

The Entomological Society of Manitoba *Newsletter*



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About the ESM Newsletter

The Entomological Society of Manitoba Newsletter is published three times per year. It is a forum whereby information can be disseminated to Society members. As such, all members are encouraged to contribute often. The Newsletter is interested in opinions, short articles, news of research projects, meeting announcements, workshops, courses and other events, requests for materials or information, news of personnel or visiting scientists, literature reviews or announcements and anything that may be of interest to ESM members.

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Important

PLEASE NOTIFY US OF
ANY CHANGES IN
ADDRESS

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Note from the Editor

Greetings fellow ESM members. Winter is hopefully on the way out and in no time the bugs will be out feeding and breeding again. This means another issue of the ESM newsletter. The first issue since the joint meetings of the Ent. Societies of Canada and America in Montreal. Let me tell you fellow members, what a fantastic set of meetings they turned out to be. If I had one complaint it was that beer was a little bit expensive (oops, wrong report). As one would expect, the meetings were dominated by the ESA and it's membership but the Canadians managed to put in an excellent showing with our talks and

the Canadian Pavilion. The addition of John Acorn's performances helped boost the number of attendees roaming our displays. The huge number of sessions running concurrently was also overwhelming. So many interesting talks, but all at the same time or within minutes of each other and occurring at opposite ends of the conference center. I also spent some time at the Montreal Insectarium where I ate some insects and met its founder, Georges Brassard (definitely a highlight!!). I have met few people as passionate about entomology as Mr. Brassard.

At this time I would like to encourage members to help me out and make submissions to the newsletter. Any articles or reports that you feel would be interesting to members can be e-mailed to me. Please enjoy this brief issue of the newsletter.

Jason Diehl,
Newsletter Editor
diehl55@hotmail.com

Report of Extension Activity

During the period from Jan. 1, 2000 to Oct. 11, 2000 a total of 569 extension calls were received by the Ent. Dept. "Bugline". Approximately 80 percent of these calls were received during the four-month period from May-August of 2000. The majority of calls dealt with identification of insects found inside people's homes or in their yards or gardens. Forest tent caterpillar was very abundant in early summer of this year, resulting in approximately 40 calls being received. Calls related to ticks, bees/wasps and spiders were also among the most common.

In addition to extension calls, requests for insect related information, tours of the J. B. Wallis museum, and youth encouragement committee bookings were also received. Insect display material was also prepared for students of the Mini-University program. Many insects, of which there are few specimens, were also collected for the Dept. of Entomology's teaching collection. This is an important activity now that students taking the old insect taxonomy course taught by Dr. Roughley are no longer replenishing the collection.

A breakdown of the extension calls is provided below.

Info. Requests/Insect ID/General Questions	107
Insects in Houses	55
Bees & Wasps	52
Spiders	47
Forest Tent Caterpillar	39
Insects attacking Trees & Shrubs	34
Tick Questions	33
Diptera	32
Ant Questions	31
Butterflies/Moths	27
Caterpillars	25
Garden Insects	22
Slugs/Night crawlers	15
Insects in Lawn	11
Mice	10
Referrals	9
Aphids	8
Museum Tour Requests	5
Human Parasites (other than ticks)	5
Ostrich Egg/Dead Bird Calls	2
Total	569

Jason Diehl,
Extension Entomologist,
University of Manitoba

Committee News

A number of changes have been made to the ESM Executive and Committee Chairs for 2000-2001.

Executive Officers

President - Ian Wise
Past-President - Patricia MacKay
President-Elect - Paul Fields (pfields@em.agr.ca)

Executive members:

Member-at-large - Rheal Lafreniere

Regional director - Bob Lamb

Executive staff:

Secretary - Noel White

Treasurer - Bill Preston

Proceedings Editor -

Desiree Vanderwel

Committee Chairs

Youth Encouragement &

Public Ed.- Lisa Baspaly

(umbaspa0@cc.umanitoba.ca)

Social - Michael Alperyn

(malperyn@hotmail.com)

A new Chair for the Scientific program will be appointed shortly. The remaining positions have not changed from last year.

