CHRYSOMELA newsletter

Dedicated to information about the Chrysomelidae

Report No. 55 March 2017

ICE LEAF BEETLE SYMPOSIUM, 2016

Fig. 1. Chrysomelid colleagues at meeting, from left: Vivian Flinte, Adelita Linzmeier, Caroline Chaboo, Margarete Macedo and Vivian Sandoval (Story, page 15).

LIFE WITH *PACHYBRACHIS*

Fig. 1. Edward Riley (left), Robert Barney (center) and Shawn Clark (right) in Dunbar Barrens, Wisconsin, USA. Story, page 11

Inside This Issue

International Date Book

2017 Entomological Society of America
November annual meeting, Denver, Colorado

2018 European Congress of Entomology,
July, Naples, Italy

2020 International Congress of Entomology
July, Helsinki, Finland

Contributing to CHRYSOMELA

Accounts of chrysomelid beetles and research to CHRYSOMELA are welcome.

IMAGES: submit each image as separate TIFF files at **100-200 dpi.** Do not embed images into text files. A photo of the author of longer articles is recommended.

TEXT: submit article and figure captions as two **separate** word documents in **10 point Times Roman font**, with paragraphs separated by double spacing and **without indents.**

INTERNET citations: please remove all hyperlinks before submission. See a recent issue for citations format. Please indicate photographers and locality in figure captions. Submissions requiring much editing will be returned to the author(s). *'Recent Publications' column:* submit pdfs and a word doc list of titles.

Generally, each issue will be about 20 pages, to avoid slow downloading of large files from the Coleopterists Society website. Direct any questions and submissions to the editor at **insectrescons@gmail.com.** Inclusions are subject to the approval of the editor and the advisory committee.

Submission Deadlines: approximately April 1 for a June issue; approximately October 1 for a December issue

In the event of too few submissions, issues will be consolidated into a single publication.

The Editor's Page

Chrysomela is back!

Dear Chrysomelid Colleagues:

The absence pf Chrysomela was the usual combination of too few submissions, then a flood of articles in fall 2016, but my mix of personal and professional changes at the moment distracted my attention. As usual, please consider writing about your research, updates, and other topics in leaf beetles. I encourage new members to participate in the newsletter. A major development in our community was the initiation of a Facebook group, Chrysomelidae Forum, by Michael Geiser. It is popular and connections grow daily. Some of us are also on Twitter and are writing blogs (more links in the next issue). In 2014-2016, we had several meetings and symposia, some reported here. It was my great pleasure to meet many leaf beetle researchers in the last year. I hope we meet again soon in person, via Facebook, or in the pages of *Chrysomela*! Best wishes for 2017!

- Caroline S. Chaboo

A Small Hello!

Pierre and Madeleine Jolivet in Hungary (Photo: Theo Michael Schmitt).

The Newsletter CHRYSOMELA-Founded 1979-is published semiannully or annually, depending on submissions. It is hosted currently by the Division of Entomology, University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, NE. E-mail: insectrescons@gmail.com. This newsletter is sent to students of Chrysomelidae to encourage the exchange of ideas and to disseminate information on these insects. **Editor:** Caroline S. Chaboo, Lincoln, NE. **Advisors:** Federico Agrain, Mendoza; Vivian Flinte, Rio de Janeiro; R. Wills Flowers, Tallahassee; Elizabeth Grobbelaar, Pretoria; Alex Konstantinov, Washington; and Michael Schmitt, Greifswald. Past newsletters can be downloaded from the website of the Coleopterists Society (go to "Resources", then "newsletters").

The 2nd European Symposium on Chrysomelidae

Michael Schmitt (Germany)

On August 4, 2014, the 2nd European Symposium on the Chrysomelidae was held within the frame of the 10th European Congress of Entomology at York (England), organised by Michael Geiser (Natural History Museum, London) and myself. We had a half-day session with six talks, presented by four speakers of whom two – Caroline Chaboo and Margarete Valverde Macedo came from overseas. Michael G. and I had decided to dedicate this meeting to our honored senior colleague, Pierre Jolivet (Paris, France) and had invited him to present an introductory lecture. However, severe health problems prevented him from attending in person. But he had sent me in advance, his manuscript of his keynote lecture "Together with 30 years of symposia on Chrysomelidae – what do we know more about leaf beetles?" I read it out, accompanied by pictures highlighting some episodes of the history of leaf beetles symposia from 1981 to date. Caroline Chaboo (Lawrence, Kansas, USA) spoke about "The roles of phylogeny and ecology shaping cassidine beetle associations with diverse tropical vegetation" and on "The beetle families of Peru". Michael Geiser reported on "The Chrysomelidae collections of the Natural History Museum, London", while Margarete Valverde Macedo (Rio de Janeireo, Brazil) gave a talk on "Phenology of leaf beetles in a tropical montane forest in Southeast Brazil". The talk on "Functional morphology of the copulatory organs of a reed beetle (Donaciinae) and a shining leaf beetle (Criocerinae) using micro-CT" by Gabriele Uhl (Greifswald, Germany - my wife) and myself closed our symposium. We had an interested audience of about 30 colleagues (**Fig. 1**), including quite a number of figures from outside Europe, who contributed to lively discussions.

Fig. 1. *The audience at our 2nd Symposium on Chrysomelidae.*

Fig. 2. *Colleagues at the 2nd Symposium on Chrysomelidae.*

The University of York was an excellent venue for a scientific meeting, and the town of York offered countless opportunities for relaxed informal encounters in a historical surrounding. The leaf beetle gang made use of such opportunities and was supported on these occasions by nice people from allied taxonomic fields (see **Fig. 2**).

The contributions to the 2nd European Symposium on the Chrysomelidae are published as vol. 5 of **Research on Chrysomelidae i**n ZooKeys in 2015. This volume honors Pierre Jolivet for his tremendous contributions; he is leaving the board of editors for RoC issues.

