



The Mayfly Newsletter

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The Mayfly Newsletter

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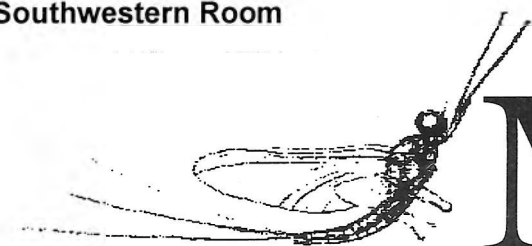
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THE MAYFLY NEWSLETTER

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Evolution and Responsibilities of the Permanent Committee

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At the 13th International Congress of Entomology in Moscow, Dr. Vladimir Landa suggested that an International Conference on Ephemeroptera be held and that it be held in Tallahassee. Bill Peters and his colleagues at Tallahassee then proceeded to plan, and bring to fruition, the 1st International Conference on Ephemeroptera held on August 17-23, 1970. During that conference Bill appointed a committee chaired by G. F. Edmunds and composed of E. F. Riek, I. Müller-Liebenau, J. R. Traver and H. J. Schoonbee to consider the future of mayfly conferences. The committee recommended that conferences be held every four years and that the second one be held in Germany. In fact the second conference was held jointly in Poland and Germany — the presentation of papers occurring in Krakow, Poland, and the post-conference activities occurring in Germany. At that time the "Permanent" Committee was composed of G. F. Edmunds, I. Müller-Liebenau, W. L. Peters, E. F. Riek, H. J. Schoonbee and R. Sowa. Although the committee did not have a formal chair, Bill Peters was the main driving force.

At the 3rd Conference in Winnipeg, Canada, in 1979, I was added to the Committee. In 1980 the International Permanent Committee on Ephemeroptera Scholarship fund was initiated from funds raised for, and profits from, the Winnipeg conference. In order to register this fund with the Canadian government, and so avoid taxation, the original guidelines for the Conferences were adapted and adopted as the "bylaws" for the International Conferences. The salient parts of these bylaws were that

1. a Permanent International Committee be established to arrange for, facilitate and ensure the continuity of the International conferences
2. *Eatonia* become the official publication of the International Conferences on Ephemeroptera
3. the Conferences be held every 4 years
4. the Conference location alternate between North America and Europe with occasional sites in other parts of the world
5. presentations for the Conference be in one of the four official languages - English, French, German or Russian, and that the official language of the Conferences be English.

With the registration of the Scholarship, the International Permanent Committee was required to appoint a chair (Bill

Peters) and a Treasurer (John Flannagan). The Committee became additionally responsible for administering the fund and all members of the Committee became Trustees of the fund.

The bylaws have been used as guides, rather than as strict regulations and a number of changes have been introduced. The most significant of these are:

1. the Conference frequency has been changed to 3 years
2. *The Mayfly Newsletter* has become the "mouthpiece" of the Conferences
3. papers in other languages have been regularly accepted
4. we have not maintained a strict alternation between Europe and North America.

At the 4th Conference, T. Soldan and V. Landa were added to the Committee as Conference Convenors and J. Fontaine was added in order to broaden the representation.

The Committee continued, and presumably will continue, to add Convenors of Conferences to its ranks. Peter Grant was added as editor of *The Mayfly Newsletter*.

At the Granada and Maine Conferences (6th and 7th respectively), a number of scientists suggested that the Conference be formalized into an International Association. In the May 1993 issue of *The Mayfly Newsletter*, Bill Peters, as chair, published a position statement from the Permanent Committee outlining the situation, the Committee's position, and some suggestions for moving in the direction of an International Association. One of the suggestions was that two registrants at the following conference (Lausanne) be elected to the Committee. The results of these elections

See "Evolution" on p. 5.

