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Parasitology, Harold W. Manter Laboratory of

Spring 5-15-2015

American Society of Parasitologists Newsletter, v. 37, no. 2, Spring 2015

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Gardner, Scott Lyell, "American Society of Parasitologists Newsletter, v. 37, no. 2, Spring 2015" (2015). *Newsletter of the American Society of Parasitologists*. 46.

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ASP Newsletter

Vol. 37, No. 2.

Spring 2015

The American Society of Parasitologists



Newsletter

Usually Published Quarterly by the American Society of Parasitologists

ASP Newsletter: Released on the UNL Digital Commons, April, 2015.

From the Editor

As you have seen in the past, we have included interesting and, sometimes, controversial “non peer-reviewed” white papers in the *ASP Newsletter*. Send me a link to your favorite lecture on parasites or consider providing an actual parasite lecture. Your contribution is valuable and anything sent in to me will be considered for publication. There are only a very few items that I have rejected over the years.



Figure 1. Spock, I think it is a cestode. What does your tricorder say? We had better attend the ASP meeting in Omaha, Nebraska to find out more.

Sincerely,

SLG - editor

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Annual Meeting Late-Registration Open



**The 90th Annual
Meeting
of the American Society
of Parasitologists**

**June 25-28, 2015
Omaha, Nebraska**

Go [HERE to register](#) for the meeting in Omaha, Nebraska. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Nebraska Parasitology

Peru State College

University of Nebraska-Omaha

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Manter Lab Tours. To schedule a tour or a visit to the Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology before, during, or after, the ASP Annual meeting contact slg@unl.edu or call 402-472-3334. Thanks in advance.



USNPC – Still Moving to Smithsonian

Update on the transfer of the US National Parasite Collection

The last of the specimens of the US National Parasite Collection (USNPC) have arrived at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History (NMNH). Carefully packing and safely moving over 100,000 specimen lots including more than 7,000 type series of parasites is quite an accomplishment! Now our team's efforts will shift to unpacking and organizing the collection and assigning USNM catalog numbers to the specimens. Slide specimens will be kept at the Natural History Building (NHB) in downtown Washington, D.C. while the fluid specimens will be kept at the Museum Support Center (MSC) in Suitland, MD.

The NMNH continues to accession new specimens and assign catalog numbers to specimens considered type material and referenced in pending publications. Loan requests of USNPC specimens have been postponed during the move and will resume in stages as subsets of the USNPC are assigned USNM catalog numbers. Loans of slide specimens are expected to resume in July 2015 and fluid specimens later this fall. Scientific visits to work with slide specimens will also begin in July 2015.

Information about procedures for donation of specimens, policies for loans, including requests for destructive sampling, and arranging scientific visits can be found at the website for the NMNH Department of Invertebrate Zoology (<http://invertebrates.si.edu>). The web interface of the NMNH Department of Invertebrate Zoology specimen catalog can be accessed at: <http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/iz/>. The USNPC data catalog is being edited and mapped to the NMNH specimen catalog and should be online by the fall. In the interim, the USNPC database as it existed on 30 May, 2014, is available as a single downloadable Excel or text file from the NMNH Department of Invertebrate Zoology website (<http://invertebrates.si.edu/parasites.htm>).

New material/specimens should be sent with *advance notice* to:

ATTN: IZ Collections Manager – Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Museum Support Center, 4210 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD 20746, USA.

Please go to the NMNH Department of Invertebrate Zoology website: (<http://invertebrates.si.edu>) for updates on the transfer and transition of the USNPC.

Contributed by Anna Phillips (NMNH; phillipsaj@si.edu), Bill Moser (NMNH; moserw@si.edu) and Eric Hoberg (USDA-ARS; Eric.Hoberg@ars.usda.gov or hoberge@si.edu).

Tim Goater Receives Teaching Award



Figure 2. Tim in his lab with some worms.

Long-time ASP member Tim Goater was recently awarded a newly created teaching excellence award from his institution – Vancouver Island University (VIU). The teaching award known as, ‘The Provost Award for Excellence in Teaching Design and Practice’, ‘formally recognizes the excellence in achievements in all facets of teaching and student learning at VIU’. Tim’s specific teaching award ‘recognizes an educator who has made contributions to advancing teaching and learning at VIU, with a particular focus on design and practice of experiential learning opportunities’. Hands-on learning experiences in the classroom, in the laboratories and, especially, in the field, are closely integrated into each of his first year zoology and advanced parasitology, invertebrate zoology, and entomology courses. Tim’s experiential teaching and learning involves frequent field trips to local ecosystems and the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre. He also co-teaches a Tropical Biology Field School in

Belize, where he and his students explore the spectacular biodiversity of coral reef and rainforest environments. Tim's nominator of this teaching award, Erik Krogh (Chemistry Department, VIU) summarizes Tim's nomination package, stating, "Tim Goater is an authority in the field of parasitology, but he is so much more than that. He brings unbridled passion for the subject matter into the classroom, has an unfettered dedication to student's success, and is unparalleled in his integration of hands-on laboratory and field experiences".



