

*Bulletin* of the  
**Oregon  
Entomological  
Society**

## Owflies in Oregon (Neuroptera: Ascalaphidae) *Ron Lyons and Dana Ross*

On 12 August 2004, Dana Ross collected an adult owlfly (Figure 1) in Jackson County in Oregon Gulch, CSNM, 4075' elevation, at a black light trap. There are no additional owlfly specimens from Oregon in the collection at the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODAC) in Salem or among the pinned specimens in the Oregon State Arthropod Collection (OSAC) in Corvallis. There is, however, another owlfly specimen from Oregon in the collection at Southern Oregon University (SOU) in Ashland. This adult (Figure 2) was collected in Josephine County, 5 miles SE of Selma on VIII-3-85 by M.D. Coffey. Both specimens were identified from photographs as *Ululodes mexicanus* (McLachlan) by Joshua Jones, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, using the abdominal pattern and the wing venation. The Oregon Gulch specimen is a female; the Selma specimen is a male. As far as we know, this is the first published report of owlflies in Oregon.

Owflies are interesting members of the Neuroptera in the family Ascalaphidae. Owlflies as larvae and adults are predators. In appearance, larval owlflies are similar to larval antlions, while, as can be seen from the accompanying figures, adult owlflies look rather like a cross between a small dragonfly and a butterfly. The adult body and wings of North American species are odonate-like while the antennae are long and knobbed, similar to those of butterflies. The eyes of adult *Ululodes* owlflies are split into two parts by a lateral groove, which is just visible in Figure 3. Dragonfly-like in flight, adults in North America tend to fly only for a short period in the early evening and can be attracted to lights. At rest on vegetation, *Ululodes* owlflies adopt a distinctive posture (Figure 3)—hanging upside down on bare branches.



Figure 1. Oregon Gulch Specimen (deposited at OSAC). Photo by Dana Ross.

Beckemeyer (2003) found several resting owlflies while hunting for odonates in the southwest and suggested that odonatists searching for damselflies might keep an eye out for this distinctive resting posture.

Information on the life history and behavior of owlflies can be found in the well illustrated paper by Henry (1977) and Shetlar's (1977) doctoral thesis. Shetlar's thesis also has information on morphology and anatomy. Additional information on the eggs and larva can be found in Henry (1972, 1976, 1978), and on adults in Halstead (1989).

In his unpublished PhD thesis, Shetlar (1977) listed 8 species of owlflies in 3 genera in the United States. These are:

*Ascalobyas albistigma* (Walker)  
*Ascaloptynx appendiculatus* (Fabricius)  
*Ululodes arizonensis* Banks

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Submit content to **Ron Lyons** (pondhawk@uci.net). To be included on the distribution list contact **Jim Johnson** (jt\_johnson@comcast.net).



Figure 2. Selma Specimen (deposited at SOU).

- U. bicolor* (Banks)
- U. floridana* (Banks)
- U. macleayana* (Guilding)
- U. nigripes* Banks
- U. quadrimaculatus* (Say)

*Ululodes mexicana* (McLachlan) mentioned from southern Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico by Henry (1972, 1977) is not listed in Shetlar's thesis. (Oswald [2007] indicates that the correct form is *mexicanus*.) Instead, Shetlar (1977) uses the information from Henry (1972) under the name *Ululodes arizonensis* without comment. Oswald et al. (2002) listed the distributions of owlflies in Mexico by state. *Mexicanus* is a valid species that has been found in a number of states in Mexico including Chihuahua and Sonora, both of which border the United States.

In their catalogue of the Neuroptera of America north of Mexico, Penny et al. (1997) following Shetlar (1977) listed the same 8 species changing *U. quadrimaculatus* (Say) to *U. quadripunctatus* (Burmeister). (According to Oswald [2007], the name "*Ululodes quadrimaculatus*", while a synonym of *U. quadripunctatus*, is invalid under the rules of nomenclature.) Penny et al. (1997) updated the distribution information to reflect material published after Shetlar's thesis and included some unpublished information. The record for the SOU specimen, identified as *Ululodes arizonensis* (Banks) by N.D. Penny in 1987, was not mentioned in this paper.