Endowment Fund - Blaine Timlick

Finance - Blaine Timlick

Newsletter - Jason Diehl

Archives - Rob Roughley

Scholarship & Awards -

Richard Westwood

Fund-raising - Joel

Gosselin

Nominating - Marj Smith

Membership - Tannis

Mayert

Scrutineer - Colin

Demianyk

Ian Wise, President ESM

Passing of Walter Askew

The ESM lost a dedicated member of the Society with the recent passing of Walter L. Askew. Walter, affectionately known as

Wally to his many friends, passed away December 6, 2000 while visiting family in Santa Cruz, California. He was 71 years old. Wally was from Bengough, Saskatchewan. He attended Brandon College from 1947-1950, and after a stint as a student assistant at the Dominion Entomological Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture and a mosquito control field supervisor for the City of Brandon, Wally joined the federal government and remained with Agriculture Canada until his retirement in 1987. In 1957 he moved with the insect lab to the Dominion Rust Laboratory, later renamed the Winnipeg Research Station, concentrating on the management of various insect pests of canola, sugar beets, sunflowers, wheat and vegetable crops. Wally served with distinction from 1976 to 1987 as the Treasurer of the ESM, being honored by the Society upon his retirement. A dedicated entomologist, Wally spent many weeks during the summer in the 1950's holed up in a one-room shack near Altona with Willard Allen surveying for insects. He could never pass up an opportunity to check fields, particularly when traffic was being held up for one reason or another. Wally was always very helpful and cooperative when

approached, and enjoyed a wide array of hobbies including photography, fishing, bowling, watercolors, woodwork, and jewelry making. He had moved to Victoria, B. C. 3 to 4 years ago, and is survived by his wife May, 4 children, and 6 grandchildren.

Submitted by **Ian Wise**

Caterpillar Pests **Beware: New Fungal Strain is Out to Get You**

The discovery of beneficial fungi that produce mycoinsecticides brightens the future of environmentally friendly controls for insect crop pests, Agricultural Research Service scientists report.

Mycoinsecticides are fungal sprays. When applied to insect-infested plants, fungal spores attack the pests by penetrating their outer cuticle. Then the fungus eats them from the inside out. Spores from dead insects can survive to reinfect subsequent pest generations. For example, one new strain of the *Beauveria bassiana* fungus--known as BB-1200-- appears to be more effective in curbing caterpillar pests than its close relative, the commercially available GHA strain.

Long-standing collaborations between ARS scientists at the U.S. Plant, Soil and Nutrition Laboratory, Ithaca, N.Y., and Mycotech Corp., Butte, Mont., led to the discovery that spores of *Beauveria* strain GHA can control many important insect pests of agricultural crops like cabbage, broccoli, cucumber and greenhouse ornamentals. This discovery led to developing the commercial products Mycotrol and BotaniGard, which have been registered for use in the United States, Mexico, and other countries for biological control of grasshoppers, whiteflies, aphids, thrips and diamondback moths.

After GHA's discovery, the search intensified for a more virulent, broad-spectrum mycoinsecticide effective against a large group of lepidopteran (caterpillar) pests. In June 1999, scientists in ARS' fungal-screening program at Ithaca discovered the high virulence and exceptionally broad lepidopteran host range of the new *Beauveria* BB-1200 strain, originally taken from a diamondback moth. Laboratory bioassays showed BB-1200 consistently exhibited virulence equal to or greater than the GHA strain against all lepidopteran pests tested. Included were fall

armyworm, beet armyworm, black cutworm, corn borer and cabbage looper-pests not highly susceptible to GHA. These lepidopteran defoliators are among the most destructive pests of important crops like corn and cabbage, costing several billion dollars in losses each year.