Figure 3. Tim with a huge Iguana in the field.

Tim's commitment to educational leadership also extends to his scholarly activities and student learning outcomes. He is an avid proponent of student

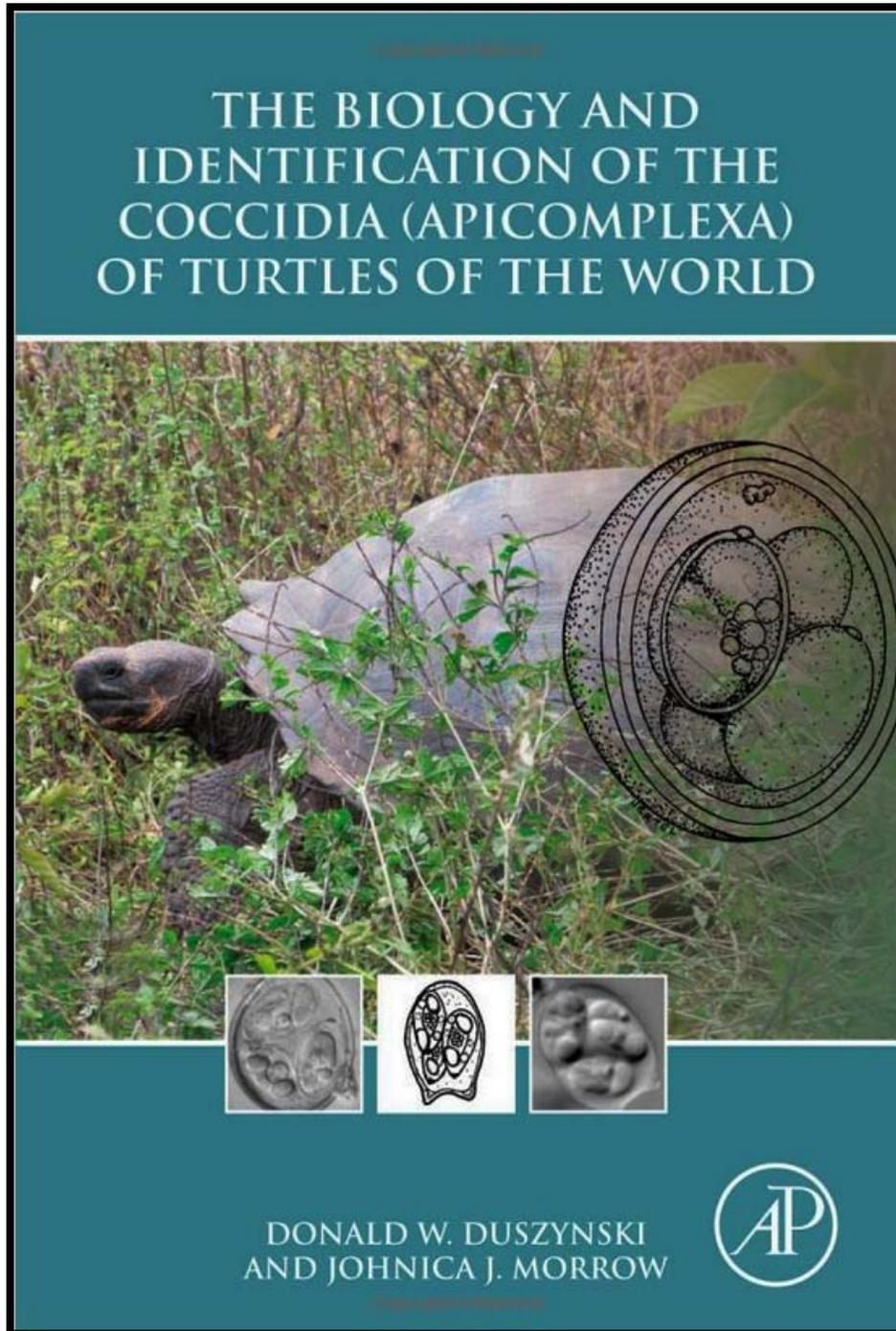


involvement in scientific research; over 100 highly motivated and dedicated undergraduate students have conducted independent research projects under his supervision and mentorship. Several have published their results in peer-reviewed journals, or presented their research at scientific conferences. Some of Tim's former students (e.g., Dr.'s Kayla King, Greg Sandland, Chris Whipps, Aaron Jex) are currently enjoying teaching and research careers in parasitology. Aaron, currently a senior lecturer in parasitology at the University of Melbourne, wrote a testimonial as part of Tim's nomination package and states, "Even today, Tim's selfless mentorship and undeniable love of teaching shapes how I approach my own lectures, how I interact with my own post-graduate students and how I look at parasitology. Every time I give a lecture, I think about Tim's focus on recognizing and understanding the basic biology that unites such amazingly diverse organisms as parasites".

