

IDAHO ENTOMOLOGY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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October and November 2007

The Idaho Entomology Group (IEG) is composed of professional and non-professional people interested in any facet of the study of insects. Participation is not restricted to Idaho. Membership dues are \$5 / year (non-domestic E-subscriptions only), used to cover costs of the bimonthly newsletter. Application can be made to any officer (see below) or the Idaho Entomology Group, c/o Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History, The College of Idaho, Caldwell, ID 83605, USA. **Materials for publication** (e.g. important dates, summaries of meetings, references, publications of members and others, collection records, etc.) should be sent directly to the Editor. Deadline for submission is the 20th of every second month. Back issues are available at cost (contact: William H. Clark, OJS Museum of Natural History, The College of Idaho, Caldwell, ID 83605). Advertisements are included in the *Newsletter* at the Editor's discretion when items are thought to be within the membership's interest. There is no cost for advertisement, deference in publication is given to members. The IEG is an affiliate of the Idaho Academy of Sciences.

2006 OFFICERS: **PRESIDENT**, James K. Ryan, 6614 Newman St., Boise, ID 83704; jameskryan@hotmail.com; **SEC./TREAS.**, Barbara Alexander, 2715 Snowflake Dr., Boise, ID 83706 ☎: 208-344-6017, 208-863-4024 (cell), bmerrill@cablone.net; **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**, Paul Blom, 1107 Grant Ave., Prosser, WA 99350-1115 ☎: 509-788-0181/786-9358, e-mail pblom@BioDataManagement.com.

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----- C A L E N D A R -----

Nov	3	OJS Museum Workday
Dec	1	OJS Museum Workday
	1	IEG Annual Holiday Party
	5	IEG Meeting - Apollo College
	9-13	ESA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
2008		
Jan	7-8	Annual PNW Insect Management Conference
May	25-30	NABS Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City.

----- WEST NILE VIRUS IN IDAHO -----

There will be an I.E.G. seminar on Wednesday, 5 December at 7:00 pm on West Nile Virus. This will be held in Rm 141 of Apollo College. The college is located at 1200 N. Liberty, Boise, ID. Turn south off Fairview at Zamzow's (across I-84 from St. Alphonsus Hospital) and at the end of the short road is the college.

Four speakers will give approximately 10 minute presentations. I will introduce the speakers, then describe the 1999 discovery of West Nile in New York City, and conclude with a historical impact summary of Yellow Fever and malaria in the U.S. David Fotsch (alternatively Nikki Sakada), an epidemiologist from Boise

Central District Health, will inform about West Nile disease in Idaho. Ed Burnett, director of the Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District, will describe methods used to suppress vector mosquito populations. Desiree Keeney of Ada County Pest Control will identify local mosquito control issues.

The audience will include staff and students of the college as well as I.E.G. members. This is an important topic that I.E.G. members should have first-hand information about, and these speakers are people who can benefit from the collective wisdom of our membership.

----- IEG ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY -----

Al and Pat Gillogly will host the I.E.G. Holiday Party on Saturday, December 1, 2007, starting at 1800 (= 6PM). Their home is located on the Boise Bench at N43° 37.260' W116° 14.693', elevation 2750'; the traditional designation is - 1711 N. Fowler Street. This is just 2.5 blocks NW of the corner of Fairview and Orchard, and is close to Paul and Kathy Castrovillo's home. See maps on page 48. In accordance with tradition, this will be a potluck affair with BYOB. The Gilloglys' (actually Pat!) will prepare a meat dish and would very much appreciate RSVPs to 377-3567 or gillogly@cablone.net so that they can gauge the quantities needed...but come anyhow if you forget to Respondez Vous.

Bring entertaining slides, disks, and stories to share. If you will need a projector/screen, please let Al know well in advance!