Biomechanics of the hyper-elongated intromittent organ and spermathecal duct in Cassidinae and its evolutionary implications

Yoko Matsumura and Stanislav N. Gorb
(Kiel University, Germany)

The diversity of the genitalia in the subfamily Cassidinae is well described. Females have a long and highly coiled spermathecal duct (e.g. Bordy and Doguet, 1987; Chaboo, 2007; Borowiec and Pomorska, 2009), and males have a correspondingly elongated part of the intromittent organ called the flagellum. The lengths of both structures are positively correlated, which suggests co-diversification in length (Rodriguez et al., 2004). How such co-diversification evolved is an important question for biologists. A series of works by Dr. V. Rodriguez and colleagues focused on the cassidine species *Chelymorpha alternans* (Rodriguez, 1994, 1995a, b; Rodriguez et al., 2004) and aimed at answering the question. They clearly showed that females can actively select out males having a shorter flagellum when the females copulate with more than one male. Females of this species have an unusual habit that they sometimes excrete sperm during copulation. Females that excreted sperm from the males keep less spermatozoa in their spermathecal capsules in comparison to that of females that did not excrete sperm. The males, whose sperm are excreted, tend to have a shorter flagellum. Moreover Dr. Rodriguez cut the muscle of the spermathecal capsule and demonstrated that without the muscle females do not excrete sperm during copulation. This means that females are able to control sperm allocation. This model is a good example that cryptic female choice (Eberhard, 1996; Thornhill, 1983) promotes genital evolution.

The preceding studies established a unique opportunity to understand the diversification mechanisms by a combination of the results of previous studies and our biomechanical approach. The selection force detected by Rodriguez et al. (2004) should not act directly on the structures, but rather through their mechanics, performance, and finally functional efficiency. Moreover, the previous studies of cassidine genitalia strongly focused on the male part (Ah-King et al., 2014); however, male genitalia do not function alone, but rather through an interaction with the female genitalia. We considered that the biomechanical approach, which combines (a) detailed microscopy data about the diversified genital structures, (b) μCT and videorecordings of sexual interactions, (c) experimental information about material properties of different parts of genitalia and mechanics of different genital structures, and finally (d) numerical simulation of interactions between male and female genitalia will provide further steps explaining diversification mechanisms of the genitalia. Since 2014 we have worked on functional morphology and biomechanics of the hyper-elongated flagellum and spermathecal duct of *Cassida* beetles.

Males with such a hyper-elongated flagellum seem to be challenged by a length-related mechanical problem: flagellum insertion into the female spermathecal duct requires precise propulsion control. We examined the reproductive system of *Cassida* beetles mainly focused on *Cassida rubiginosa* and *C. vibex* by applying light and electron microscopy, computed tomography and numerical simulations. The morphological results support our hypothesis that the contraction of surrounding muscles along the ejaculatory duct, which provides storage of the flagellum, causes propulsion of the long flagellum during copulation (**Fig. 1;** Matsumura et al., 2016). It is a surprisingly simple mechanism to achieve the complicated task of flagellum insertion into the highly spiraled female duct. A micromechanical experiment and a material composition analysis using autofluorescence revealed a stiffness gradient along the flagellum, with the tip being softer than the rest (**Fig. 2;** Filippov et al., 2016; Matsumura et al., in prep.).

Using above results of our structural and experimen-

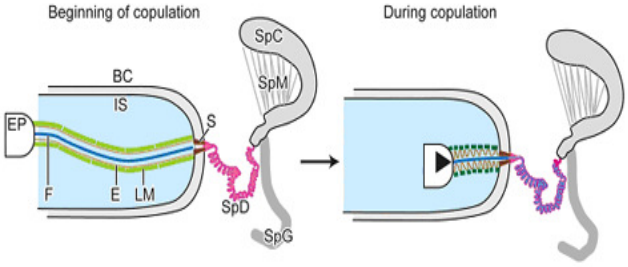

Fig. 1. Diagrams of the flagellum propulsion mechanism in Cassida *beetles (from Matsumura et al. 2016). The longitudinal muscles are relaxed (left) at the beginning of copulation. Then the contraction of the longitudinal muscles takes place and generates a force that pushes the flagellum from the end of the structure (arrowhead in right diagram) into the spermathecal duct (right). BC, bursa copulatrix; E, epidermal layer; EP, ejaculatory pump; F, flagellum; IS, internal sac; LM, longitudinal muscles; S, sclerite; SpC, spermathecal capsule; SpD, spermathecal duct; SpG, spermathecal gland; SpM, spermathecal muscles.*

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tal studies, we performed a numerical simulation of this micromechanical system. The conclusions based on the

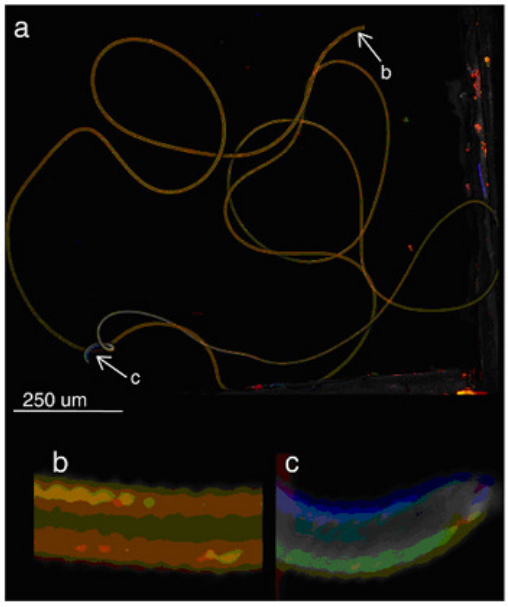

Fig. 2. Confocal laser scanning micrographs of a flagellum of Cassida rubiginosa *visualized with autofluorescence (from Filippov et al. 2016). The details of the base (b) and tip (c) of the flagellum were digitally enlarged. Different materials composing the insect exoskeleton have different autofluorescence, which enables us to visualize material composition difference within a structure. The blue colored tip indicates that the tip of the flagellum is composed of a large proportion of elastic and relatively soft protein resilin in comparison to the rest.*

simulation are as follows. Female spermathecal coils can cause higher energy expenditure for males to propel the flagellum in cases the coils were relatively small (Filippov et al., 2015). A flagellum with the stiffness gradient, which we found in reality, is inserted into the female duct considerably faster than flagella featuring other hypothetical stiffness conditions (Filippov et al., 2016). These findings tell us that the performance of genitalia changes depending on their shape, physical properties and their combinations. We started characterization of nano-/micro- structures and physical properties in different *Cassida* species, to understand their physical interaction during copulation and functional morphological diversity among species.

