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November 2013

Department of Entomology
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Volume 25, No. 5

Welcome

Dr. Neetha Nanoth Vellichirammal is a new postdoc who will be working under the supervision of **Drs. Blair Siegfried** and **Nick Miller**. Neetha received her Ph.D. degree in 2010 in biotechnology from Kerala University, India. She was a postdoctoral associate in the Brisson lab in the School of Biological Sciences before joining this department. Her previous research used transcriptomic approaches to understand the molecular basis of wing polyphenism in pea aphid.



New Off-Campus M.S. Students: **Johnnie Erskine**, Mount Vernon, NY; **Corey Hayes**, APO, AP; **Lauren Holmer**, Hampshire, IL; **Abigail Loudon**, Creston, IA; **Nadia Ruffin**, Cincinnati, OH; **Evy Santiago**, Johnston, IA

Publications

Golick, D.A., and T.M. Heng-Moss. 2013. Insects as Educational Tools: An online course teaching the use of insects as instructional tools. *American Entomologist* 59(3): 183-187.

Kneeland, K.M., S.R. Skoda and J.E. Foster. 2013. Genetic variability of the stable fly, *Stomoxys calcitrans* (L.) (Diptera: Muscidae) across North America using Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphism. *Journal of Medical Entomology* 50(5): 1025-1030.

Paulsen, M.J. 2013. A new genus for the Neotropical species of *Aesalus* Fabricius, with descriptions of eight new species (Coleoptera: Lucanidae: Aesalinae). *Insecta Mundi* 0325: 1-25.

Ratcliffe, B.C. 2013. A revision of the Neotropical genus *Amithao* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Cetoniinae: Gymnetini). *The Coleopterists Bulletin* 67: 265-292.

Ratcliffe, B.C., R.D. Cave, and E.B. Cano. 2013. The Dynastine Scarab Beetles of Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae). *Bulletin of the University of Nebraska State Museum* 27: 1-666.

Skoda, Steven R., James Lester Figarola, Saowaluck Pornkulwat, and John E. Foster. 2013. Inter-and Intraspecific Identification of the New World Screwworm using Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA-Polymerase Chain Reaction. *Journal of Insect Science* 13:77. Available online: <http://www.insectscience.org/13.77>

Faculty News

Dr. Brett Ratcliffe conducted collections research at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT in August and September.

Dr. Junwei (Jerry) Zhu has been elected as Vice President (President-Elect) of the Asia-Pacific Association of Chemical Ecologists (APACE, <http://www.apace97.org/>.) Dr. Zhu has also been invited to join the editorial boards of the journals, *Frontiers in Chemical Ecology* and the *Scientific World Journal*.

Insect Science Club Annual Honey Sale

The Insect Science Club Annual Honey Sale will be November 13th and 14th (Wednesday and Thursday) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in both the Nebraska East and City Campus Unions.

There will be honey bears, jugs, cut-comb honey, jar candles, molded candles, and beeswax lotion bars.

Pre-sales will start on November 1. Pre-sale forms can be found in Entomology Hall, Room 103.

There is also a Facebook page for the sale right now entitled "Insect Science Club Honey Sale" with up-to-date times and prices.



Grants

Fred Baxendale and Tiffany Heng-Moss Marrone Bio Innovations "Turfgrass Pest"	\$10,500
Shripat Kamble Dow AgroSciences "Termite research"	\$ 4,000
Robert Wright FMC Agricultural Products Group "Crop Insect Management"	\$ 7,000

Meet an Off-Campus Student

Off-campus student—Hillary Guzik

I am currently employed at Einstein College of Medicine in the Analytical Imaging Facility as a microscopy technician. I graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Photographic Communications and dual concentration in microscopy and publications.

I have been interested in insects for as long as I can remember. As a kid I was always catching different insects. Their bodies and details fascinated me. As an avid hiker and rock climber, I try to identify all the insects I encounter. Many of my acquaintances bring me photos of spiders and insects that they found to have me identify them.

Currently at work, I get to image many different specimens. I get particularly engaged when I work with *Drosophila* and *Anopheles*. The multitude of information we can learn from insects fascinates me. I am most interested in the transfer of disease and pathogens through insects. I am also very interested in invasive species in urban and agricultural areas. Ideally, my goal is to combine my love for microscopy with my passion of insects by working in an insect based research lab that deeply relies on microscopy.



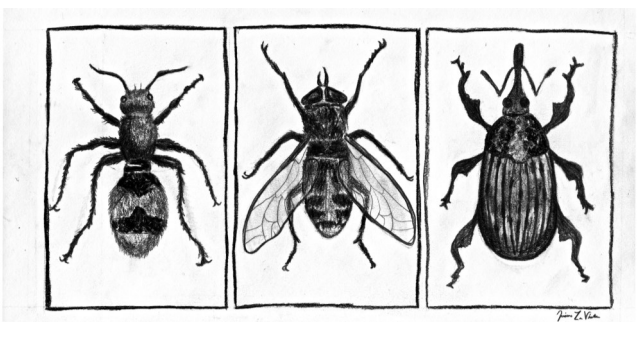
Student News

Leslie Rault has been awarded graduate fellowship funding of \$5,000 from the Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship Fund.