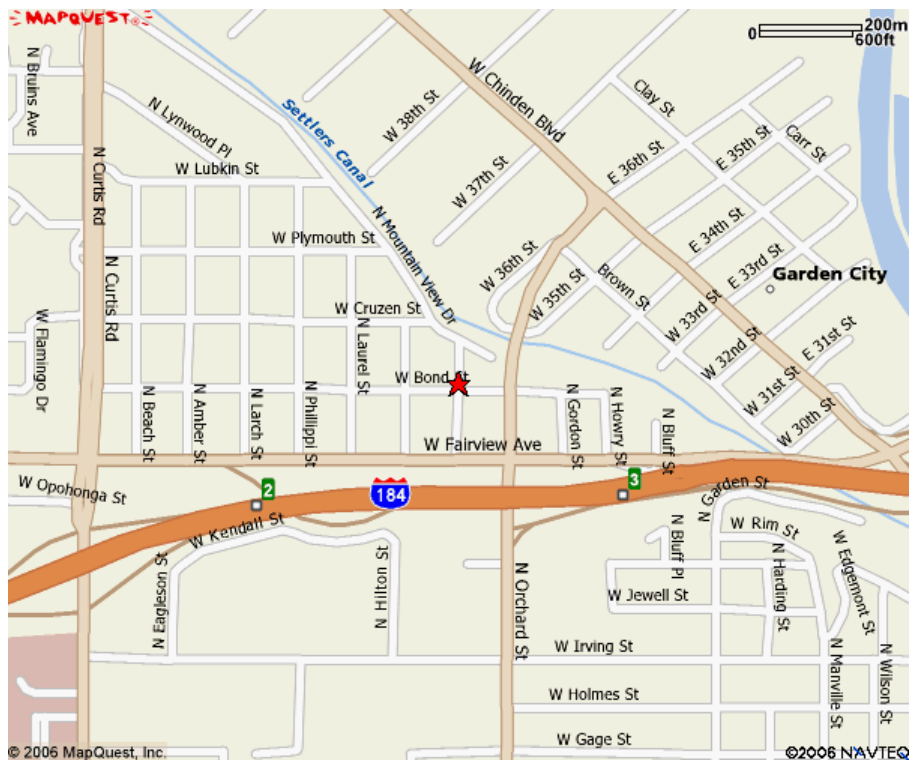
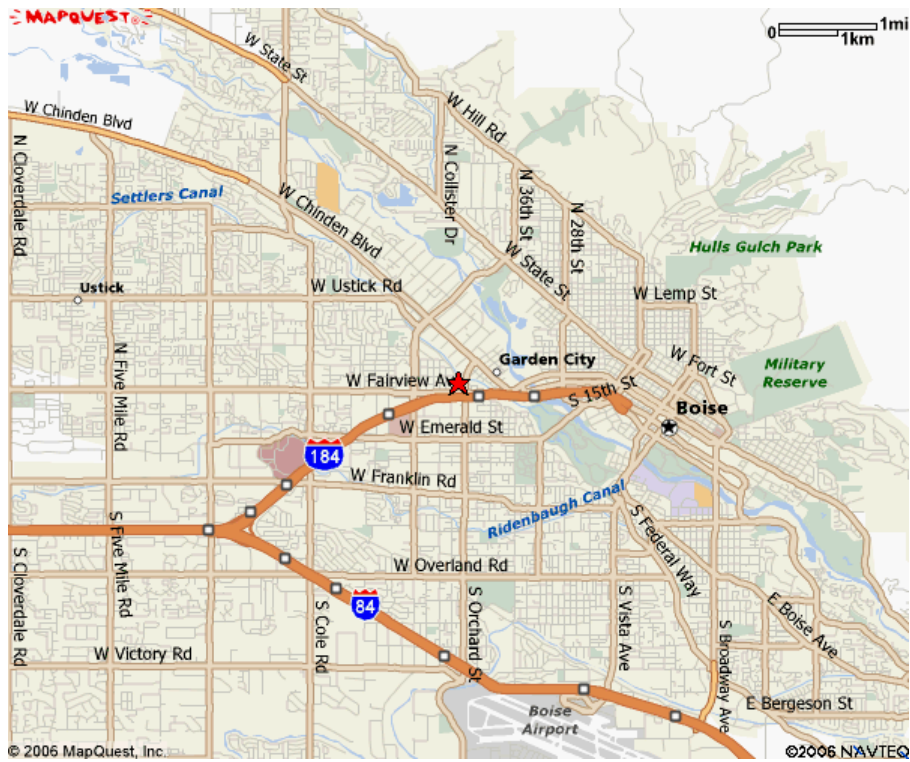
This is early in the month to avoid conflicts with the Entomological Society of America (ESA) meetings in San Diego.

----- TREASURER'S REPORT -----

\$ 431.50 with all bills paid.

----- IEG ANNUAL PARTY DIRECTIONS -----

The following 2 maps are intended to help you get close to the Gillogly Digs. "Close" because AI says that Mapquest gets you only to within 50-75 m; then its up to you to compare house numbers until you find the right one!! Of course, those of you with GPS abilities can use the coordinates AI provided on page 47 in this issue!