In the United States, owlflies are generally considered insects of the southern tier of the country. While rarer farther north, the distribution of one, *U. quadripunctatus*, does reach up the eastern states and into Ontario Canada. Shetlar (1977) lists two species from California, *Ululodes arizonensis* and *U. bicolor*. In his specimen list there is a male specimen under *Ululodes arizonensis* with the details Siskiyou Co. — Ft. Jones, B. L., 19-viii-69, M. Grifantini (PU). Fort Jones is only a few miles SW of Yreka, California. (This specimen location is not shown on the distribution dot map.) Yreka is not far from the Oregon



Figure 3. *Ululodes mexicanus* resting on vegetation; Torrey Pines State Reserve extension, San Diego County, California 1992 June 29. Photo by Ron Lyons.

border and the collection locations of the Oregon specimens. Based on the comments of Joshua Jones (private communication), it would appear that there is some confusion between *U. arizonensis* and *U. mexicanus*. Hopefully, among other things, his research will clarify the distributions of each of these species.

In the meantime, we are soliciting information in the form of documented or anecdotal observations of owlflies in Oregon, in part to determine whether or not owlflies are established in the state. Based on the two Oregon specimens, we know that owlflies can reach into the Rogue Valley at least as far as the Grants Pass area, at least sometimes. Owlflies might also be expected to occur in the southeastern parts of the state, at least sometimes, but to our knowledge, no one has ever looked for them there. (Mind you, no one was looking for them in the Rogue Valley either.)

On the lighter side, owlflies have made it onto postage stamps from Cyprus and the former Yugoslavia. Interestingly both countries featured the same species, *Ascalaphus macaronius* Scopoli (Figure 4, left). In an exchange in Ornament magazine, Lyons (2005) discussed with Ornament Coeditor Robert Liu the possibility that some Native American southwestern "dragonfly" jewelry (Figure 4, right) was actually inspired by owlflies. Some followup comments were added by Kuehn (2005).



Figure 4. Left, postage stamp from Cyprus. Right, Native American "dragonfly" pin.

## Acknowledgements

We thank Chris Marshall (OSAC), Jim LaBonte (ODA) and Peter Schroeder (SOU) for access to, and help with, their institution's collections. We thank Joshua Jones (Texas A&M) for identifying our specimens. We would also like to thank Dr. C.S. Henry (University of Connecticut), Joshua Jones and Dr. J. Oswald (Texas A&M) for sharing their knowledge, thoughts and suggestions concerning owlflies.

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### 2012 Aeshna Blitz

An annual gathering of those who are insane for Oregon's Odonata—scheduled for the weekend of 27 July at Three Forks on the Owyhee River, Malheur County. All are welcome. Yes, even if you want to look for “lesser” insects. Be prepared for primitive camping. Contact Jim Johnson at <[jt\\_johnson@comcast.net](mailto:jt_johnson@comcast.net)> or Steve Valley if you plan to attend.

## Entomology in Oregon—Herman Austin Scullen *Cary Kerst*

I've been moving the pinned Odonate collection into envelopes for the Oregon State University Arthropod Collection (OSAC). While so engaged, a number of specimens collected by Dr. Herman Scullen stood out due to his impeccable labeling. While many of the pinned specimens had minimal labeling, his labels included good location data as well as elevation, county, state, and collector information. Of course, that did make it more work entering that data into a spreadsheet! I've worked through over 600 specimens to date and approximately 100 of those were collected by Dr. Scullen around Oregon, but he also collected widely in California, the American Southwest, and Mexico.

Herman Scullen was born on a farm in Pierce County, Wisconsin in 1887. His family moved to Ashland, Oregon in 1901 where he graduated



Dr. Herman Scullen teaching an Entomology class, 1939 (P55:17, Entomology Department Photographic Collection, courtesy OSU Archives, <<http://oregondigital.org/u?/archives,5305>>).

from Ashland Normal School. Scullen enrolled as a premed and zoology major at the University of Oregon and graduated with a BA degree in 1910. His interest in insects began in Ashland and continued at the university where he studied Box Elder Bugs.

After university, Scullen spent two years as a teacher, athletic coach, and principal at Junction City High School. The next six years were spent as an instructor of Zoology at the University of Iowa in Ames. During this time he became interested in beekeeping and began graduate studies towards an MS degree.

Scullen accepted a position as apiculturist with the USDA in Pullman, Washington in 1918 remaining two years before moving to Corvallis, Oregon to take up commercial beekeeping. By 1920, he was back teaching; this time it was teaching beekeeping to returning World War I veterans in a popular program established by Oregon State University (OSU). This position transitioned into teaching a number of courses in the Entomology Department including general entomology as well as insect morphology and physiology. During this time, he also worked on his MS degree at the University of Oregon which he completed in 1927 with a thesis on the bumble bees of western Oregon.

