted by Sharon Patton,
Secretary-Treasurer

The Southeastern Society of Parasitologists held its annual meeting at Berry College, Mount Berry, Georgia on May 16-18, 2001. The meeting was planned and executed by President-elect and Program officer Dr. Cheryl Davis, local arrangements chair Dr. Bruce Conn, President Dr. George Benz, Vice President Dr. Charles Faulkner, and Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Sharon Patton. There were approximately 72 people in attendance. The scientific program consisted of 32 papers. The Byrd-Dunn Award for the best paper presented at the annual meeting by a student was presented to Megan R. Collins, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, Louisiana, for her paper entitled "Host-specificity among Monogenoidea of Centrarchidae Species." The Presidential symposium entitled "Perspectives in Parasitology" included the following speakers and topics: (1) "Studies in Charlie's Pond: A Stream of Consciousness" by Dr. Gerald W. Esch, (2) "Immuno-regulation in Experimental Cysticercosis" by Raymond Kuhn, (3) "Molecular

Helminthology in the Post-Genomic Era: Can Worms Keep Up" by Dr. Timothy Yoshino. Dr. Bruce Conn also delivered a talk entitled "Ode to an Oocyte." During the meeting the attendees enjoyed a reception at Oak Hill Mansion, a barbeque at House 'O Dreams on Lavendar Mountain, and a softball game.

At the business meeting, 15 individuals were approved for full or student membership. Dr. David Lindsay was recognized and congratulated for winning the 2000 Henry Baldwin Ward Metal. A moment of silence was observed for the following friends or members of the society who had died: Drs. Thomas Cheng, Roger Cressey, Donald Fairbairn, and Wilford S. Bailey. Officers of the society for 2001-02 are as follows: President - Dr. Cheryl Davis, President-Elect - Dr. Oscar J. Pung, Vice President - Dr. Claire Fuller, Secretary-Treasurer - Dr. Sharon Patton. The next meeting of the Society is a joint meeting with the Association of Southeastern Biologists at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, April 10 -13, 2002. For further information about the meeting or the Society contact Dr. Sharon Patton, University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Comparative Medicine, Knoxville, TN 37996-4500. EMAIL- SPATTON@UTK.EDU



SSP Vice President presents The Byrd-Dunn Award for the best paper presented at the annual meeting by a student to Megan R. Collins, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, Louisiana, for her paper entitled "Host-specificity among Monogenoidea of Centrarchidae Species."

A message from the Editor of the Journal of Parasitology

To: Members of the ASP
From: Gerald W. Esch
Subject: Journal of Parasitology

As a result of the large numbers of excellent manuscripts we have been receiving, the Journal has developed a backlog of papers over the past couple of years. This has created a problem in the turn-around time between submission and publication. To resolve this serious situation, I discussed the problem with our Consultants, the Editorial Board, and others. Based on these discussions and our recommendations, Council has approved the following actions to reduce the backlog and, hopefully, to assure that it does develop again:

We will increase the number of pages published in the October and December issues of the Journal. Beginning in January, manuscript submission, the review process and, hopefully, proofs will be handled electronically. Not only will this save time in turning papers for publication, it should reduce mailing costs. We anticipate that it will require about a year before we are fully operational in this regard. We will continue to offer three free pages for each manuscript published in the Journal. To partially compensate for the cost of the electronic processing of manuscripts, we will increase page charges from \$70 to \$75/page for non-members and from \$40 to \$45/page for members. Research Notes will appear in a smaller font size than is presently used, saving us about 30% of the space currently required.

Our Journal belongs to the American Society of Parasitologists, and our Editorial Board and Consultants work without any monetary compensation. Henry Baldwin Ward began this tradition in 1914 when he

started the Journal. I can say, unequivocally, that we are proud of this tradition, and of our membership in having confidence in what we are attempting to do as we provide this service.

The Journal of Parasitology is a quality venue in which to publish, and we intend to keep it that way. So, keep us in mind as we go forward.

Here are the final numbers for the ASP meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Numbers of people attending with comments from the newsletter editor:

Welcome Reception: 350
Wow! What a crowd at the reception!

Mexican Buffet: 117
There were many who stayed longer for this fun event!