Along with celebrating the successes of his students, and the honor of receiving this teaching excellence award, Tim's most significant and proud career milestone was the recent publication of the parasitology textbook by Cambridge University Press, *'Parasitism: The Diversity and Ecology of Animal Parasites'*, which he coauthored with his brother Cam and his graduate school mentor, Jerry Esch.



Book – Coccidia of Turtles



One of our long-time ASP members has released a book on coccidia of turtles. Don Duszynski (University of New Mexico, Emeritus) teamed up with Johnica Morrow (grad. student, current, UNL) to produce this gem. I have read a lot of it, and it reads well. Currently with an Amazon ranking [Amazon Best Sellers Rank: #6,256,024 in Books] – I am sure it will be in the top 6 million after this article appears (ed.).

The Biology and Identification of the Coccidia (Apicomplexa) of Turtles of the World

Donald Duszynski, Department of Biology, University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, USA

Johnica Morrow, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln,
USA



Figure 4. Don, leading a discussion in New Mexico.

The Biology and Identification of the Coccidia (Apicomplexa) of Turtles of the World is an invaluable resource for researchers in protozoology, coccidia, and parasitology, veterinary sciences, animal sciences, zoology, and biology. This first-of-its-kind work offers a taxonomic guide to apicomplexan parasites of turtles that enables easy parasite identification, with a summary of virtually everything known about the biology of each known parasite species. It is an important documentation of this specific area, useful to a broad base of readers, including researchers in biology, parasitology, animal husbandry, diseases of wild and

domestic animals, veterinary medicine, and faculty members in universities with graduate programs in these areas.

- There are about 330 species of turtles; many are endangered, a growing number of species are kept as pets, and some are still used as food by humans. Turtles, like other vertebrate animals have many different kinds of parasites (viruses, bacteria, protozoa, worms, arthropods, and others).

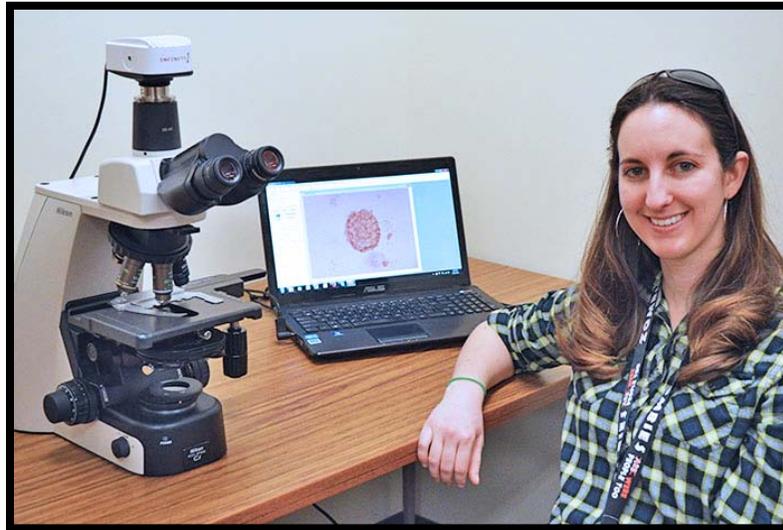


Figure 5. Johnica, looking at some helminths in lab in Lincoln, NE.

- Coccidiosis in turtles has prevented large-scale turtle breeding, and represents a serious problem in need of control. This succinct and highly focused book will aid in that effort.
- Offers line drawings and photomicrographs of each parasite from each hosts species
- Provides methods of identification and treatment
- Presents a complete historical rendition of all known publications on coccidia (and their closest relatives) from all turtle species on Earth, and evaluates the scientific and scholarly merit of each
- Provides a complete species analysis of the known biology of every coccidian described from turtles
- Reviews the most current taxonomy of turtles and their phylogenetic relationships needed to help assess host-specificity and evaluate what little cross-transmission work is available

You can buy the book here:

<http://www.amazon.com/Biology-Identification-Coccidia-Apicomplexa-Turtles/dp/0128013672>



NIBA Cosponsors Plenary Session on Collections for the 21st Century

Written by **Robert Gropp** - - **March 11th, 2015**

NIBA has joined iDigBio and [Natural Science Collections Alliance](#) to cosponsor a Plenary Session on 21st Century Collections during the 2015 Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections meeting in Gainesville, Florida.

