

New Editor for Metaleptea

I am delighted to accept the new incoming editor position for Metaleptea. First and foremost, I would like to sincerely thank Marianne Niedzlek-Feaver for her excellent service as an editor for many years. She worked on every issue tirelessly and meticulously to make sure that it would contain wealth of good news and information for orthopterists around the world. I am sure I will continue to ask her for her expertise.

I am also excited to introduce a new associate editor of the newsletter, Sam Heads. He is a young and energetic palaeontologist who has recently published a number of important papers on fossil Orthoptera. Sam will play a crucial role in ensuring the quality of the newsletter.

As a new editor, I would like to strive for publishing Metaleptea regularly. This means more news, articles, stories and poems from you the members of the Orthopterists' Society. You can surely expect my emails asking for articles and I hope that together we can make Metaleptea more exciting and informative!

Finally, here are some guidelines for sending me articles. Text files should be in MS word doc, Wordperfect wpd, rtf, or regular txt format. Images should be in high resolution JPEG or TIFF format. You can email the files to me with a [Metaleptea] in the subject line at entomos@gmail.com. I hope to hear from all of you soon.

Sincerely,
Hojun Song

Orthopteroid Internet Resources

Ed Baker

Over the last few years there have been a number of new, high-quality, internet resources for those interested in orthopteroid insects. So far, comprehensive taxonomic databases have been created for the orders Orthoptera, Phasmida, Mantodea and Blattodea. These use the Species File Software (<http://software.speciesfile.org>) and contain complete

lists of taxa, valid and invalid names, type data and references. Although primarily of use to those interested in the taxonomy of the relevant order it has a number of more general uses, including generating a list of species known to occur in a particular geographic region, and finding the current binomial combination of species (many species of phasmid, for example, are seen for sale using outdated names).

Three orthopteroid groups have enthusiasts' groups; blattodea (Blattodea Culture Group), phasmida (Phasmid Study Group) and mantodea (Mantis Study Group). Although the Mantis Study Group is not active there is work underway to re-create the group online. All three groups have websites making use of the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy's Scratchpad system (<http://www.scratchpads.eu>). This system allows for the creation of professional quality websites that can store and make easily accessible a vast quantity of data.

There is a large number of sites relating to these orders, in particular Blattodea and Phasmida, and the following list is not intended to be comprehensive. As always with internet sites there are a great deal out there which fall short of what one would expect, be it due to poor design, being factually incorrect, or not having been updated for a number of years. All of the sites I have listed below are being actively maintained by communities that have a good knowledge of 'their' order.

Blattodea Species File

(<http://blattodea.speciesfile.org>)

Taxonomic database of the world's extant species of cockroach, minus the recently included termites (epifamily Termitoidae).

Blattodea Culture Group (<http://www.blattodea-culture-group.org>)

The Blattodea Culture Group is a society dedicated to the culture of cockroaches in captivity. The website contains back issues of newsletters which are free to download, an image gallery, answers to frequently asked questions, and more. Members receive access to a number of extra features.

The Cockroach Forum (<http://www.blattodea.net>)

Originally an independent forum, now run by the Blattodea Culture Group this is the best place to discuss

(at least in English) anything to do with cockroaches. Topics covered include identification, rearing in captivity, field trips, livestock exchange and more.

Phasmida

Phasmida Species File (<http://phasmida.speciesfile.org>)

Taxonomic database of the world's phasmids. A large amount of work is currently underway to include type photographs from the Natural History Museum, London. The references include papers relating to the rearing of species in captivity.

Phasmid Study Group (<http://www.phasmid-study-group.org>)

This is the most developed of all of the Scratchpad based sites, due mainly to contributions from members and the popularity of these insects as pets. There is a section on the UK naturalised phasmids, including a form to submit records electronically. Other content includes the journal *Phasmid Studies*, now available for free online. There is information on the majority of species that have ever been kept in culture, and the amount of content is continually growing; recent additions include a phasmid glossary. Members of the group have access to back issues of the newsletter, and a number of other phasmid-related journals.

The site has a brand new forum (discussion board) where you may ask questions on rearing or identification, and exchange livestock.

Phasmatodea.de (<http://www.phasmatodea.de>)
Interesting site with lots of useful information, in both English and German.

Orthoptera

Orthoptera Species File (<http://orthoptera.speciesfile.org>)

Taxonomic database of the world's orthoptera. This is the most developed of the three Species File sites.

Mantodea

Mantodea Species File (<http://mantodea.speciesfile.org>.)

Taxonomic database of the world's mantids. This site has only recently come online, and is still in the early stages of development.

Mantis Study Group (<http://mantodeamyspeciesinfo/>)

Has a growing amount of high-quality information on mantids. This is the youngest of the three Scratchpad sites but has a growing volume of content. The image galleries are arranged both taxonomically and geographically. There is a forum (discussion board) and a number of scientific papers are available for download.

Mantophasmatodea

Mantophasmatodea.de (<http://www.mantophasmatodea.de/gladiator/>)

Gives the systematic arrangement of the order with photographs, distribution, etc.

Dermaptera

Dermaptera Species File (<http://dermaptera.speciesfile.org>)

Still in the very early stages of development. The overall content will be similar to that of the other Species Files.

In Memoriam

Robert Pfadt:

In Memory and Honor of a Scholar and a Gentleman

Our scientific community has lost one of its most enduring and beloved members. Robert E. "Bob" Pfadt died on January 19, 2009 at the age of 93.

Bob Pfadt was born May 22, 1915, in Erie, Pennsylvania, the son of George and Margaret (Illig) Pfadt. As a boy, Bob attended St. Mary's Catholic School in Erie. His life was not easy, and perhaps struggle contributed to the development of his character. In the midst of the Great Depression, Bob's father died. At the age of 16, Bob helped provide for his mother and sisters by working two jobs in addition to going to school. This sense of responsibility and service to others would be a hallmark of his life.

Bob attended the Ohio University and then moved to Laramie to attend the University of Wyoming in 1935. He graduated in 1938, and then earned a master's degree in zoology in 1940. In that year, Bob was hired by UW to conduct research on