Scullen received his PhD degree from Iowa State University in 1934 with a thesis on the *Eucerceris* wasps, and his interest in this group followed him through the rest of his life. His thesis was published as Oregon State Monographs, Studies in Entomology #1 in 1939. During his career at OSU, he was an apiculturist with the Agricultural Experiment Station, publishing many information sheets and bulletins on beekeeping, and was involved with the Oregon State Beekeepers Association serving as secretary for 20 years.

Scullen retired in 1953 which allowed him to devote all of his time to studies of the cercerine wasps of the western hemisphere. After retirement, he published 18 taxonomic papers including three major revisionary works published by the US National Museum and the Smithsonian. His collecting and support led to the building of what is now the Oregon State Arthropod Collection.

In addition to his research and collecting trips, he was very active in community organizations and activities such as Boy Scouts, the Association of Economic Entomologists, and the Entomological Society of America, as well as Sigma Xi and other campus organizations. Dr. Scullen was indeed an energetic and talented individual to be able to fit all of this into his busy academic life!

When I came to graduate school at OSU in 1967, Dr. Scullen was still coming to his office each morning, and usually could be found having coffee with us at 10

AM in the department office. Dr. Scullen died on May 17, 1981 in Boise, Idaho at the age of 94 having spent so many of those years devoted to entomology.

**Biographical Reference:**

Crowell, H.H. and Ferguson, G.R. 1981. Herman A. Scullen 1887–1981. Bulletin of the Entomological Society of America 73(3): 237.

**Just Published: The Moths of North America, Fascicle 8.1**

A new volume in the series, “The Moths of North America”, is now available from the Wedge Entomological Research Foundation. The description below and the image are drawn from the advertising document. You can download an order form for this and/or the other volumes in the series from <http://www.wedgefoundation.org>.

**Fascicle 8.1** Sparganothini + Atteriini by Jerry A. Powell and John W. Brown. 230 pages, 6 colored plates, 33 monochrome plates, 79 maps, 2 tables. Hardcover. ISBN # 978-0-933003-15-6, 2012

The North American members of the tortricid tribes Sparganothini and Atteriini are revised. Eighty-three species in 12 genera are included in Sparganothini; a single representative of Atteriini reaches the region north of Mexico. Twenty-one new species are proposed. The following new synonymies are proposed: *Sparganothis salinana* McDunnough with *S. distincta* Wlsm.; *Sparganothis acerivorana* MacKay with *Cenopis pettitana* (Rob.); *Sparganothis albicaudana* Busck with *Cenopis mesospila* (Zeller), the latter of which is a revised status; and *Sparganothis scotiana* McD. with *Platynota exasperatana* (Zeller). Keys to the adults of all genera and species are included. Adults of all species are illustrated in color, and male and female genitalia of all species are illustrated by line drawings or images.



The price is \$70.00 US plus shipping.

# The Pacific Northwest Lepidopterists Fund in honor of Harold E. Rice: Call for Proposals

*David Maddison and Christopher Marshall*

**Background:** Mr. Harold E. Rice was a much-loved lepidopterist and well-respected patron of the Oregon State Arthropod Collection (OSAC). A butterfly collector since childhood, Mr. Rice amassed a sizeable personal collection, which today resides as part of OSAC's Lepidoptera holdings. In addition to these scientifically important specimens, Mr. Rice also established an endowment in the form of a professorship at Oregon State University, the Harold E. and Leona M. Rice Professorship in Systematic Entomology.

In honor of Mr. Rice, we have allocated funds to support the community of Pacific Northwest lepidopterists to which Harold belonged. In particular, we hope the fund will encourage and facilitate the valuable research, work and contributions made each year by individuals, who like Mr. Rice, were not employed fulltime as lepidopterists, yet spend much of their personal time and resources collecting and studying these amazing creatures.

**Eligibility:** Individuals and groups of individuals who are engaged in, or wish to engage in, activities directly related to Pacific Northwest Lepidoptera, or activities related to the curation and/or improvement of the OSAC Lepidoptera collection. These activities may involve research, education, the acquisition of new material or the curation of existing material (see below for some examples).

Projects that will involve collecting, especially in foreign countries, should include a statement of where collecting will take place, if permits are necessary and if so, what steps have been taken towards procuring permits.