Karen da Silva and Jenny Freed have been selected to receive a Milton E. Mohr Fellowship in the amount of \$2,000. They were officially recognized as recipients of the Milton E. Mohr Fellowship at a luncheon held on October 31 at the Nebraska East Union.

The following students have received travel awards from the Myron H. Swenk Memorial fund to attend the National Entomological Society of America Meetings in Austin, TX, November 9-13, 2013: **Jelfina Alouw, Camila de Oliveira, Kyle Koch, Lia Marchi Werle, A. Justin McMechan, Ralph Narain, Travis Prochaska, Crystal Ramm, David Wangila, and Ashley Yates.**

Scientific illustrations of an ant, fly, and weevil by **Justine LaViolette**, insect science and forensic science major. Justine entered these in the Insect Science Club t-shirt design contest.



This 'n That

Discover a new insect image resource produced by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Entomology Extension! The new Entomology Image Library is a good resource for identification, education, and presentations. The Entomology Image Library is a great place to discover quality insect pest images, which are organized by pest categories. Each image is described by the subject's taxonomic information. Simply go to: <http://contentdm.unl.edu/cdm/collections> and click on Entomology to find a wide array of pest categories like Arthropod Pests of Corn, Wheat, Sorghum, Vegetable Crops, etc. To request an image, please contact the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Entomology Extension at entoimagelib@unl.edu. Pests lists are not all-inclusive and are continuously being updated. More details at: <http://go.unl.edu/hdzf>

The UNL Women's Club asked UNL departments to put their creative talents to work to help in funding scholarships by decorating Adirondack chairs. These chairs will be displayed at various locations in Lincoln and then sold at an auction in February. Our praying mantid chair decorators are Kait Armitage, Erin Ingram, Dana McIntyre, Ana Velez, and Leslie Rault. Not pictured are Katie O'Brien and Albina Divizinskaya.



Calendar of Events

November 9–13, 2013

National Entomological Society of America Meetings in Austin, TX

November 19, 2013

Entomology Seminar—Sydney Brown, Coordinator of Blended Learning, Online & Distance Education College Instructional Design, 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

November 20, 2013

Entomology Defense Seminar—Erin Ingram, 9:30 a.m., Nebraska East Union

November 21, 2013

Entomology Defense Seminar—Camila de Oliveira, 9:00 a.m., Nebraska East Union

November 22, 2013

Bruner Club Presents: Dr. Jeffrey Bradshaw, Entomology Department, PHREC, Scottsbluff, NE

November 26, 2013

Entomology Seminar—Zach Rystrom, Entomology Graduate Student, 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

November 27, 2013

Student Holiday (UNL offices open)

November 28–December 1, 2013

Thanksgiving Vacation (UNL offices closed)

December 2, 2013

Entomology Defense Seminar—Amanda Maegli, 1:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

December 4, 2013

Retirement reception for Dr. John Foster, 3:00–5:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

December 6, 2013

Entomology Department Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Entomology Hall, Room 110

December 10, 2013

Entomology Seminar—Jenny Freed, Entomology Graduate Student, 4:00 p.m., Nebraska East Union

December 16–20, 2013

Fall Semester Final Exams

December 20, 2013

Entomology Department Graduate Reception, 11:00 a.m., Nebraska East Union

Fall Semester Graduate Commencement and Doctoral Hooding Ceremony, 3:00 p.m., Pinnacle Bank Arena

December 21, 2013

Fall Semester Undergraduate Commencement, 9:00 a.m., Pinnacle Bank Arena

December 23–January 1, 2014

Holiday Closedown (UNL offices closed)

January 13, 2014

Spring Semester Begins

BUGFEST Success

The Department of Entomology's open house was held on September 15, 2013 with over 250 people attending the event. Visitors toured the Insect Genetics, Forensics, and Toxicology labs, learned about bees, bedbugs, wheat curl mites, spiders, department history, and observed demonstrations of fly tying and bee swarms. Pinned and live insect collections were open to the public, and kids enjoyed seeing their name in termites, playing Dr. Bug, Who Done It?, seeing the Techno-Bugs, and holding bugs in the Insect Zoo. Two lucky winners went home with Madagascar hissing cockroach pets, and all the participants were serenaded by a ukulele quartet playing bug songs, led by our own **Dr. Marion Ellis**. A good time was had by all! Thanks to Susan Ellis for the great pictures!



Waiting for the bees



Jeremy Wagnitz with SOME bees



Ruth Thompson, Dave Downing, Sue Meyers, and **Dr. Marion Ellis**



Kyle Koch shows Lindsey (Ellis) Lee a beetle from a personal collection.



Dr. Ken Pruess with fly-tying demonstration



Looking at those spiders



Drawing a favorite insect



Talking about department history - first home, University Hall



Dr. Nick Miller Lab—I-r, **Ashley Yates**, **Leslie Rault**, **Jelfina Alouw**, **Dr. Nick Miller**, and **Dr. Laramy Enders**