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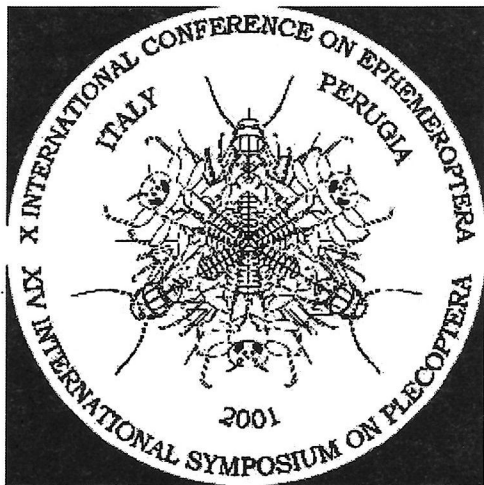


The Mayfly Newsletter is printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink.

2001 Conference Update

Elda reports that planning for the international conference is going well. She encourages everyone to check updates at the conference web site.

<http://www.unipg.it/maystone/>



Mayfly Web Sites

Dr. Nikita Julievich Kluge

Principles of zoological nomenclature, including non-ranking ones:

English: www.bio.pu.ru/win/entomol/KLUGE/zoo-name.htm

Russian: www.bio.pu.ru/win/entomol/KLUGE/zoo_nome.htm

Spanish: www.bio.pu.ru/win/entomol/KLUGE/zoo-nomb.htm

Information about the book "Modern Systematics of Insects":

English: www.bio.pu.ru/win/entomol/KLUGE/sys-ins.htm

Russian: www.bio.pu.ru/win/entomol/KLUGE/sys_ins.htm

Phylogeny and systematics of Ephemeroptera:

www.bio.pu.ru/win/entomol/KLUGE/sys-eph.htm

Revision of supra-species taxa of Ephemeroptera (in Russian only):

www.bio.pu.ru/win/entomol/KLUGE/EPHEMER_/content_.htm

List of Ephemeroptera species represented in East-European Plain:

www.bio.pu.ru/win/entomol/KLUGE/faun-eur.htm

Dr. Carlo Belfiore

Most of my publications in PDF format are available for downloading at the following URL. Follow the links to "publications" (at bottom right). The password is "mayfly." The site can be viewed only with recent browsers (i.e., Netscape 4 or Explorer 4). <http://cds.unina.it/~carbelfi>

Mayfly Central

<http://www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/mayfly/mayfly.html>

Ephemeroptera Galactica

<http://www.famu.org/mayfly/>

2001 International Conference

<http://www.unipg.it/maystone/>

Information for Taxonomists

ETI

<http://www.eti.uva.nl/>

ETI, the Expert Center for Taxonomic Identification, is a not for profit foundation, dedicated to improve on a global scale the quantity, quality and accessibility of taxonomic information, based on an initiative of UNESCO. Its mission is to develop and produce scientific and educational computer-aided information systems and to improve the general access to and promote the broad use of taxonomic and biodiversity knowledge worldwide.

TRITON

<http://www.biosis.org/triton/triton.htm>

TRITON, the Taxonomy Resource & Index To Organism Names, is a system under development by BIOSIS UK as a mechanism for making data related to names of both fossil and recent organisms, and in particular animal nomenclatural data from the Zoological Record (ZR), available on the world wide web. TRITON accesses a database of over a million animal names, at all taxonomic ranks, reported from the scientific literature of the last 18 years, plus some 400,000 names of other non-animal organisms provided by collaborating organizations.

Species 2000

<http://www.sp2000.org/>

The goal of Species 2000 is to provide a uniform and validated quality index of names of all known species for use as a practical tool. The index will be used to provide (1) an electronic baseline species list for use in inventorying projects worldwide; (2) the index for an Internet gateway to species databases worldwide; (3) a reference system for comparison between inventories; and (4) a comprehensive worldwide catalogue for checking the status, classification and naming of species.



The Mayfly Newsletter is the official newsletter of the International Conferences on Ephemeroptera and is published twice a year to facilitate communication among ephemeropterists. Subscriptions to the *Newsletter* are free. To place your name on the mailing list or to contribute information for the next issue, contact Peter M. Grant, editor, *The Mayfly Newsletter*, Department of Biological

Sciences, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, Oklahoma 73096-3098 USA, phone (580) 774-3294, FAX (580) 774-7140, email grantp@swosu.edu. This publication was authorized by the Dean of Arts and Sciences and was printed at a cost of \$175.00 for 500 copies.