For more details, see the November 2000 issue of Agricultural Research magazine. ARS is the chief scientific research arm of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

by **Hank Becker**
November 2, 2000

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ARS U.S. Plant, Soil,
and Nutrition
Laboratory, Ithaca,
N.Y.,
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**DEPARTMENT OF
ENTOMOLOGY
SEMINAR SERIES
Winter 2001**

Seminars are held in Room 220, Animal Science/ Entomology Building. Coffee and doughnuts are served at 10:00 a.m. Seminars begin at 10:10 a.m

Tuesday, 20 February
Rick Baydack, Associate Director, Nat. Resources Institute Invited speaker.

Tuesday, 27 February
K.S. Hemachandra,
Dept. of Entomology,

University of Manitoba Literature review. The parasitoids complex of *Delia* spp.: potential for biological control.

Tuesday, 6 March
David Ostermann,
Dept. of Entomology,
University of Manitoba Literature review. *Varroa jacobsoni* Oud. as a vector of the honey bee pathogens, chalkbrood and nosema.

Tuesday, 13 March
Katharine Peech,
Dept. of Entomology,
University of Manitoba Research Seminar

Tuesday, 20 March
TBA

Tuesday, 27 March
David Ostermann,
Dept. of Entomology,
University of Manitoba Research seminar.

Thursday, 29 March
Markus Dyck, Natural Resources Institute Possible effects of tundra vehicle activity on polar bear behavior and/or physiology at Churchill.

Tuesday, 3 April
Pat MacKay, Dept. of Entomology, University of Manitoba

**Ent. Soc. Alberta
Profile**

The ESA was organized on November 27, 1952, at a meeting held in Lethbridge, AB, Canada, as an affiliate of the Ent. Soc. of Canada. A certificate of incorporation was obtained under the Societies Act of

Alberta on February 19, 1953. The membership of about 70 people at that time consisted mainly of Dominion (Federal) entomologists at the Science Service Laboratories in Lethbridge (now an Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Centre), Suffield Research Station, the Forest Zoology Laboratory in Calgary, and students and staff from the University of Alberta. One of the prime motives for establishing the Society was to encourage interest in amateur entomology, which had declined from its earlier vigor.

The object of the Society is to foster the advancement, exchange, and dissemination of the knowledge of insects in relation to their importance in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, public health, industry and for its own sake, among the people of the Province of Alberta.

Any persons interested in entomology may become a member by contacting Greg Pohl, #62 Greenwood Estates, 52152 RR 225, Sherwood Park, Alberta, T8C 1C6, tel 403-435-7211; e-mail gpohl@nrca.gc.ca.

51st Annual Meeting
Joint Meeting of the ESC & ESO. 21-24 October 2001 Niagara Falls, Ontario. Sheraton Fallsview Hotel.

New Members

The ESM would like to welcome a total of 14 new members this year. The new members include:

Alperyn, Michael
Borkowsky, Christie
Dyszy, Katarzyna,
Hemachandra, K.S.
Mazurat, Steven
McRae, Ian
Mousseau, Tonya
Offman, Steve
Pillai, M.A.K
Raj, Philip Sridar
Saunders, Diana
Shaddock, Jeff
Uddin, Jashism
Wade, David

Michael Alperyn,
Social Committee

FREE Entomological Reprints.

About 5000 entomological reprints from dating from 1950 to 1975 will be recycled, unless they can find a home. These reprints were collected by entomologists working at the Agriculture Canada Research Station, and deal mainly with field crop protection. If you are interested contact

Paul Fields,
pfields@em.agr.ca,
204-983-1468.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Sam Loschiavo on receiving the Order of Canada for his work on the early detection of insect infestations in grain and his extensive volunteer work, such as being one of the founding members of Folklorama. He will receive the award from the Governor General of Canada at a ceremony in Ottawa at Rideau Hall this May.

Submitted by Paul Fields, 195 Dafoe Rd.
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Reminder

Visit the ESM website which is maintained by Paul Fields. The newsletter is available for viewing or downloading on the

Societies website in .pdf format. Check out current and past issues at <http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/esm/>