Additionally, we recently studied ejaculation mechanisms, which are important to understand diversification of reproductive systems in cassidine beetles (Matsumura et al., in prep.). The diameter of male and female elongated ducts varies among species. Based on detailed morphological data and some physical assumptions, we calculated forces necessary for ejaculation. These data also support our hypothesis that the functional mechanisms of male and female genitalia change depending on the corresponding characters of the other gender. For a comprehensive understanding of cassidine genitalia evolution, our on-going projects will investigate the crucial roles of male and female combinations of genital structures through their biomechanics.

Acknowledgements. I thank Prof. Dr. Alexander E. Filippov (numerical simulation) (Donetsk Institute for Physics and Engineering), Dr. Alexander E. Kovalev (experimental biomechanics), Dr. Jan Michels (confocal laser scanning microscopy), Dr. Hamed Rajabi (modelling), Esther Appel (scanning and transmission electron microscopy), and Theresa Gödel (atomic force microscopy) (Kiel University) for their collaboration.

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In Memoriam
Krishna K. Verma (1931–2013)

Pierre Jolivet (Paris, France)

My dear friend, Dr. Krishna K. Verma, died suddenly early morning of October 30, 2013, at the Bhilai Hospital, near Durg, India. He was 82 years old. He was cremated on October 31st 2013 at his home town, Durg. The news was then a shock to me. We oauthored many papers over the last 20 years, some with Dr. Christian Mille, on the fauna of New Caledonia, and some on the Eumolpinae. He was an honest and bright specialist.

Dr. Verma published 94 papers on Insect biology, 18 notes on general research, and 21 papers on Bioethics, his hobby. He was named an expert in Bioethics by UNESCO. He was Professor of Zoology in Durg, principal of a College. Among general biology topics, Verma was a specialist of speciation.

Krishna had a great talent for dissecting beetles and he studied especially the retournement of the aedeagus during development in several insects. The last paper was on Curculionidae with the University of Florida journal, Insecta Mundi, and coauthored with his daughter. Krishna contributed to all our papers on the fauna, biogeography, biology of New Caledonia beetles, together with Christian Mille the chief entomologist of the Fruit project in La Foa. We still have five coauthored entomological papers to be published.

I had sent him recently the text of our shared contribution to Eumolpinae and Spilopyrinae, in de Gruyter (ex Kukenthal) Treatise of Zoology. He would have been so happy to see those two chapters with the new volume Coleoptera III. We waited so long for this publication, coauthored with many specialists.

I had daily correspondance with Krishna and we met twice during the XVII and XVIII International Congresses of Entomology, in Hamburg and Vancouver. He published a book "Man in Biological Perspective" in Udaipur, India. We copublished two books, Biology of Leaf Beetles (2002, Intercept, Andover, U.K.) and Fascinating Insects: Some Aspects of Insect Life (2005, Pensoft & Bain Bridge Books, Sofia & Philadelphia). He contributed also to Capinera's Encyclopedia of Entomology and to all our collective books (with Kluwer, Brill, Pensoft, SPB, Springer, etc.).

Krishna is survived by his wife and his two daughters, both scientists in Bombay (Physics) and Udaipur (Biology), and by his students. A collective homage to him s being prepared in a book, thanks to Prof. Michael Schmitt.

May I repeat this sentence of Lamartine, the French poet:

Un seul être vous manque et tout est dépeuplé.

Only one being is wanting, and your whole word is bereft of people.

Yes for me the world is depopulated and I miss his knowledge, his enthusiam, his philosophy. Good bye Prof. Krishna Verma.

Editor's Note. Ron Beenen, Netherlands, kindly sent me a 1-page pdf with a brief orbituary published in India. The brief notes were written by his wife, Mrs. K.K. Verma, one of his daughters, Vbha Hari, and an Indian colleague, R.K. Varshney. I summarize these notes here:
Dr. Verma received his M.Sc. in Zoology from Sargar University (1956) and his Ph.D. in Entomology from Ravishanker University (1965). Then he taught for 35 years in government colleges. In 2007, he was recognized for his scientific contributions to Entomology, Zoology and BioEthics by the Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology, India. After Maulik's 3-volumes on Chrysomelidae in "Fauna of British India", Dr. Verma was the next great contributor on Indian Chrysomelidae.

Horst Kippenberg: The Senior Chrysomelidologist in Central Europe

Elisabeth Geiser (Salzburg, Austria)

Central Europe is the region with the highest density of Entomologists. In contrast, the density of Chrysomelidae species is there much lower than in many other regions. This situation results in very useful identification keys for central european insects. The most important key for Coleoptera is the series "Freude-Harde-Lohse: Die Käfer Mitteleuropas", which started in 1964. In the following 20 years, keys for each beetle family were published in 11 volumes. Then the early published keys were out-dated in many aspects and it was necessary to publish corrections and improvements. This process still goes on.

Fig. 1. *Horst Kippenberg (Photo: Theo Michael Schmitt).*

It needs deep knowledge of the objects and meticulous work to create a useful identification key. These keys are a basic tool for all aspects of biological science, especially in entomology. The most sophisticated experiments and analyses will be useless if your identification of the species you examine is wrong. Unlike than with articles on results of experiments, with elaborated identification keys of high quality, the author cannot increase his impact factors. Therefore the coleopterologist community should be very grateful to their colleagues who undertake this hard task which we need for our own work. One of these authors is Horst Kippenberg who created a great part of the improved keys on the Chrysomelidae of Central Europe.

Horst Kippenberg was born on 6th November 1937 in Berlin. Because of wartime circumstances he was moved to Calbe/Saale, a small town in Saxony-Anhalt. As a 12–year old schoolboy he was sent with his classmates to collect the Colorado beetle *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* on the potato fields. This species was an ordinary pest which needed to be annihilated, but H. Kippenberg found a colourful Carabidae (*Calosoma auropunctatum*), too. This specimen initiated his beetle collection.