----- BEETLE HAPPENINGS -----

Just a quick update to assure you that I have not been gathering moss. The last 12 months have been very productive with world beetles. Discovered two new genera of Asian Chelonariidae; new genera of Pterogeniidae from China; a new genus of Neotropical Dryopidae; new genus of Asian Dryopidae; a new genus of Bothrideridae from Cameroon; only world Curculionidae (weevils) with pectinate antenna; a new genus Aderidae from Cameroon; and, the piece de resistance, a Neotropical Nitidulidae, most likely a new tribe of Nitidulinae, which expands the scope and habitat of this group in a direction heretofore unknown. The Panama nitidulid sat in my Bothrideridae holdings for over a decade and did not recognize it's significance until I recently revisited my bothrids. Andrew Cline (CA) indicated he looked at 40 to 50 thousands nits from Panama and Costa Rica, for his PhD on Nitidulidae and my specimen is the first known. Hopefully more incorrectly placed specimens will surface.

The only other world Curculionioidea is a Brentidae from Australia where the males have a single pectinate antenna with no antennal club, whereas the Borneo Curculionidae have a compact three segmented antennal club. Purchased some miscellaneous beetles in a single packet over two years ago, and just on whim revisited the packet with a quick look, and with the right perspective something caught my eye about this weevil where the antenna was tucked in grooves under the head, and thought it had to be debris or cotton fibers, but removed and relaxed and bam the weevil revealed. Sheer luck again. Just when you think you have a good grasp of Coleoptera, they make you look foolish. Most of these beetles are picked up from various beetle specialists discards, with a little wheeling and dealing. I shutter to think of all the coleops that are being lost or going undiscovered, which is small in comparison to all biology that is going to be lost in next few decades.

AI Allen

----- PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS -----

- Hinman, H. and **Hoheisel, G.-A.** 2007. Cost of establishing and producing sweet cherries in central Washington in 2007. Washington State University Farm Business Management Reports EB2026E: 51 p.
- Tarara, J.M. and **Hoheisel, G.-A.** 2007. Low-cost shielding to minimize radiation errors of temperature sensors in the field. HortScience 42.6:1372-1379.

----- O.J. SMITH -----

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY NOTES
(THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO)

Museum ☎: (208) 459-5507,
email bclark@collegeofidaho.edu.

<http://www.collegeofidaho.edu/campus/community/museum/>

** MUSEUM MONTHLY VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

For the Workday Schedule see the Museum's **NEW** Event Web Page:

<http://www.collegeofidaho.edu/campus/community/museum/event.htm>

The Museum is open all day on Workday Saturdays, 8 AM until late afternoon. Enter via west basement door. We have a variety of Museum tasks that need volunteer assistance. We currently need someone to construct wooden bases for displays. We have tasks for students and non-students alike. We need volunteers to assume a variety of Museum duties and responsibilities. We have the following needs: Plywood, particle board, Masonite, 1x2" stock lumber, electrical fixtures, bookshelves for journals and funds for specific Museum projects.

We supply coffee and hot water for drinks as well as a taco lunch for volunteers. We usually have a brief research seminar at noon. The Museum collects aluminum for recycle. Please leave in Museum or contact Bill Clark (208-375-8605), John Keebaugh (208-459-5507), or Dr. Eric Yensen (208-459-5331).

Bill Clark

**COMING 2007 LUNCH SEMINARS

- | | | |
|----------|---|---|
| November | 3 | No Lunch or Seminar - scheduled presenters will be attending Carl Cannon's Memorial Service |
| December | 1 | Alan Gillogly - "Biology of Passalid Beetles." |
| January | 1 | Dr. David M. Ward, Jr. - "Baja California Travels and Entomology." |

----- MEMBERS IN THE NEWS -----

Chuck Baker was quoted in the article Idaho Statesman article "Widespread use of Bt may be killing off hornworms" (Margaret Lauterbach, 14 October). An excerpt: "Charles Baker, a retired entomologist from Boise State University, suspects that the extensive use of *Bacillus thuringiensis*, or Bt, is the cause of the hornworm's vanishing. Hornworms are easily hand-picked, but some people spray or dust plants whenever any unwanted creature appears." The article is concerned that there have been no sightings of the tomato hornworms in the Boise area this year. While the author recognizes that this species is an important pest, she suggests it may be a bioindicator in the gardening world analogous to the canary's role in the mines.