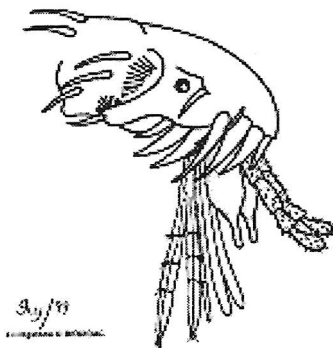
Fleas Are Also Mayflies (in some respects)

Dr. Nikita Julievich Kluge

Department of Entomology, Biological Faculty, St.-Petersburg State University, 199034 Russia,
kluge@ent.bio.pu.ru

I study mayflies, and only mayflies. Having good reared material on many new Asian mayfly species, I am going to describe them. In order to describe these species, it is necessary to understand under which names they should be described. In order to do this, it is necessary to bring in order a supra-species system of mayflies. For this purpose, I elaborated a new principle of nomenclature and a new plan for taxonomic text. The revision of supra-species mayfly taxa (the preliminary draft is available at http://www.bio.pu.ru/win/entomol/KLUGE/EPHEMER/content_.htm or <http://www.famu.edu/acad/research/mayfly/kluge/index.html>) will be published as a book in the future. But before its publication, it is necessary to understand the position of mayflies among insects and polarity of their characters.

In order to do this, I am working on a book, *Insect Systematics*. The second edition of the first volume of this book is already published in Russian under the name which can be translated as *Modern Systematics of Insects. Part 1. Principles of Systematics of Living Organisms and General System of Insects with Classification of Primarily Wingless and Paleopterous Insects* (S.-Petersburg, Lan', 2000, 336 pp.). This book now appears in book shops of S.-Petersburg

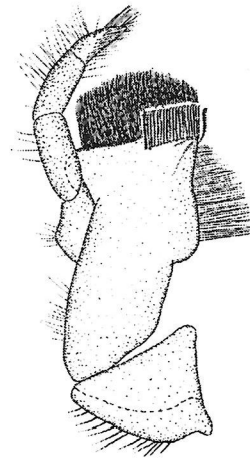


and Moscow, and I have received my author's copies.

Formerly I hoped that it would be enough to write the first volume with general systematics and analysis of primitive groups. But, during this work, I began to understand that there are no "primitive" and "progressive" groups of insects, and to study the phylogeny, it is necessary to analyze it as a whole. Thus, I am now working on the second volume of the second edition (while no second volume of the first edition exists). This second volume will cover all other groups of insects (i.e., Neoptera).

In order to understand what mayflies are, it is necessary to

make comparative analyses of all insect taxa of higher ranks, including even fleas (Aphaniptera or Siphonaptera). But when I tried to compile a characteristic of Aphaniptera, I found out that a generally accepted homologization of their piercing-sucking mouthparts is doubtful. To clarify this, I studied development of mouth apparatus of flea pupae and



came to the conclusion that the appendage, which is usually regarded to be a maxillary stipes, actually is the first segment of maxillary palp, while the true stipes is the sclerite which is usually regarded to be a proximal part of the lacinia. Now I have submitted a paper about flea mouth-apparatus to the journal *Entomologicheskoe Obozrenie*.

Thus, I am coming nearer and nearer to the moment when I will be able to submit the papers with descriptions of mayfly species.

[Flea drawing used with permission from the BIODIDAC web site: <http://biodidac.bio.uottawa.ca/>]

A Decade of Traveling

While preparing the last issue of the newsletter, I received an interesting item in the mail. It was a letter that I had mailed a long time ago, postmarked 4 October 1990! It was just being returned to me. I opened the envelope and discovered a copy of the first issue of the newsletter. The mailing label had since fallen off, so I don't know to whom it was addressed.