In 1952 his family moved to Erlangen (Bavaria) and young Horst was still collecting beetles and identifying them with the "Reitter", the most comprehensive key to central European beetles at this time. Because he could not identify a specimen of waterbeetles (it was a female *Dytiscus marginalis* - Dytiscidae without the characteristic stripes) he inquired at the University of Erlangen. He was told the name of this specimen and – even more important for him - the name of an experienced coleopterologist in the nearby town of Fürth, Johann Hardörfer, who immediately supported this interested pupil and became his mentor and friend.

Some years later H. Kippenberg returned again to the University, but now to study physics at Erlangen and at Innsbruck (Austria: Tyrol), where he soon met the tyrolian coleopterologists. This was the start of some lifelong friendships with them, especially with Manfred Kahlen, a partner of many wonderful and exciting coleopterological excursions. In 1970 he graduated with a Ph.D. in physics. Then he returned to Erlangen and was employed in industry for material engineering and product development until he retired in 1997.

After collecting seriously for a while, every coleopterologist realizes that he needs to specialize on some taxa. The first choice for H. Kippenberg were the Curculionidae which lead to mail contact and later friendship with the Curculionidae expert, Lothar Dieckmann.

Fortunately, collecting Curculionidae requires examining plants meticulously. During a field trip in Chiemgau, Bavaria, H. Kippenberg collected blue leaf beetles. At home he started to identify them and found that this was very difficult. He didn't give up until he

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could identify each specimen including the female. It took him three years to be successful! These were five sympatric living species of *Oreina.* During this period, H. Kippenberg became an expert of this genus.

Then the head of the coleopterological department of the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology in Munich, Heinz Freude, realized that this young chap visiting the collection sometimes was able to identify *Oreina* and published his name as "Expert on Chrysomelidae" in a list of German coleopterologists. H. Kippenberg was shocked at first, but H. Freude said to him "You can identify the most difficult genus, therefore the other chrysomelids will be easy for you!"

Every chrysomelid specialist knows (and H. Freude was a specialist of Carabidae) that there are many more genera that are very difficult to identify, mostly in the Alticinae. Fortunately another young german chrysomelid specialist appeared, Manfred Döberl, who focussed on Alticinae. Therefore H. Kippenberg accepted to become a central european chrysomelid expert - exclusively of Alticinae. Later on his interests spread to the subfamily Chrysomelinae of the Palaearctic region, too.

Fig. 2. *Horst Kippenberg (standing) in heavy discussion with Manfred Doeberl (right). Andrzej Warchalowski (left) is contemplating over their arguments (Photo: Michael Schmitt).*

An entomologist needs colleagues for exchange of specimens, knowledge, literature, hints for field trips and to enjoy talking with others who have the same interests. Therefore several meetings and congresses are organized on regional, national and international level. Some of them are kept as holy as Christmas in the private schedule. For european coleopterologists, this is the annual meeting in Beutelsbach near Stuttgart (Theo Schmitt reports regularly about the chrysomelid group established there). H. Kippenberg visits these meetings regularly. All pictures shown there are from the Beutelsbach meetings.

Before 1989, due to the political situation in eastern Europe, it was difficult to be in contact with colleagues of communist countries. Mail contact was suspicious (for the intelligent agencies even entomological articles seemed full of secret hints coded in strange words) and most of the eastern colleagues were not allowed to visit western parts of Europe. But western inhabitants were allowed to visit the communist countries if they spent a lot of money each day. For scientific work on insects, especially in the topics of faunistics and systematics, it is essential to exchange knowledge and specimens and to work together on a broader geographical scale. This works by best with direct contact with colleagues of the other countries. Therefore in 1966 a very special scientific congress was established, the Symposium Internationale Entomofaunisticum Europae Centralis (SIEEC) which took place every two or three years in a town in one of the communist countries. There the specialists from the whole of Europe could meet each other. For the western visitors it was also very interesting to see the huge differences between the communist countries. Perhaps the most remarkable event was the congress in Budapest, August 1983, with 300 participants. H. Kippenberg eet famous experts as Zoltán Kaszab and Igor Lopatin and also his friend Andrzej Warchalowski from Wroclav (Breslau, Poland), whom he joined on several impressive field trips in the Karpathian mountains. Since the Iron Curtain was removed, the two friends now meet regularly in Beutelsbach.

Another important meeting for the international chrysomelid community was started in Hamburg (Germany) in 1984, during the 17th International Congress of Entomology. H. Kippenberg was one of the organizers of this first Symposium on Chrysomelidae which now regularly takes place associated with the ICE or another international congress. This congress was the starting point for a still growing global network comprising many colleagues. With the years it resulted in personal or at least mailing contacts with nearly all European and many international Chrysomelidean experts. Without their help studies often could not have been carried out.

Coleoptologists also have a private life, but this is heavily contaminated with entomological activity. H. Kippenberg married in 1971 and even during the journey following it a coleopterological meeting took place – visiting Sandro Ruffo and his assistant Mauro Daccordi in Verona. For holidays the Kippenbergs headed to mountain regions in central and south Europe which were nice surroundings for the family and interesting collection sites for *Oreina*.

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As can be seen from the literature list, H. Kippenberg always does the sometimes boring, scrutinizing, but so necessary work to solve problems which affect every scientist who works with these species. It is much easier to become famous with articles on experiments in an expensive laboratory even if such works are out-dated ten years later. The results of the papers of H. Kippenberg are useful for decades, never out-dated. The work of the (not only European) Chrysomelidologists could not reach such high quality if we hadn't the useful articles and keys for some of the most difficult species – elaborated by Horst Kippenberg.

Thanks to Theo Michael Schmitt who supported the author with the pictures from the Beutelsbach meetings.

