

AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

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***** PLEASE NOTE *****

We are electing a new Director this year. The deadline for ballot submission is **20 MAY, 1994**. Thus, do not delay in sending your all-important ballot to Maggie Hodge. Exercise your right and privilege, enter your ballot **TODAY!**

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is the official newsletter of the American Arachnological Society and is distributed biannually to members of the Society. Items for the Newsletter should be sent to the editor, Alan B. Cady, Dept. Zoology, Miami Univ.-Middletown, 4200 E. Univ. Blvd., Middletown, Ohio, 45042, USA. (E-mail: ACADY@MIAVX3 [BitNet]; Acady@miavx3.mid.muohio.edu [Inter-Net]). Deadline for receipt of material for the spring issue is 1 April, 1994. All correspondence concerning changes of address and information on membership in the American Arachnological Society should be addressed to the membership secretary, Norman I. Platnick, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York, N.Y., USA. Members of the Society also receive the JOURNAL OF ARACHNOLOGY, published triennially.

1994 A.A.S. MEETING GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

(Join the pilgrimage to arachnology's Mecca)

We cordially invite you to the 1994 AAS Meeting at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida which will run from Friday, July 29th to Tuesday, August 2nd, 1994. Special features of the meeting will include:

- A symposium on "Spiders in Ecological Communities," organized by David Wise
- A symposium on higher-order systematics of arachnids organized by Norm Platnick
- A workshop on computer-assisted arachnology (present and possible future databases and Internet resources)
- A banquet featuring arachnology's most talented humorists and skits celebrating the centenary of Simon's *Histoire Naturelle des Araignees*
- Field trips to local sites with nearly-tropical spider diversity and beautiful springs (we will also provide a map for a self-guided tour of exotic spiders on the UF campus)

LIKELY SCHEDULE

Friday, 29 July: Registration begins in the afternoon at the "New Facility" (the newest on-campus residential facility). An informal social will be held that evening at the dorm. Saturday, 30 July: Paper sessions 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in Reitz Student Union Auditorium. In the evening we will have informal movies, travelogues, etc.

Proposed Amendment to the By-Laws of the Society

During the '92 meetings in Manchester, the Executive Committee proposed that the Associate Editor be added to the Executive Committee. Amendments to the By-Laws require a two-thirds vote of the membership, following at least two month's notice (Article V of the By-Laws). Here is the wording which will appear on the mail ballot:

Shall Article II, Section 2 of the By-Laws, which now reads as follows:

"The elected officers, Membership Secretary, Editor, and Board of Directors shall serve as the Executive Committee. Fifty percent of the Executive Committee represents a quorum;" be changed (proposed change in **boldface**) to read as follows:

"The elected officers, Membership Secretary, Editor, **Associate Editor**, and Board of Directors shall serve as the Executive Committee. Fifty percent of the Executive Committee represents a quorum;"

ARACHNOLOGICAL NOTES

More about the "Enigmatic" Deep-Sea Arachnid

by Boris V. Mezhev & Kirill G. Mikhailov
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Remarkably, only a single scientific paper has been dedicated to an enigmatic discovery of a new "deep-living arachnid", namely an original paper by Thiel & Schriver (1989). Such an intriguing discovery may be solved in two ways, either more research is needed or we deal with a mistake. Unfortunately, the latter is true, and the argument of J.W. Schultz (1992) based on the original paper and color photographs only, appears to be quite premature.

On 16 April, 1990, the first author sent a letter to Dr. H. Thiel with some corrections to an "exciting discovery". No answer has been received. The exposition given below is mostly based on the letter's text.

Our colleague, Drs. K. Nesis and N. Kucheruk from the Institute of Oceanography, Russian Academy of Sciences, have assumed that the enigmatic species actually belongs to an isopod crustacean, *Paropsurus giganteus* Wolff, 1962. One of us (B.M.) has worked on deep-sea isopods since 1979. According to his analysis, a presumption of our colleagues is true. The following facts confirm it.

1. *Paropsurus giganteus* was described by T. Wolff (Galathae Report, 1962, 6:177-181, pl.XI) from the Tasman Sea (4400m) and the eastern Pacific Ocean (9°23'N, 90°32'W, 3570m). Collections of B.M. contain one complete specimen and one fragment from near the Peru coast (14°52'S, 76°46'W, 4800m; 7°56'S, 81°10'W, 5770-5800m). Both coordinates and depth of the original station by Thiel & Schriever (7°S, 88°W, 4150m) correspond to these data.

2. Wolff's specimens reach ca. 56-60mm length and 20mm at the widest point. The measurements of B.M.'s complete (except for some parts of some appendages) specimen are 42mm and 14mm respectively, while the averages of Thiel are 60mm and 20mm respectively.

3. The original photographs of very high quality allow one to distinguish five pairs of appendages only; one of the second antennae, one of the "grasping" legs, and three other walking legs. The last three pairs of legs are not visible. These legs seem to be for swimming, typical of the family Eurycopidae, of which this species is a member. By being a walking isopod, the swimming legs apparently are pressed to the body very closely, and so are not seen outwardly.

It is a very rare case, at least for isopods, when deep-sea photographs allow identification of certain species.

Ending his letter, B.M. proposes to prepare a "small team-article" with partial reconstruction of *P. giganteus* based on beautiful original photographs and his drawings.

Schultz, J.W. 1992. A living deep-sea arachnid. Amer. Arachnol. 46:3-4.

Thiel, H. & G. Schriever. 1989. The DISCOL enigmatic species: a deep-sea pedipalp? *Senckenbergiana maritima*. Bd.20. H.3/4. S.171-173. Pl.1.

THE MEXICAN RED-LEGGED SPIDER, *Euathlus smithi* (F. PICKARD- CAMBRIDGE, 1897) (ARANEIDA: THERAPHOSIDAE): ITS LISTING AND STATUS IN C.I.T.E.S., AND ITS SUCCESSFUL BREEDING INCAPTIVITY

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ABSTRACT *Euathlus smithi* (F. Pickard-Cambridge, 1897), the Mexican red-legged spider, a tarantula species, cited in Appendix II of the C.I.T.E.S. list as *Brachypelma smithi*, is the only spider listed in the C.I.T.E.S. "Red Book." Breeding of captive adults was successful during January 1992 in Berkeley, California, at the East Bay Vivarium facilities, where 48 young were hatched successfully from one female. Six young were imported to Canada for educational and scientific purposes.