**Amount:** The maximum amount per award will be approximately \$500. There will be, at most, two awards per year.

**How to apply:** Applications should include a brief (less than one page) description of the activity, including a description of how the activity will benefit the PNW Lepidoptera community and/or the Lepidoptera holdings of OSAC. In addition to this, a budget of how the funds are to be spent should be included. If the applicant is also contributing their own funds or seeking funds from a third party, please include estimates of these contributions.

For full consideration, applications must be received by 30 April this year (2012); but note that in future years (2013 and thereafter) the deadline will be 31 January. Applications should be submitted using the online submission form found at [http://osac.science.oregon-state.edu/pnw\\_lep\\_fund](http://osac.science.oregon-state.edu/pnw_lep_fund).

**Evaluation criteria:** Applications will be reviewed by David Maddison (Rice Professor and OSAC Director) and

Christopher Marshall (OSAC Curator) and evaluated based on: (1) expected benefit(s) to the Lepidoptera community at large, (2) contributions to the knowledge of the PNW Lepidoptera fauna, or (3) improvements to the Lepidoptera holdings at the Oregon State Arthropod Collection. Preference will be given to proposals received from individuals who are not currently employed full-time as lepidopterists or who lack other resources to accomplish the project, and who live in the Pacific Northwest.

**Post award requirements:** Recipients of the fund will prepare a short report (less than three pages) on the findings and accomplishments at the completion of the activity which will be submitted to OSAC within one year of completion of the project, and in advance of any future applications to the fund. Also, recipients are to acknowledge the "Harold E. and Leona M. Rice Endowment Fund at Oregon State University" in any publications or presentations resulting from these funds.

Some examples of fundable activities (this is not an exhaustive list, only examples of the types of activities that could be considered):

- Travel funds to survey Lepidoptera in a region
- Travel funds to obtain new Lepidoptera specimens for OSAC
- Publication costs associated with research related to PNW Lepidoptera
- Funds to hold an outreach event related to Lepidoptera
- Funds to improve the curation of part of the OSAC Lepidoptera collection
- Digitization/imaging projects related to Lepidoptera
- Funds to study the life history or ecology of a PNW butterfly or moth

## National Moth Week: 23–29 July 2012

Interested in moths? Want to know more about them? Then consider participating in National Moth Week. For information or to register visit <http://nationalmothweek.org/>.

Partners in this event include:

- BAMONA (Butterflies and Moths of North America), <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>
- BugGuide.net, <http://www.bugguide.net/>
- North American Moth Photographers Group, <http://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu/>
- What's That Bug?, <http://www.whatsthatbug.com/>
- The Lepidopterist Society, <http://www.lepsoc.org/>
- Wild New Jersey, <http://wildnewjersey.tv/>
- Pollinator Partnership, <http://www.pollinator.org/>

## Wintertime *Sympetrum corruptum* in Oregon *Jim Johnson*

Adult dragonflies are creatures of sun and warmth. Some species are out in early spring or late fall—weather permitting, of course, but you cannot reasonably expect to see one in Oregon from at least December through February (usually longer depending on that pesky weather again, and also where you are). In recent years one species, *Sympetrum corruptum*—the Variegated Meadowhawk, has been making sporadic appearances in the state during those normally dragonfly-free months.

December to early February records of *Sympetrum corruptum*, Variegated Meadowhawk, in Oregon.

Date	Location	Number	Observer
18 Jan 2005	Eugene, Lane Co.	1	M. Benotsch (unidentified; presumed to be this species)
08 Jan 2006 or 2007	Eugene, Lane Co.	1	unknown, reported by S. Gordon
11 Jan 2008	Corvallis, Benton Co.	1	J. Young (collected)
01 Feb 2010	Lookingglass, Douglas Co.	1	E. Pugh
01 Dec 2011	Waldport, Lincoln Co.	multiple	R. Westcott
09 Dec 2011	Waldport, Lincoln Co.	multiple	R. Westcott
03 Jan 2012	Corvallis, Benton Co.	1	L. Millbank
07 Jan 2012	Waldport, Lincoln Co.	1	R. Westcott
06 Feb 2012	Waldport, Lincoln Co.	3	R. Westcott

As of 2005, the known early and late flight dates for Oregon *Sympetrum corruptum* were 15 February and 23 October, respectively (Johnson & Valley, 2005, The Odonata of Oregon, Bulletin of American Odonatology 8[4]: 101–122). Since then, however, one or more have been found in western Oregon lowlands most winters, and during the winter of 2011–2012, multiples were found for the first time (see table).