----- "GO WEST YOUNG MAN" -----

Those of you heading through WA state from now through December may want to swing by the Tri-Cities and stop at the WSU campus. The Chancellor has initiated an art show series which this fall includes Tracy Horner's *Insect Mandala* and *Meet the Beetles*. The art is on display in the East Building of the campus with hours 0700 - 2200 weekdays and 0830 - 1600 Saturdays. For more information go to the Exhibition Center web page

<http://www.tricity.wsu.edu/artgallery/current.html>

-- THREE STOOGES BUY A MICROSCOPE

It happened. I bought a research-grade Leitz microscope on eBay for \$790.01 that would otherwise have sold for \$300. Three ostensibly intelligent scientists--Robin Leech, Al Gillogly and myself--collaborated to create this situation. Here's our story.

Robin (a.k.a. spiderman, an eminent Canadian arachnologist) knew from me that Al Gillogly wanted a good microscope for his passalid beetle research. He spotted a Leitz on eBay, the same type of excellent microscope that he used--and still owns--for his thesis research on amaurobiid spiders. "Tell Al to check it out!" When Al and I looked it up, Al found a Wild M-8 for sale. He had wanted an M-5, so the M-8 looked good to bid on. I have a nice Zeiss. Neither of us were excited about the Leitz.

The next day, with the auction closing in 24 hours and Al leaving for Alaska in 36 hours, I thought "I could get the Leitz and use it in the O.J. Smith museum!" Al's thoughts changed too. He decided to bid. The seller in Toronto had a \$300. reserve minimum, which Robin offered at near closing. Al countered. Robin rebid. This continued till the closing seconds of the auction when Al offered \$780. Intensely competitive Robin topped him as the auction closed.

Al was furious at some Canadian idiot named 'frozen spider'. Robin was gleeful at his instantaneous bidding coupe. I paid \$ 500 more than needed. In this age of instantaneous communication the human element remains a factor. We made the seller in Toronto happy! Moe, Larry and Curly couldn't have done better.

When the Leitz arrived the optics were nothing special. One side, with the adjustable ocular, was notably less clear than the other. Inspection revealed hardened grease on the bottom element of this ocular. I presume the original owner tried to clean the surface with too much xylene, which washed grease onto the bottom of the lens. This was probably done repeatedly, and eventually the scope was declared to be junk. I cleaned it with alcohol, Q-tips and gauze. It has superb optics, crystal clear. It is still a good deal at the price that I paid!

James Ryan

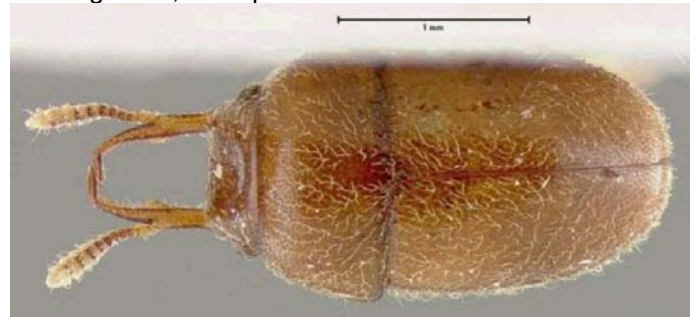
----- MORE BEETLE HAPPENINGS -----

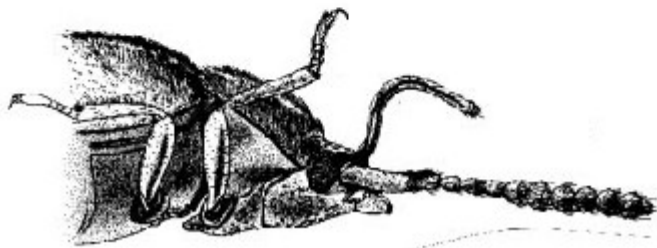
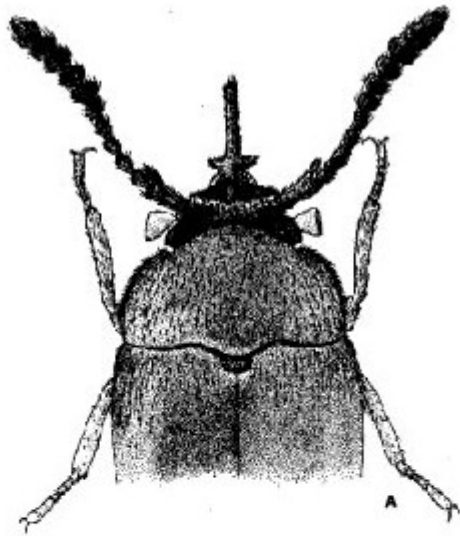
Another significant interesting discovery of 2004 was the beetle family Cerophytidae in Africa. Cerophytidae was revised worldwide in ***Systematic Entomology***, 2003, **28**, 375-407 by Cleide Costa, and et. al, where in the single world genus *Cerophytum* was split into three separate genera, *Cerophytum* Japan, Europe, and USA, Neotropical *Brachycerophytum* and *Phytocerus*. There was no mention of this family in Africa. In 2004 I received a miscellaneous beetle from a Czech, Ivo Jenis, who suspected it might be a Ceryophytidae, and which I confirmed it to be a new genus of Cerophytidae and first ever recorded from Africa. Cleide Costa (BZ) was

informed of this discovery, and apparently he found other specimens in the French National Museum. Status of formal description, unknown. Image of this cerophytid below.