Fig. 3. *Horst Kippenberg examines Chrysomelidae specimens attentively watched by Ron Beenen.*

DEDICATION OF BEETLE NAMES

Chrysomelidae:
Ambrostoma kippenbergi Daccordi & Ge, 2012: 341-342
Chrysolina kippenbergi Lopatin, 2008: 833
Diacantha kippenbergi Beenen, 2014: 83-86 (Entom. Blätter Col. 110)
Longitarsus kippenbergi Warchalowski, 1998: 351-354
Mandarella kippenbergi Döberl, 2016: 35-36 (Entom. Blätter Col. 111)
Odonteon kippenbergi Daccordi & Ge, 2013: 210-211
Curculionidae:
Acalles kippenbergi Dieckmann, 1982: 208-209
Hypera (Kippenbergia) Alonso-Zarazaga, 2005
Plinthus kippenbergi Meregalli, 1985: 81-82
Other beetles:
Formicomus kippenbergi Uhmann, 1978: 81-83 (Coleoptera: Anthicidae)
Scydmoraphes kippenbergeri Castellini, 1987: 119 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)

NAMES OF NEW TAXA DESCRIPTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Chrysomelidae
Cryptocephalus messutati, 2011
Cyrtonastes (Natocyrstes), 2010
Chrysolina (Bourdonneana), 2010, nom. nov.
Chrysolina (Colaphoptera) purpurascens muelleri, 2010, nom. nov.
Chrysolina (Chalcoidea) janbechynei murciana, 2012
Chrysolina (Chalcoidea) waldheimi, 2010, nom. nov.
Chrysolina (Chrysocrosita) sulcicollis przewalskyana, 2010, nom. nov.
Chrysolina (Gnathomela) igorlopatini, 2010, nom. nov.
Chrysolina (Jeanclaudia) neotibialis, 2010, nom. nov.
Chrysolina (Lopatinica), 2012
Chrysolina (Lopatinica) adzharica excavata, 2012
Chrysolina (Lopatinica) adzharica heinzi, 2012
Chrysolina (Lopatinica) boluensis, 2012
Chrysolina (Lopatinica) curvata, 2012
Chrysolina (Lopatinica) daccordiana, 2012
Chrysolina (Semenowia) freyensis, 2010, nom. nov.
Chrysolina (Sphaerochrysolina), 2010
Chrysolina (Taeniosticha) petitpierrei, 2004
Chrysolina (Cyrtochrysolina), 1994
Chrysolina, species incertae sedis: redtenbacheri, 2010, nom. nov.
Donacia (Arundonacia), 2015
Donacia (Askevoldia), 1994
Donacia (Brevidonacia), 2015
Donacia (Crassodonacia), 2015
Donacia (Extradonacia), 2015
Donacia (Flavodonacia), 2015
Donacia (Glabrodonacia), 2015
Donacia (Mergodonacia), 2015
Donacia (Smaragdonia), 2015
Donacia (Sotaiana), 2015
Gastrophysina 2010, subtribus nov.
Gonioctena (Brachyphytodecta) guangxiae, 2010, nom. nov.
Gonioctena (Brachyphytodecta) melanotus, 2010, nom. nov.
Gonioctena (Gonioctena) flavicornis borealicola, 2010, nom. nov.
Gonioctena (Spartoxena) aegrota litoralis, 2001
Gonioctena (Spartoxena) aegrota nana, 2001
Gonioctena (Spartoxena) aegrota nanula, 2010, nom. nov.
Gonioctena (Spartoxena) pseudogobanzi, 2001
Oreina (Protorina) ludovicae cantabricola, 2008
Oreina (Protorina) melancholica visoi, 2008
Oreina (Protorina) retenta tatrica, 2008
Pachybrachys seidenstueckeri, 1974 (P. mardinensis Weise)
Curculionidae
Hypera carinicollis bulgarica, 1986
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2004 Diversity of aedeagus shape in Slovenian populations of C*hrysolina purpurascens* (Germar) (Chrysomelinae) – New Developments in the biology of Chrysomelidae 659-665
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My Life with *Pachybrachis*

Robert J. Barney (West Virginia, USA)

My first job in entomology was working at the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) after graduating from the University of Illinois in 1974. Dr. Edward J. Armbrust hired me as a technician on a multi-state alfalfa weevil project. One of the participants in the lab was Dr. William Ruesink, who had an interest in chrysomelids, especially Hispines. He periodically went on collecting trips with Dr. John Bouseman, the beetle expert at INHS. Naturally, I invited myself on their trips and instantly fell in love with chrysomelids, and was particularly fascinated with *Cryptocephalus* and *Pachybrachis* beetles. I remember finding H. C. Fall's 1915 classic, "A Revision of the North American Species of *Pachybrachys*" in the INHS library and making a copy. Little did I know at the time that this would become my "Bible" for the next 40 years.

Figs. 2-3. Pachybrachis *adults.*

Part of my actual job was to monitor some alfalfa fields in southwestern Illinois. This was a weekly, 3-hour, overnight trip from Urbana in the spring and summer. Once I got the taste of collecting chrysomelids, we started looking for places to collect beetles on the way back home. I discovered Evers (1955) "Hill Prairies of Illinois" and we started making some detours on the trip back to many state parks, natural areas, and railroad prairies.

Having a wife, two kids, and a mortgage, I explored options to further my career. Not having good enough grades as an undergraduate to be accepted into the Department of Entomology at the University of Illinois, I decided to take some courses as a non-degree graduate student. I was fortunate to take Insect Ecology under Dr. Peter Price and Pest Management under Dr. Robert Metcalf. Still wanting an advanced degree but not wanting to uproot my family and quit my INHS job, I arranged to commute to the Department of Zoology at Eastern Illinois University, and pursue a MS under Dr. Michael Goodrich in 1977. Unfortunately, I had to use my alfalfa weevil-related research as my thesis rather than study beetles with Goodrich.

By 1982, and being 30 years old, I realized that it was now or never for a doctorate. Dr. Bobby C. Pass, Chair of the Department of Entomology at the University of Kentucky, was a collaborator on the multi-state alfalfa weevil project. He agreed to take me as a PhD candidate so long as I didn't need any supervision or direction. Of course he had no lab, but who could resist the $6400 stipend?

So, even though my first love was beetle taxonomy, I spent my entire professional career as an agricultural entomologist and administrator at Kentucky State University (KSU) and West Virginia State University (WVSU). However, I maintained my interest in leaf beetles, trading specimens with contacts on the back of the old Coleopterist Bulletin, like Y. Komiya in Japan, Dr. Lenczy in Arizona, and M. Döberl in Germany. My tropical collecting experience consisted of a two-week collecting trip from Caracas to Merida, Venezuela in 1986 with Dr. Paul Freytag. I religiously attended the noontime Chrysomelid Worker meetings at Entomological Society of America (ESA) meetings, but never got paid to work on beetles – until 2004.