Members Registered: 155
Seems like a low number to me (-editor).

Students Registered: 71
About 45% of the registered participants were students! The future of our society rests in the hands of these students!

Accompanying Persons: 61
Thank you, accompanying persons, for encouraging and supporting the ASP!

Non-Members: 37
We hope that these non-members are now members of the ASP!

Congratulations need to be extended to the winner of the **Best Student Paper**: Sara Brant from the School of Biological Sciences, The University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Way to go Sara!

Meritorious Paper Award: Chantelle Anandan, Jennifer Gow, Jason Mullen, L.A. Spencer.

Travel Awards:

Bullard, Stephen Ashton
Hanelt, Ben
Shirakashi, Sho
Fellis, K. Joel
Anandan, Chantelle
Padgett, Kerry
Koehler, Anne
Schleppe, Jason
Bieberich, Andrew
Brant, Sara
Gilbert, Michael
Roskens, Heidi
Brown, Amanda
Medica, Darcy
Koprivnikar, Janet
Mullen, Jason
Campbell, Gillian
Gow, Jennifer
Hernandez, Alexander
Lai, Deborah
Everhart, Mary
Sanchez-Ramirez, Claudia
Clark, AnnMartyn, Amanda
Román-Magaña, María Karla
Holiday, Dan
Bolek, Matthew
Steinauer, Michelle



Pictured at right:
During the 2001 annual business meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists, outgoing ASP president, Dr. Phil Loverde, turns over the presidency (and accoutrements) of the office to incoming president, Dr. Sharon Patton.

Contact information:
Dr. Sharon Patton
Distinguished Service Professor of Parasitology
University of Tennessee
College of Veterinary Medicine
Knoxville, TN
spatton@utk.edu

— Loss —

We have recently learned that Dr. Roy Anderson died in his sleep at age 76 on August 26.

Those wishing to express sympathies to Phyllis can write her at:

Mrs. Phyllis Anderson and Sons
40 Westminster Ave.
Guelph, Ontario, Canada
N1E 4C1



From Sharon Patton, ASP President

The American Society of Parasitologists joins its colleagues in other scientific and professional societies throughout the country in extending our prayers and sympathies to all those impacted both personally and emotionally by Tuesday's tragedy. Our thoughts are with the victims, their families, and the legions of people working hard to extend rescue and safety. May this tragedy spur citizens of all races, religions, and creeds to forge a common bond of true harmony to banish all hatred and bigotry and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions, which are the pride and glory of the United States and a free World.

AFFILIATES

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.

Scott Lyell Gardner
Editor, ASP Newsletter
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**ASP COMMITTEE CALLS FOR
NOMINATIONS FOR
HENRY BALDWIN WARD MEDAL**

The ASP Awards Committee invites nominations for the Henry Baldwin Ward Medal. Rules governing eligibility for the Henry Baldwin Ward Medal are as follows: The recipient shall be a member of the Society for no less than three years at the time of the nomination and in mid-career, and who, by self-directed investigations, shall have attained a position of leadership in some phase of parasitological research. The field of parasitology is considered to include, in general, those aspects of the science which are represented by reports published in the official organ of the Society, The Journal of Parasitology.

In accordance with the action of the ASP Council, following are the requirements for nominations: (1) Members in good standing who nominate candidates for the Henry Baldwin Ward Medal should carefully determine the eligibility of their candidate according to the above eligibility rules. (2) Nominations for the Henry Baldwin Ward Medal should be supported by sufficient documentation to enable the Awards Committee to exercise critical evaluation. At the least, this documentation should consist of: (a) a complete Curriculum vitae providing a bibliography in which the authors are listed in the same sequence as in the published papers, and (b) three supporting letters, including the original nominating letter. These letters should include a serious evaluation of the major aspects of the nominee's scientific work.

Please note that a nomination will remain active only when updated annually by the nominator. Update information on renominations should include work accomplished since the original nomination

was made, with evaluation of this work, as well as any new information to be added to the Curriculum vitae.

Nominations will close on January 15, 2002.

Please send nominations and supporting documentation to:

George Cain
Secretary-Treasurer, ASP
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