I also received some miscellaneous China beetles from Ivo Jenis out of which a new genus of Pterogeniidae surfaced. One pair was recovered and sent to Ivan LOBL, who described it *Leangenius apterus*, ***Entomological Problems***, 35.2:153-155, December 2005. Strangely, he makes no acknowledgement where he received this pair, perhaps, they appeared before him by magic? I have since acquired another female, which is in my holdings. Pterogeniidae is small Asian beetle family of sexual dimorphic fungus feeders, comprising seven genera, example *Histanocerus*:

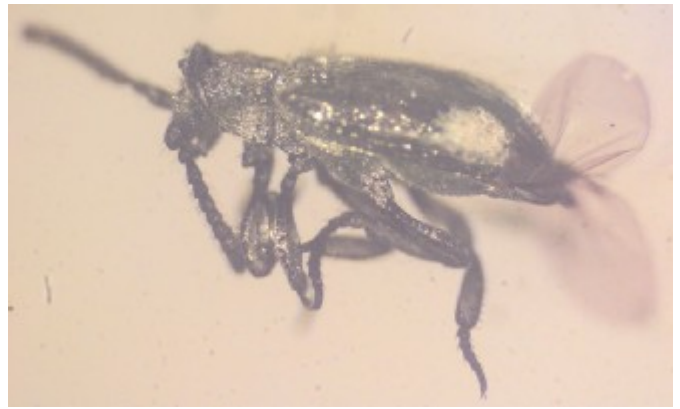




♂ *Tychogenius armatus*
Borneo Pterogeniidae

Some other recent finds yet to be formally described: New species of Anthicidae (Madagascar), two new genera Tenebrionidae (Madagascar), and new species of *Nosodendron* (Nosodenridae, Neotropical).

Some very interesting finds I secured from Dominican Amber on eBay: Anobiidae Ptininae new extinct genera, images below. Inquiline extant Ptininae in the new world consist of *Gnostus* spp. (FL-BZ), *Fabrasia* spp. (MX-BZ), and *Coleostethus* Panama. The extinct forms enlarge this to at least two new genera, possible more, and a new genus of Ptininae that is completely unlikely any extant genera.



Dominican Amber inquiline ptinid new genus



Dominican Amber inquiline ptinid new genus



Dominican Amber Ptininae new genus



Dominican Amber inquiline ptinid near extant *Gnostus*



Dominican Amber Ptininae new genus dorsal view

Also, a very unusual Throscidae in extinct Dominican Amber, now in the care of Eric Yensen, status unknown.



Unfortunately, insect amber inclusions of many orders were not secured, a lot of which will end up in some one's Jewelry Box, or lost forever.

If the above recitation seems like I'm tooting my own horn, my real intent is to make the point that there are many discoveries to be made and this can be done by anyone with persistence and neurotic motivation. Al Allen

----- RARE AND THREATENED SPECIES ---

North American Benthological Society (NABS) Annual Meeting Salt Lake City, UT. May 25-30, 2008. Special Session: Quantitative Methods for Evaluating the Status of Rare and Threatened Species. Organizers: Leska S.

Fore & William H. Clark. Abstract submission deadline: January 15, 2008. Contact: Leska Fore, leska@seanet.com, 206 632-4635

Many of the benthic freshwater species identified to be at risk for extinction, e.g., mussels, clams, and snails, may be rare, unevenly distributed, or hard to detect. The focus of this session is on the quantitative methods used to assess population size, condition, or change, such as mark-recapture, multi-stage survey sampling, and adaptive sampling. The goal of this special session is to bring together practitioners working with at risk populations to compare the limitations and advantages of various methods for different geographic settings and different types of organisms. Results from these studies can have enormous economic impact; for example, when power generation is limited at hydroelectric facilities to protect a threatened species.

This session is not limited to any particular species group or any particular method of population assessment. General methods papers related to sampling are also welcome. Of greatest interest are studies in which the scientific results are embedded in the decision process for species conservation and protection.

Rtn: Paul Blom, Editor
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