As the Associate Research Director at KSU, one day the Director calls me into his office and tells me my appointment is now 75% Research/25% Administration. I believe it was to reduce the percentage of funds committed to administration, but now I had to develop a research program out of thin air. I needed to write a four-year research proposal that could be approved by peer-reviewers and then by a United States Department of Agriculture Program Leader to be able to use federal funds to support the work.

I decided to return to my love and develop a way to work on Chrysomelidae and get paid for it. I contacted the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission and they were thrilled to provide me access to their protected lands, and put me in contact with The Nature Conservancy and others. I was able to collect beetles in places no one had ever been before. I was living the dream. However, I was smart enough to know that I needed some real Chry-

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Fig. 4. Robert, Shawn, and Ed in Dunbar Barrens, Wisconsin, USA.

somelid experts to verify identifications.

My first contact was Dr. Shawn M. Clark of Brigham Young University. It just so happened that the 2004 ESA meeting was in Salt Lake City, Utah. I made a side trip to Provo and Shawn started my taxonomic education. After learning of my love of *Pachybrachis*, he said, "You've got to meet Ed Riley." I made a trip to College Station and learned how to dissect "dinks" in the Texas A&M University insect collection (it is virtually impossible to identify most *Pachybrachis* without examining the aedeagus). Shawn and Ed agreed to visit my make-shift lab in 2006 after the ESA meeting in Indianapolis, to review and correct my identifications. ESA was in Indy again in 2009 and they visited again. Thus was born the seven-part series, "Annotated List of the Leaf Beetles (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) of Kentucky" (Barney et al. 2007; 2008a,b; 2009a,b; 2010, 2011).

Sharing a passion for leaf beetles (they literally wrote the books – Riley et al. 2003, Clark et al. 2004), Shawn, Ed and I started making annual collecting trips in 2007 to various regions of the US. Sometimes we even had permits. What is more fun than spending 7-10 days, sunrise to sunset, collecting chrysomelids and talking nothing but leaf beetles?

So how did I end up working on *Pachybrachis*? It always seemed like the most abundant genus when out sweeping in the prairies, barrens, and other natural areas in which I collected, starting in the 1970s. Have you ever tried to identify any *Pachybrachis* specimens? Based primarily on specimens already identified in the INHS collection, and the help of Dr. Edward Balsbaugh, Jr., with virtually no formal taxonomic training, I published "Records of *Pachybrachis* in Illinois (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)" in the small journal "The Great Lakes Entomologist" (Barney 1984).

In 2015 I formally retired from WVSU as a Professor Emeritus so that I can devote all my energies to studying and publishing on *Pachybrachis*. With 108 loans from 37 states and 4 countries, I have worked with over 66,000 specimens of North American Pachybrachis. My concentration is on species found in the eastern US, which amounts to >75 species. The plan is to break the large number of species into species-groups, which are being published in the Coleopterist Bulletin. Ed and I published on the first group in 2015 to serve as the template. The final publication will be a summary of all the eastern US species with a key. I welcome comments on the works already in print, suggestions for the future, loans, and trades of anything pertaining to the genus.

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First record of *Ophraella communa* LeSage in Italy on *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L.

Marco Boriani (Italy)

Ophraella communa LeSage (Coleoptera Chrysomelidae Galerucinae) is recorded for the first time in Italy. This species, originates from the Nearctic region and reported also from China Korea, Japan and Taiwan, is new to the European fauna. *Ophraella communa* is an oligophagous insect that is reported to feed on some members of Asteraceae Heliantheae. Common Ragweed, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L., is an alien invasive weed with a reported high impact on spring-sown crops (especially sunflower) and on human health (due to its highly allergenic pollen). Outbreaks and damages on *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* in Northern Italy were observed. It was considered as a potential biological control agent of *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* for introduction into Australia. Now the species is most successfully used as a biological control agent in China and other countries.

Fig.1. Ophraella communa LeSage

Reference:

Boriani M., Calvi M., Taddei A., Tantardini A., Cavagna B., Spadoni Andreani F., Montagna M., Bonini M., Lommen S., Mûller-Schärer H. 2013. *Ophraella communa* segnalata in Italia su *Ambrosia*, L'Informatore agrario 34: 61. (In Italian)

Central European Leaf Beetle Meeting in 2014

Theo Michael Schmitt (Germany)

As in all the years since 1987, leaf beetle workers came to the annual convention of the Entomological Society of Stuttgart for their regular meeting at Beutelsbach (near Stuttgart). The faunistics working group discussed the planned publication of the joint paper that describes the project "ChryFaun" (faunistics of central European leaf- and seed-beetles) and serves as a possibility to refer to our database by citing it. This paper has appeared in the meantime (Schmitt et al. 2014). The database grew considerably during the past year as more than 30,000 records could be aded, which were provided by colleagues of our working group and by the Association of the Thuringian Entomologists. Presently, we have more than 107,000 records in the database. Under the guidance of Matthias Schoeller a digital key for the determination of Chrysomelidae from Central Europe is developing on (http://offene-naturfuehrer.de/web/Mitteleurop%C3%A4ische_Blatt-_und_Samenk%C3%A4fer_Chrysomelidae_sensu_lato. Hopefully, this new drive in our activities will continue.

In the general programme, two talks on leaf beetles were presented. Joachim Rheinheimer and Michael Hassler reported on the present state of the annotated catalogue of leaf beetles of Baden-Württemberg (the federal state in the very south-west of Germany). Michael Hassler had attended our ChryFaun-meeting, and we agreed on an intensive co-operation. Dieter Siede and Regina Jäckel reported on a successful combination of traditional morphological taxonomy and analysis of DNA sequences in separating two flea beetle species, *Altica lythri* and *A. chamaenerii.*

At least as important as the scientific talks is the informal exchange of ideas during breaks and in the evenings. As usual, a circle of chrysomelidologists gathered around a certain table in the back of the dining hall (**Figs. 1-2**). In the course of the years, we have become more and more friends, as we discuss not only on beetles but learn more about the private lives of others. As far as I see, we all enjoy that.

Reference:

Schmitt, M., Bäse, W., Beenen, R., Drovenik, B., Fritzlar, F., Geiser, E., Jäckel, R., Langer, M., Mauser, J., Ringel, H., Schöller, M., & Siede, D. 2014. Das Projekt ChryFaun – Faunistik der mitteleuropäischen Blatt- und Samenkäfer (Chrysomelidae s.l.). Entomologische Blätter und Coleoptera 110: 33-38.