The timing of this event was ironic – I received this letter on 5 October 2000, almost exactly 10 years after it was originally mailed.

Mayflies: New Poems and Translations

By Richard Wilbur. 2000. Harcourt, Inc.
New York. ISBN 0-15-100469-2.

I became aware of this book, and the title poem, as I am made aware of many things – by a note from our university reference librarian, Carolyn Torrence. She sent a copy of *The New York Times Book Review* (16 April 2000, p. 23) to me. In it David Kirby provides a review of Wilbur's book. Of the title poem (reprinted at right) he writes, "a speaker witnesses the world's passing beauty and embraces a seize-the-day existentialism that has long since been shouldered aside by trendier philosophical strategies."

Shortly after receiving the *Times* review, Susan Barnes, a Presbyterian minister, sent a different review of the same book to me. This review, published in *Christian Century* (24-31 May 2000, p. 607), was written by Jill Peláez Baumgaertner, who points out how nature is sacramental in many of Wilbur's poems.

Wilbur has won two Pulitzer Prizes and is a former United States Poet Laureate (1987-1988).

"Mayflies" is from *Mayflies: New Poems and Translations*, copyright © 2000 by Richard Wilbur, and is reprinted with permission of Harcourt, Inc.

Mayflies

In somber forest, when the sun was low,
I saw from unseen pools a mist of flies
In their quadrillions rise
And animate a ragged patch of glow
With sudden glittering – as when a crowd
Of stars appear
Through a brief gap in black and driven cloud,
One arc of their great round-dance showing clear.

It was no muddled swarm I witnessed, for
In *entrechats* each fluttering insect there
Rose two steep yards in air,
Then slowly floated down to climb once more,
So that they all composed a manifold
And figured scene,
And seemed the weavers of some cloth of gold,
Or the fine pistons of some bright machine.

Watching those lifelong dancers of a day
As night closed in, I felt myself alone
In a life too much my own,
More mortal in my separateness than they –
Unless, I thought, I had been called to be
Not fly or star
But one whose task is joyfully to see
How fair the fiats of the caller are.

2001 International Conference

<http://www.unipg.it/maystone/>

The U.S. Presidential Election

(from a mayfly's perspective)

Well, *Time* magazine had good intentions but got the biology wrong.

In its 4 December 2000 issue, the magazine was commenting on how long it was taking to determine who won the US presidential election. They wrote (p. 25): "Elections are like meals: most people prefer them done well rather than fast. But deciding who won the vote in 2000 has taken longer than a lot of other, almost equally important things..." Some of the things they listed included four wars, the creation of four works of arts, two marriages, and three political regimes.

Another important thing they listed was "Many, many life cycles: the adult life of 120 mayflies (one hour each)..." They underestimated the adult life span of a typical mayfly a little. However, it is nice that they correctly identified the adult stage as being short-lived.

They did include a nice (but small) color photo of a mayfly.

Set of Conference Proceedings on Way to Texas

Nick Wiersema (Austin, Texas) submitted the winning bid for a complete set of proceedings from the past mayfly conferences.

As you will recall, this auction was used to raise funds for the William L. Peters Memorial Scholarship Fund. These funds will be used to provide travel scholarships to mayfly conferences.

Many thanks to all who submitted bids and congratulations to Nick.

Perhaps Nick will have the opportunity to share some of his favorite papers from these proceedings with Austin's other famous citizen – Lance Armstrong. They would make for good reading between stages of the Tour de France.

See related story on p. 5.

Seminars for Biomonitoring Specialists

Both of the following workshops are offered primarily for specialists who are involved in aquatic insect biomonitoring programs. For further information on either of these workshops, contact Joerg-Henner Lotze, Humboldt Field Research Institute, Northeastern Naturalist, PO Box 9, Dyer Bay Road, Steuben, Maine 04680 USA. Phone: 207-546-2821, FAX: 207-546-3042, humboldt@nemaine.com, <http://maine.maine.edu/~eaghlhill>.