The number of data points are far too scant to come up with any generalities, but if there are any “hotspots” for wintertime Variegated Meadowhawks (where they have been found during more than one winter season) they would be Eugene (18 Jan 2005 and 8 Jan 2006 or 2007) and Corvallis (11 Jan 2008 and 3 Jan 2012). A single meadowhawk was found on each of those dates.

The 2011–2012 winter season was exceptional in that Variegated Meadowhawks were found at more than one location, and multiples were seen over those months at one of those locations. The two locations were Corvallis (as mentioned above) and Waldport. It was at Waldport where Rick Westcott saw multiple meadowhawks over several visits: many on 1 and 9 December, one on 7 January, and then three on 6 February.

The Variegated Meadowhawk is one of the dragonflies that is known to be migratory, and they are sometimes seen flying south in large numbers on the coast or elsewhere during the fall months. My guess is that Rick Westcott’s meadowhawks at Waldport were straggling southbound migrants which were simply unable to continue any further because of weather conditions, and probably that is the case with all winter *corruptum* in Oregon. Before the winter of 2011–2012 there was no indication that the species could successfully overwinter in western Oregon, but Rick’s series of observations suggest that it is certainly possible—at least on the coast with its more moderate winter temperatures (depending on severity of the season, of course).

Based on the limited data available at this time, one could jump to the conclusion that wintertime meadowhawks are increasing in western Oregon—perhaps thanks to global climate change. Only time and more data points will tell. The number of aware observers has certainly increased too, so this must also be taken



A male *Sympetrum corruptum*, Variegated Meadowhawk, at Waldport, Lincoln Co., Oregon, 9 December 2011. Photo by Rick Westcott.

into account. A thorough comparison of winter meadowhawk records with meteorological data could reveal some interesting correlations, although I haven’t made the attempt.

I would love to hear of additional winter records of Variegated Meadowhawk (past or future) in the Pacific Northwest. You can let me know at <nwdragonflier@bogfoot.net>.

### Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America Meets

The Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America held its 96th Annual Meeting 25–28 March in Portland this year. The meeting program and available abstracts can be found at their website <<http://www.entsoc.org/Pacific-Branch-2012-Meeting>>.

Next year’s meeting will be held at Harrah’s Resort and Casino, South Lake Tahoe, Nevada on 7–10 April 2013.

## OSU Graduate Students Hold Symposium

On Saturday, 10 March, students involved in entomology-related projects at OSU got together with faculty, staff and visitors for the 4th Annual Student Research in Entomology Symposium. A wide variety of topics were covered.

The oral papers presented were:

Jimmy Klick: Management of *Drosophila suzukii* with minimal insecticide inputs

Joe Kleiber: Development of improved monitoring strategies for spotted wing *Drosophila*

Danielle Lightle: Resistance is futile? Utilizing host plant resistance for pest management.

Lorena Rangel: Genome-enabled discovery of insect toxins in the *Pseudomonas fluorescens* species complex

Kate Boersma: Top predator extinctions in drying streams modify community structure and functioning

Chris Hedstrom: Feeding damage on hazelnuts by *Halyomorpha halys*, brown marmorated stink bug (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae)

Ellen Topitzhofer: The effects of pollen diversity, pollen quality, and artificial protein supplements on individual and colony-level fitness in honey bees

Sarah Maxfield-Taylor: *Ascophæra*: Not just in larvae anymore

Melissa Broussard: Is roadside disturbance 'no sweat' for sweat bees?

In addition to the talks above there was a poster session and a photo salon. A number of the students (Jimmy Klick, Joe Kleiber, Danielle Lightle, Kate Boersma, Chris Hedstrom, Sarah Maxfield-Taylor, and Melissa Broussard) also made presentations in the poster and paper competitions at the Pacific Branch meeting at the end of March.

### Dragonflies of California and the Greater Southwest A Beginner's Guide [Kindle Edition], by Kathy Biggs

Originally a pocket sized field guide, this book is now available as an ebook for the Kindle from Amazon.com for \$5.88. While not strictly for Oregon, many of the species illustrated and discussed are found in the state. The ebook includes bibliographic references and an index.

## Native Bee Perpetual Calendar

*Garden Variety Native Bees Of North America* is a perpetual calendar produced by bee enthusiast Celeste Ets-Hokin and nature photographer Rollin Coville. A different bee genus is featured each month, with notes on preferred plants, nesting needs, and identification. The calendar is printed by California Lithographers.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this calendar will be donated to the Xerces Society, but the Xerces Society is not selling the calendar directly. Click on the calendar link at <http://www.xerces.org/> to view the cover and sample page or link to the printer to order.