Fig. 1. *The Beutelsbach Meeting 2014, from left to right: Uwe Heinig, Berlin (Germany), Andrzej Warchalowski, Wroclaw (Poland), Frank Fritzlar, Jena (Germany).*

Fig. 2: *The opposite side, from left to right: Joachim Mauser, Ballrechtingen-Dottingen, Regina Jäckel, Augsburg, Horst Kippenberg, Herzogenaurach (all Germany).*

The Ninth International Symposium on the Chrysomelidae Orlando, FL, USA, September, 2016

Caroline S. Chaboo (USA) and Theo Michael Schmitt (Germany)

The Ninth International Symposium on the Chrysomelidae started on 24 September, 2016, with an informal meeting of leaf beetle workers in Salon 15 of the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, FL, USA. Since ordering A/V equipment from either the congress organisers (the Entomological Society of America) or the Rosen Plaza Hotel was quite costly, we decided to gather around the screen of a laptop computer to watch souvenir photos from earlier meetings. After some minor confusion – caused by the fact that next to the convention center there is not just a Rosen Plaza Hotel but also a Rosen Centre Hotel, also containing a Salon 15 – nine colleagues from six countries met for a chat and had a fine time together (Figs. 1-9).

Fig. 2. *The informal meeting of leaf beetle enthusiasts on 24 September, 2016, at Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando. From left: Theo Michael Schmitt, Margarete Macedo, Vivian Flinte, You Li, Shawn Clark, Anthony Deczynski, Hume Douglas, Alejandra Trillo, and David Furth.*

Our symposium (no. 398) was scheduled on Wednesday, 28 September, attracted more than 40 people, and consisted of 11 oral presentations plus two posters (Fig. 2):

RuiE Nie, Xing-Ke Yang, Chinese Academy of Sciences; Alfried Vogler, The Natural History Museum: The relationship of Galerucini and Alticini based on mitochondrial genomes (Coleoptera: Chrysomeloidea: Chrysomelidae).

Jing Ren, Ming Bai, Xing-Ke Yang, **Si-Qin Ge**, Chinese Academy of Sciences: Geometric morphometrics of the hindwing shape of leaf beetles: Modularity of the hindwing pattern.

Caroline Chaboo, University of Nebraska: *Delocrania* Guérin, 1844, a genus at the transition from 'hispines' to tortoise beetles (Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae *s.l.*).

Michael Schmitt, Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität; Gabriele Uhl, Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität: *Oulema* taxonomy using microCT.

Geoffrey Morse, University of San Diego: Dynamics of diversification in the Bruchinae.

David Furth, Smithsonian Institution: Recent advances in the knowledge of Mexican Alticinae.

R. Wills Flowers, Florida A&M University: Opaque to CoL: A highly diverse coleopteran subfamily and its

Fig. 3. *Contributors to the 9th International Symposium on the Chrysomelidae on 28 September, 2016, from left: Adelita Linzmaier, Sara López-Pérez, Gael Kergoat, Cibele Ribeiro-Costa, Caroline Chaboo, Margarete de Macedo, RuiE Nie, Theo Michael Schmitt, Geoffrey Morse, David Furth, Thomas Wagner, Siqin Ge, R. Wills Flowers (not in photo: Alejandra Trillo).*

invisible digital footprint.

Alejandra Trillo, Gettysburg College: Fitness effects of polyandry in *Acromis sparsa* (Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae).

Margarete de Macedo, Vivian Flinte, Carolina Colares, André Abejanella, Carlos Vinicius da S. Gomes, Ricardo Monteiro, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro: Chrysomelidae (Coleoptera) ecology in a tropical montane forest in Southeast Brazil.

Thomas Wagner, Universität Koblenz-Landau: Quo vadis biodiversity? Species richness after twenty years of taxonomic revision on Afrotropical Galerucinae (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae).

Adelita Linzmeier, Universidade Federal da Fronteira Sul: Discovering a new Alticini frontier: Leaf litter- and moss-inhabiting species.

Isaac Jorge, **Cibele Ribeiro-Costa**, Universidade Federal do Paraná: Phylogenetic analysis on morphological characters and evolution in host-plant use of the seed beetle genus *Caryedes* (Hummel) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Bruchinae) (Poster).

Sara López Pérez, Ciudad Universitaria: Morphological phylogeny of Cassidini Gyllenhal, 1813 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae) (Poster).

For the first time in the history of the International Symposia on the Chrysomelidae, we had two presentations on seed beetles. Hopefully, this will mark the start of a long wanted inclusion of the Bruchidae/Bruchinae in the scope of our symposium. Of course, we leaf- and seed beetle people could meet and chat during the coffee break(s) and while roaming through the approximately 800 metres long hallway of the Orange County Convention Center. Nevertheless, a social highlight was one joint dinner at the Café Gaugin in the Hotel Rosen Centre (**Fig. 6**).

The proceedings of the Ninth International Symposium on the Chrysomelidae will be published in Research on Chrysomelidae (RoC) vol. 7, a theme issue of ZooKeys. It will be jointly edited by Caroline Chaboo and Theo Michael Schmitt. For author guidelines see http://zookeys.pensoft.net/about#Author-Guidelines. We ask all colleagues who want to contribute to submit their manuscripts until May 30, 2017 through the ZooKeys electronic submission system.

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Fig. 4. *R. Wills Flowers giving his talk.*

Fig. 5. *Si-qin Ge (left) and RuiE Nie (right).*

Fig. 6. *Dinner at Café Gaugin, from left: Siqin Ge (from back), Shawn Clark, Nicole Kalberer, Margarete de Macedo, Vivian Flinte, Douglas Hume, Thomas Wagner, Vivian Sandoval (from back), R. Wills Flowers, and David Furth.*

Fig. 7. *Michael Schmitt (left), Caroline Chaboo (center), and Paula "Alex" Trillo (right) giving her excellent talk.*

Fig. 8. *Lourdes Chamorro and Adelita Linzmeier*

Fig. 9. *Adelita Linzmeier and Michael Schmitt at one of many meals the group shared.*

In Memoriam
Manfred Döberl (1933-2016)

Theo Michael Schmitt (Germany)

Fig. 1. *Manfred Döberl at the coleopterists meeting at Beutelsbach, Germany, 30 October, 2004.*

Manfred Döberl, one of the leading taxonomic specialists on flea beetles (Galerucinae: Alticini), passed away on 12th of May, 2016. He had suffered from a disease of his legs for several years, could walk only with difficulty, but stayed in close contact with "his" beetles until the end of his life. He died at home in the circle of his family.