Aquatic Entomology: Systematics and Biomonitoring 15-21 July 2001

This seminar will focus on building taxonomic competence with determinations of aquatic insects to the generic level. Laboratory work will stress skills necessary to make reliable determinations and prepare specimens for study by specialists. Participants will gain experience with a variety of taxonomic resources (e.g., continental keys, regional keys, and primary literature). Laboratory work will also cover curation, handling, and management of taxonomic data. Specimens used for study will be obtained from field trips during the seminar, but supplemental specimens will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring specimens from their own region for study or verification. Practical exams will be used to assess initial and final taxonomic competence of participants. Lectures will address topics on aquatic insect biology and ecology and the use of aquatic insects in biomonitoring programs.

Instructors: Dr. Steven K. Burian is associate professor of biology at Southern Connecticut State University. He is a specialist on the taxonomy and systematics of eastern Nearctic Ephemeroptera with a particular interest in the fauna of New England and Atlantic Canada. His most active

research programs involve studies of the mayflies of the Connecticut River, Vermont, and New Hampshire. He has conducted extensive surveys of mayflies in Maine and Connecticut.

The EPT Taxa: Systematics and Biomonitoring: Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera 22-28 July 2001

This seminar will focus on generic level taxonomy of the Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera. Intensive laboratory study of each group will focus on refining taxonomic skills to increase participants' reliability of generic determinations. Practical exams will be used to assess initial and final competence of participants. Specialists in each order will lead the study of that group. Reference specimens will be provided for study, but participants are encouraged to bring specimens from their own region for study or verification.

Instructors: Dr. Steven K. Burian (see biographical information above). Dr. Alex D. Huryn is Associate Professor of Aquatic Entomology at the University of Maine, where he teaches courses in Aquatic Entomology and River Ecology. His research focuses on caddisflies and the production ecology of stream invertebrates.

Auction at Conference

As reported in the December 2000 issue of *The Mayfly Newsletter*, an auction of donated items will be held at the Xth International Conference in Perugia to benefit the William L. Peters Scholarship Fund. This fund will provide travel scholarships for individuals to attend future mayfly conferences.

Please consider donating items to this event. Certainly anything with a mayfly theme would be appropriate, such as books or other publications, color slides, photographs, artwork or jewelry. Collecting equipment, rare or unusual mayfly specimens, and tied flies for fly fishing would be good options, too.

Donated items do not have to deal with mayflies, though. For example, art or craft work from your country or possibly souvenirs of Italy would be welcome.

If you plan to donate to this auction, please contact Pete Grant soon and let him know what you plan to donate. This will help us with scheduling. (Elda has scheduled this auction for Tuesday during the conference.)

In the meantime, if you have any suggestions or questions about this auction, please contact Pete Grant (see publication box on p. 2) or Eduardo Domínguez, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Miguel Lillo 251, 4.000 Tucumán, Argentina, email mayfly@unt.edu.ar.

Evolution (continued from page 1)

added Elda Gaino and John Brittain to the Committee. The Committee also solicited funds from interested parties to maintain and improve the scholarships and for the day to day expenses of the Committee. No further action has been taken to formalize the International Conferences into an International Association.

In addition to its more serious scientific responsibilities with regard to Conference site and Scholarship selection, and more recently cooperation and coordination with the Plecoptera group, a number of traditions have emerged over the last 31 years and these are encouraged and/or financially supported by the Committee. They include:

1. the family atmosphere and informality - use of first names - we are all part of a mayfly "family" of co-operation and friendship
2. a presentation to the youngest conference attendee
3. the presentation of a memento to the conference organiser
4. presentation of certificates of appreciation to conference volunteers.

If people are still interested in developing a viable set of bylaws with a view towards forming an International Association and with concrete ideas on how to do so, they should contact one of the Permanent Committee members.

Address Updates - New, Corrections, Changes

Changes or additions to the mailing list and email addresses since the last issue are listed below. Updated addresses will be published as they become available. Please inform the editor of any changes in postal or email addresses.

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