## New Stonefly from Oregon—Followup

In the Winter issue of the Bulletin, Cary Kerst (2011/2012) reported finding a new species of stonefly in Union County, Oregon on a trip last summer. The species was recently described by Kondratieff and Baumann (2012) and is named *Triznaka wallowa*.

### References

Kerst, C. 2011/2012. A New Stonefly from Oregon. Bulletin of the Oregon Entomological Society, Winter 2011/2012: 11

Kondratieff, B.C. and R.W. Baumann. 2012. A new species of the western North American genus *Triznaka* from Oregon (Plecoptera: Chloroperlidae). *Illiesia*, 8(02): 10–15. Available online: <http://www2.pms-1j.si/illiesia/papers/Illiesia08-02.pdf>

## Dragonflies and Damselflies Talks

Steve Gordon and Cary Kerst, authors of “Dragonflies and Damselflies of Oregon”, are giving a couple of presentations in the Eugene area on the biology and behavior of dragonflies and damselflies with an introduction to representative species found in Oregon. The following events are scheduled:

### Lane County Audubon Society

Date and Time: Tuesday, 24 April 2012 at 7:30 PM

Location: Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street, Eugene

### Obsidians

Date and Time: Tuesday, 22 May 2012 at 7:00 PM

Location: Obsidians Lodge, directions at <http://www.obsidians.org/>

## Forest Park (Portland) BioBlitz, 18–19 May 2012

Portland Oregon Parks and Recreation is hosting a BioBlitz for Forest Park starting Friday, 18 May at 12 noon and ending at noon on Saturday, 19 May. A BioBlitz is an intense 24 hour survey of all living things in an area. In this case, the focus will only be on the animals—birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, snails, slugs, insects, spiders, millipedes, etc., within Forest Park.

Register online by 15 April or until team is filled at <http://www.portlandonline.com/parks/wild-life/> to participate. Registration is free, but it will be limited. If you have any questions contact John Deshler, <[john.deshler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:john.deshler@portlandoregon.gov)>, 503-823-7797.

## 2011 Ramblings of a Retired Entomologist *Rick Westcott, Salem*

There follows a mostly pictorial, only partly entomological, account of my year, which measure of time passes all too quickly, seemingly all the more so as we grow older. I maintain my entomological activities as a volunteer (about 11 years now) in the entomology lab and museum, Oregon Department of Agriculture. My wife, Kathy, and I continue to enjoy our respites at the coast house in Seal Rock. The house got used every month of the year except June; and it would have been occupied then too had I not flown off to Mexico. Between coastal visits and other trips, much of the year I did not know whether I was coming or going—I suppose some of you will think I don't anyway!

During the first part of April, son Derek and I flew to Phoenix for yet another spring trip with our friend, Dale Christenson, who lives in Carefree. Our goals were Death Valley and “Hobgoblin’s Playground” (SE Nevada). We saw rainbows at Badwater—albeit they were faint, but then what would you expect there?—then camped at Texas Springs with what seemed to be half the population of Los Angeles. We had failed to check Spring Break for the school district! Someone in the campground told us our timing was good to arrive when we did, as there were 50 mph winds the night before. Next morning we got lucky for sunrise photography on the dunes, with a bonus of snow on the surrounding mountains, but soon it clouded up and got windy, so we headed to Mesquite, Nevada.



As we neared Mesquite, we looked south and it was so gray-black that even the Virgin Mts. could not be seen. We holed up in a motel, then of course the sky cleared! The weather was nice for us the next two days and we found the “hobgoblins” most entertaining, and the area was essentially devoid of people. The nearby petroglyphs too are nice, also a local lizard *Coleonyx variegatus*, banded gecko. Alas, insect activity was sorely lacking everywhere we went on this trip.