Manfred was born on 26th of January, 1933, in Kaiserslautern (southwest Germany) but moved to Bavaria as a child. He became a primary school teacher and settled at Abensberg (Bavaria) as a young man. At the age of 20 he discovered in the school library a book on forest insects and became infected immediately. Very soon he specialised on Chrysomelidae, especially on flea beetles.

Elisabeth Geiser published a laudation on the occasion of Manfred's 80th birthday (Geiser 2013) that also contains a complete list of his publications. An obituary in German appeared in Koleopterologische Rundschau (Geiser 2016). Elisabeth and I will jointly publish a more extensive necrology in the memorial volume that will be published in 2017.

Ron Beenen (Nieuwegein, The Netherlands), Bernhard Klausnitzer (Dresden, Germany), Alexander Konstantinov (Washington, DC, USA), and I will edit an issue of Entomologische Blaetter in memory of Manfred Döberl.

We invite everybody who would like to contribute to this volume to submit a paper to one of the editors: r.beenen@wxs.nl, bernhard@klausnitzer.org, alex.konstantinov@ars.usda.gov, michael.schmitt@uni-greifswald.de.

We appreciate submission of papers on any beetle taxon or general topic, as long as it is dedicated to Manfred Döberl's memory.

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In Memoriam
Walter Steinhausen (1919-2015)

Theo Michael Schmitt (Germany)

Walter Steinhausen was born in Dresden-Übigau (Saxony, Germany) on 17th March, 1919. Only after WWII, he could enter university and study Zoology, Botany, and Ecology at Hannover and Braunschweig. From the latter university he received his doctoral degree (Dr. rer. nat.) in 1950. In February, 1951, he found a position at the Schering company in West-Berlin, where he lived and worked for more than 30 years. The focus of his work was pest control, especially in the Tropics. For five years, he worked in Colombia and other South American countries. From 1963 his task was to test chemical agents against spider mites (Tetranychidae). After 1970, he established a documentation and a database on the success of different pest control methods and chemicals. He retired in 1981 and returned then to his old love, leaf beetles (Klausnitzer 2012).

Walter Steinhausen published on applied topics and on morphology and taxonomy of Chrysomelidae, especially Cassidinae. A major part of his publications is devoted to structure and mode of life of leaf beetle larvae. He raised and observed larvae of numerous species and described their habits and their morphological peculiarities. Towards the end of his period of publication he authored several extensive and detailed studies on morphology and taxonomy of chrysomelid pupae.

Walter passed away on 25th December, 2015. His collection is housed at the Zoologische Sammlung des Bayerischen Staates, Munich, Germany.

Fig. 1. Walter Steinhausen, at the meeting of the 14th Symposium Internationale Entomofaunisticum Europae Centralis (SIEEC), 9 September, 1994, Munich.

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Central European Leaf Beetle Meeting in 2015

Theo Michael Schmitt (Germany)

Fig. 1. The Beutelsbach Meeting 2015, from left to right: Horst Kippenberg (Herzogenaurach), Wolfgang Bäse (Lutherstadt-Wittenberg), Dieter Siede (Retterath), Uwe Heinig (Berlin), Der Teunissen (Eindhoven, The Netherlands), TheoMichael Schmitt (Greifswald), Matthias Schöller (Berlin), Joachim Mauser (Ballrechten-Dottingen), Andrzej Warchalowski (Wroclaw, Poland), Regina Jäckel (Augsburg), Matthias Borer (Basel, Switzerland), Mauro Daccordi (Verona, Italy), Elisabeth Geiser (Salzburg, Austria), Michael Geiser (London, UK), Thomas Wagner (Koblenz), Eva Sprecher-Übersax (Basel, Switzerland), Ron Beenen (Nieuwegein, The Netherlands), Michael Langer (Freiberg), Frank Fritzlar (Jena). Where no country is given: Germany.

From October 23-25, 2015, leaf beetle lovers from seven European countries gathered on the occasion of the 58th German coleopterists meeting in Beutelsbach near Stuttgart, south Germany. As usual, we had a chat on leaf beetles, especially on our faunistics project ChryFaun, ahead of the general meeting. The database ChryFaun was expanded last year with entries especially by three bachelor students at the University of Greifswald. Presently, it contains more than 166.000 records from more than 900 grid fields of 20 x 30 geographical minutes (of 1290 possible cells). This considerable progress was, amongst other factors, a result of a talk given by Theo Schmitt during the general programme on 28 years of the project ChryFaun. After the meeting, Charles Huber from the Bern Museum (Switzerland) spontaneously provided several thousands of records from Switzerland, as they are going to digitise the label data of their beetle collection.

Two other talks on Chrysomelidae were presented to the general audience: Regina Jäckel & Dieter Siede on "*Altica chamaenerii* – new for Central Europe, as revealed by the genes", and on "Leaf beetle sex under the microCT" by Theo Michael Schmitt. In addition, we had lots of informal discussion, as well as Suebian food and drinks, and fun.

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CHRYSOMELA Questionnaire

Please update the information you wish to appear in the next directory by sending an email or letter with the information below.

1. Date.
2. Name and mailing address (limit to six lines please).
3. Telephone number & **one** e-mail address (only those that can be printed in CHRYSOMELA).
4. Do you want your contact information available on the internet edition of CHRYSOMELA? (YES or NO)
5. Research activities and Interests (general research, current projects, future plans, chrysomelid groups, geographic areas of interest, groups you are willing to identify).
6. Literature which you want or wish to share (give complete citation).
7. Specimens which you wish to borrow, exchange, etc. (be specific).
8. News, notes and general information of interest to chrysomelid colleagues (send electronically as a separate file, or as a separate sheet if possible).
9. Recent publications on Chrysomelidae (Send reprints, pdfs to address below. Or send exact and complete citation).

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