The Plenary Session on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 features:

8:30: Larry M. Page, Director, iDigBio, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida. In Defense of Specimen Collecting, Natural History Collections, and Bioethics

9:00: Susan Middleton, Research Associate, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco Evidence of Evolution: Darwin's Cabinet of Curiosities

9:30: Erin Tripp, Curator of Botany, Museum of Natural History, and Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Colorado Endless Forms, Most Useful.

10:30: Austin Mast, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Science, Florida State University. WeDigBio—Public Participation in Digitization of Natural History Collections Hits its Stride

11:00: Quentin Wheeler, President, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, State University of New York. Time to Grow a Pair: Institutional Leadership, Taxonomy and Natural History



11:30: Robert Gropp, Interim Co-Executive Director, AIBS, and Public Policy Office, NSC Alliance, Washington, DC. Building a Networked National Community for Collections

[For more information about the SPNHC meeting, please visit the conference website.](#)

Jobs

The Department of Basic Medical Sciences at the College of Osteopathic Medicine, Western University of Health Sciences seeks to fill a senior faculty position in microbiology. This faculty member will serve as the Discipline Leader of Microbiology, enhance research programs, and attract extramural funding with a strong research program. As Discipline leader, the faculty member will work to optimize the microbiology coursework throughout the medical school curriculum. Candidates must have several years' experience teaching microbiology, significant scholarly activity, and consistent record of extramural funding. Our Department provides preclinical education for ~650 medical students on two campuses (Pomona, CA and Lebanon, OR) as well as for other Colleges on campus. To apply, submit a current curriculum vitae and a cover letter describing your teaching philosophy, research activity and future goals. Please include contact information for at least three references.

Contact:

Nissar A. Darmani, Ph.D.
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Editor-in-Chief

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Department of Health and Human Services
Research Triangle Park, NC
Date Posted: Mar. 11, 2015

<http://www.AcademicKeys.com/r?job=65026&o=324917&t=SC150413m-6>



ANNOUNCEMENT

Note to the Parasitologists of the World from Scott Gardner Curator, Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology

Recently we have been hearing from clients throughout the world, where colleagues are inquiring as to the long-term health of the Manter Laboratory (HWML) as a functioning and stable museum operation. Our staff has been in the field in Mongolia or in western Nebraska during most of the ASP meetings held over the past six years.



Figure 6. *Marmotataenia* from a Marmot, Bulgan River, Mongolia.

WE WOULD LIKE TO STATE IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THAT WE ARE OPERATING AT FULL STRENGTH, WE HAVE BEEN PUBLISHING LIKE MANIACS, TRYING TO GET OUR DATA IN THE HANDS OF SCIENCE BEFORE THE BIOSPHERE IS REDUCED COMPLETELY TO RUBBLE.

At the current time we have about ten undergraduate students working in the lab along with, two graduate students (Auggie Tsogtsaikhan Durshainhan and Elizabeth Racz), one post-doc (Danielle Tufts), a curator (Scott Gardner), and collection manager (Gabor Racz). Both the collection manager and curator lines are state funded and permanent. The University administration has recently approved a plan to install a major Parasitology public programs exhibit during renovation of the top floor of Morrill Hall, so you will be hearing more of that in the next couple of years.

As of today, we have 62,688 individual database records in our searchable database PARASITE. We are converting this over to ARCTOS a multiuser, multi-institutional database with lots of cool features. The HWML also has established a cryogenic facility and we house a large number of frozen tissues of parasites and some of the hosts from which the parasites came.

Go to: <http://hwml.unl.edu> and access our databases in the legacy format or the new ARCTOS format. **Recent news includes:** Receiving a CSBR Grant from DBI and NSF to upgrade the collections at the HWML, receipt of a very large collection of arthropod parasites from the late Nixon Wilson estate, receipt of the huge collection of vertebrate (mostly reptiles) hematozoa



Figure 7. A few of the vials in the huge fluid collection at the Manter Lab.

from **Sam R. Telford Jr.**, and a massive collection from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, consisting of the collection of the late **Dr. Hargis**.

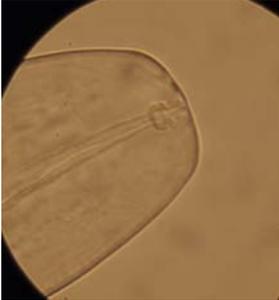
The collections that we made in Mongolia from 2009 – 2012 consisted of about 4,000 mammals, 2,500 birds, and around 1,000 herps and their parasites (both ecto and endo).



Figure 8. A few helminths visible in the wet collections in the HWML.



Figure 9. Nematodes from bark beetles on "Cobb mounts" - part of the massive "Massey Collection of nematodes of forest beetles."



Note to Members -

The ASP Newsletter welcomes news stories, articles, poetry, photographs, etc. Please send your text electronically to the editor as an e-mail and attach as an MS Word 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. slg@unl.edu

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