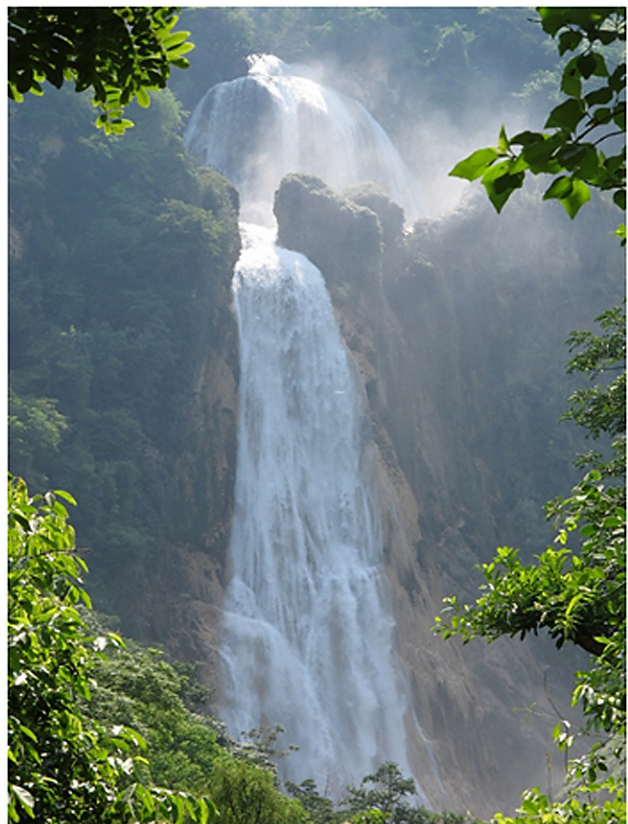
During May I traveled to Moscow, Idaho, to see my former major professor, Bill Barr and his wife Audrey and son Steve, and our good friends Frank and Cathy Merickel. Frank is Collection Manager at the W.F. Barr Entomology Museum. I spent some time there working



on Buprestidae. We also searched for morel mushrooms, but only Frank found some; I encountered the poisonous false morel. On the way over I saw an unusual sight along I-84 at the east end of the Columbia Gorge, quite an interesting juxtaposition of Nature and the hand of humankind—of course the animals (how many can you see?) are there courtesy of humankind! Too it was a beautiful day, thus I could not resist a stop at Palouse Falls State Park in southeastern Washington. Again, I saw no insects that I cared to collect.



During early June, this time with collecting as my primary goal, I flew to Mexico for a trip with my colleague Jesús Romero (Colegio Postgraduados), a world specialist on Bruchidae (I am old school, and so is Jesús). It was a long drive from Texcoco to Chiapas, as far as Parque Nacional Lagunas de Montebello, on the Guatemala border. It was surprisingly dry over much of the area we traveled, and insect collecting was so poor that I was reduced to taking a photo of a carpenter ant, *Camponotus sericeiventris*; however, I managed one new Chiapas state record for a buprestid in the genus *Agilus*. It was so dry that one of our main goals to see, Cañon de Sumidero, was unattainable because it was closed—our guess was because of high fire danger. Regardless, it was nice to experience new vistas, notably the beautiful waterfall Velo de Novia that is about 225 feet tall.



On a July trip to Utah, once again photographic success trumped the bugs, this time perhaps for the opposite reason, wet weather. As in 2008 and 2009, I drove to Salt Lake City, and then went with Clint Burfitt (Utah Dept. Food & Ag.) to check insect traps that he had set earlier. The first night out I spent in the remains of a sod house (Clint slept in the back of the truck), after a heavy rain that caused a minor flash flood down the nearby creek. The next two nights we were “rained into” a motel in Moab, and our collecting efforts were restricted to the nearby beautiful La Sal Range, where we took good series of two species of *Acmaeodera* on composite flowers. Camping our last night, we were threatened with rain, but stayed dry and enjoyed some fine photo ops. Sneaky Clint came up with the winning shot, “Rainbow Man”!



On my way to SLC, I stopped to visit the Natural History Museum at the College of Idaho, and then stayed at the home of Bill and Mary Clark in Boise, where delicious tacos (and beer) were enjoyed by all—well of course, I was with the Clarks! The next day I visited beautiful Shoshone Falls, where I had not been since my days as a graduate student at the Univ. of Idaho. On my return home, I detoured to visit friends in McCall, Idaho, where we hiked to a lake, saw a snake; then next day hiked to Goose Creek Falls, where one has to wade into the creek to get the best shot. Again, no bugs; however, we encountered a fine garter snake!



During mid-August my wife and I met our son at Twin Falls Campground, not far from Mt. Adams in southern Washington. I had never camped by a waterfall, but the noise caused me to use earplugs! But too it helped drown noise from the beer-drinking twits that were in the campsite nearest us. That was a special blessing while we sat by our campfire. We were on a waterfall hunt. One, Little Niagara Falls, was a special challenge that took two bushwhacking attempts to find, then necessitated fording the creek by slowly scooting along a small log. Along the way we found Tillicum Falls which, to quote from the Waterfalls Northwest website: “Reaching the base of the falls may or may not be possible. Either way reaching a view of the falls is difficult and strongly discouraged.” Ha! We saw several other waterfalls in the area and I found a nice big agate at the bottom of one of them. For sure my readers will be more interested in the copulating odonates! A good time was had by all, including Meg—she found new sleeping quarters.



Later in August, I flew to Arizona for a stay with friends Mike and Bonnie Irwin at their beautiful home in Vail. Mike was one of my roommates at UC Davis . . . . back in the “Dark Ages”. We went collecting most days, also attended “Infestation”, which has become an annual summer entomological affair at the Sierra Vista home of Pat Sullivan and Lisa Lee. Although southern Arizona technically was still in the severe drought category, nevertheless sufficient monsoon rains had fallen to make it quite green most places we went. I also had an opportunity to visit and work with some Buprestidae at the University of Arizona.



Kathy and I drove to Moscow again for a short stay during late September/early October. It was the last time I would see our dear friend Bill Barr, who, on December 17 at the ripe old age of 91, departed to chase that “Great Checkered Beetle in the Sky”. We will miss him greatly! We stayed with the Merickels—Frank is a beekeeper—even got out for a hike and some collecting because the weather was so nice. Mostly what we saw were yellowjackets, but the osier dogwood leaves were riddled with a small flea beetle. I even deigned to pick up a few Carabidae. On our way to Moscow, while we were hiking along an abandoned railway in eastern Washington, Kathy spotted the “Idol of Washtucna” . . . . and Meg spotted a large scruffy buck! Off she went (Meg, of course!) . . . . off I went after her, to no avail—I cannot keep up! But she circled around and joined Kathy on the railroad bed, far back the way we came.



On October 24 I flew again to Phoenix, hooking up with Dale for a week long jaunt to Baja California. We drove almost 2000 miles, entering at Algodones, California. We joined Mexico Hwy. 1 at about 1/3 of the way down the peninsula. Several years ago we found guava empanadas at Guerrero Negro, and found this nice little panadería and its delicious guava empanadas once more—actually, twice more! From San Ignacio we drove almost to Laguna San Ignacio (no whales this time of year), then down the Pacific Coast to Bahía San Juanico, where we collected a few shells and sand dollars. North of the town of San Juanico was the only place I found to collect, and then only a few specimens of two species, one a common buprestid, the other a not-so-common meloid. We drove a road that cuts through the Sierra Giganta via La Purísima to just south of Bahía Concepción, which was a new route for us seasoned aficionados of the peninsula. From there we continued northwestward on Hwy. 1 to Ensenada, then northward until we exited at Tecate. We saw few vehicles on the lonely Pacific route, and it was there we encountered ripe fruit of pitaya agria—unmolested by varmints! It was delicious. The peninsular landscape was very dry most places we visited, and yet there had been enough precipitation in the Sierra Giganta to promote good greenery and even some flowers. I thought there might even be a few buprestids on the wing, but none were seen here. At night in the sierra we camped at an abandoned (perhaps just for the season) rancho, then next night camped not far from a geothermal plant at the base of the Trés Virgenes volcanos north of Santa Rosalia. Our last camp was among the beautiful granite rock formations in the Cataviña area of the Central Desert, perhaps our favorite place on the peninsula.





To give Kathy yet another respite, in mid-November I drove to Reno with my fellow coleopterist, Alan Mudge, to attend the Entomological Society of America Meeting. As when we went there for the 2008 meeting, the weather was beautiful. We could not resist taking our colleague from Tennessee, Nadeer Youseff, for a hike. While we were gone, and to no surprise, it poured rain at home in NW Oregon! No bugs on this trip, of course, but truly it was entomological.



As I have said, we visited the coast quite often in 2011; however, after roaming the area for at least five years, photo ops seem diminished. A visit during March from our Arizona friends the Christensons, the Oregon Dunes, dragonflies feasting on dragonflies, odd trees, and oil beetles, those are some of the highlights. John Pinto lives nearby our place at the coast and is also a retired entomologist, and we went collecting together a few times this year. One of our highlights was the “Elephant Tree”, a remarkable red cedar that seems to have a safe haven at a Boy Scout camp. Something of special interest to us both is an oil beetle (family Meloidae) that I discovered last December 5 about  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile from Kathy’s and my coastal abode. It represented a new state record and about a 400 mile range extension from the nearest known collection in California (Pinto & Westcott, 2012, *The Pan-Pacific Entomologist* 87(3): 203–305 [2011]). I found the critters again during early December, including the mating pair shown below.



***THE END***

