The Phasmid Study Group

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Index

News, Information & Updates .................................................................................................................................3
Editorial ....................................................................................................................................................................3
Diary Dates ..............................................................................................................................................................3
Contents of Phasmid Studies, 17(1) .......................................................................................................................4
Wants & Exchange List .........................................................................................................................................4
Culture Survey 2008 .............................................................................................................................................6
Sticks in the news .................................................................................................................................................5
PSG Website ........................................................................................................................................................5
New Mantis Study Group Website .......................................................................................................................5
PSG Summer Meeting, Saturday, 12th JULY 2008 .........................................................................................8
Articles, Reviews & Submissions ............................................................................................................................9
PSG Summer Meeting, Saturday, 12th July 2008 ..............................................................................................9
A problem with Pteninoxylyrus crassus Kirby, 1889 ..........................................................................................10
Edinburgh Butterfly and Insect World ...................................................................................................................10
Buddleia and Lonicera as Foodplants ...................................................................................................................11
Some more information on Lonicera ....................................................................................................................12
Further notes on Lonicera as a foodplant ................................................................................................................12
A Life in Entomology ...........................................................................................................................................13
Marvellous Minibeasts at the Isle of Wight Zoo ....................................................................................................14
Dryococelus australis: The Story So Far ...............................................................................................................14
Editorial

Ed Baker (Editor)
Another short newsletter, as always we need more submissions! You can write something on any aspect of phasmids, and even if you send it to me scribbled on the back of a postcard it will be gratefully received. If necessary I can provide you with the postcard. I would like to ask you all to write something and send it to me, it will save me having to harass you at the forthcoming summer meeting; short two-line articles are just as welcome as longer pieces!

Someone has asked why the Sticktalk pages have disappeared. The main answer is that if you’re interested in Sticktalk I assume you are a member and get their daily e-mails. It seemed counter-productive (at least to me) to reprint content when we have the opportunity to print something original.

Included in this issue is the Phasma culture survey, I encourage you to send this back either by post or e-mail. It provides an indication as to what species are dying out in culture, and gives us a chance to rectify this situation.

My thanks to Allan Harman who, when he has not been identifying weevils, has endured a near-constant barrage of requests to write something for this newsletter, and to Laurence Livermore for allowing me (once again) to print some of his excellent photographs.

Diary Dates

All event information has been accepted as bona fide, however we recommend checking with the organisers closer to the date of the event.

PSG Summer Meeting
12th July 2008
Natural History Museum, London (Further details in this issue)

Bugfest South West
26th July 2008 11:00-15:30
Stanchester School, Stoke sub Hamdon, TA14 6UG11

If you are organising or attending an event not listed here then please can you send details to the editor. Contact details are in the Committee Section.

The Committee

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SECRETARY Ian Bushell and Sarah Houghton

Ian Abercrombie, Cameron die Königin, Kristien Rabaey, Gavin Ridley, Rob Simeons, Mike Smith
The Newsletter of The Phasmid Study Group

Contents of *Phasmid Studies*, 17(1)

*Phasmid Studies* volume 17, part 1 was published on 30th April 2008. Members with access to the internet can download it by going to the PSG website (http://phasmid-study-group.org/) then, on the left-hand menu, choose *Phasmid Serials > Phasmid Studies > Archive* to see the list of volumes available.

May I remind anyone who does not have access to the internet that if you wish to receive *Phasmid Studies* in print you need to inform the Membership Secretary, Paul Brock.

The current issue, comprising 50 pages, is the second largest issue we have had; the largest was in 1995 when volume 4 part 2 had 64 pages. Part of the reason why the current issue is so large is that there are a large number of abstracts from Chinese publication that had escaped attention until quite recently. Although many of these are not recent, I have included them so that *Phasmid Studies* should contain a complete set of abstracts of papers published since *Phasmid Studies* started in 1992.

**Biographies of Phasmatologists – 7. James Wood-Mason.**
By P.E. Bragg, pages 1-7.

**Biographies of Phasmatologists – 8. Robert Walter Campbell Shelford.**
By P.E. Bragg, pages 8-10.

**New record of Hermarchus leytensis Zompro, with notes on its life history (Phasmatodea: Phasmatidae).**
By Marco Gottardo, pages 11-15.

**Notes on Necroscia affinis (Gray, 1835), Necroscia fragilis (Redtenbacher, 1908) and Necroscia pallida (Redtenbacher, 1908).**

**Notes on Necroscia haanii Kirby, 1904 from Borneo, including a new synonym.**
By P.E. Bragg, pages 27-33.

**Lectotype designation for the type species of Colossopus, C. grandidieri Saussure, 1899 (Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae: Conocephalinae).**
By M. Ünal & G.W. Beccaloni, pages 34-35.

**Phasmid Abstracts.**
Pages 36-48.

**Wants & Exchange List**
Janine Fletcher (Livestock Coordinator)

**Surplus Eggs**

**Surplus Nymphs**
Please always contact me prior to sending me nymphs or any packet wider than a normal letter box as I have an alternative address to which they should be sent.

When posting ova in the UK please make sure that the correct postage is used. Anything that is over 5mm thick but less than 25mm can go as a large letter, anything that is thicker than 25mm must go as a packet, please also check the weight of what you are posting. I would advise going to the post office if you are in any doubts about size or weight.

**Sticks in the news**

**24th May 2008: The Independent**
Christopher Hirst briefly mentions pet stick insects in his column *The Weasel*. “Contrary to its unobtrusive appearance, the thing was extraordinarily demanding, at least in its diet. It only ate privet leaves. Since Weasel Villas lacks this form of hedge, we were obliged to make daring night-time commando raids on neighbouring properties. Wielding the secateurs at midnight, we silently harvested supper for our picky guest. I called it Basil after Sybil Fawlty's memorable description of her husband ("an ageing, brillaintined stick insect"), but this proved inaccurate when our Anglepoise-legged pet gave birth to several hundred twiglets. Basil was living in a glass jar with a pierced lid and her multitudinous offspring promptly scarpered through the holes. They were everywhere – carpet, ceilings, walls, window sills. Have you ever tried gathering a diaspora of baby stick insects, each the size of a staple? Soon after, Basil, who was never particularly energetic, stopped moving entirely. She ceased being a stick insect and became a stick. We never broke the tragic news to her bestower (‘Basil? She's fine, apart from a spot of woodworm! Ha!’).

Image and quotation © Copyright,*The Independent*, 2008

**PSG Website**
The new PSG website (www.phasmid-study-group.org) continues to grow and improve. Since the site was launched there have been over 80,000 page views by people from 73 countries. On average people remain on the site for just over 10 minutes.

There is a wealth of information, including photographs, a form for reporting sightings of UK naturalised phasmids, an up-to-date species list and more.

PSG members get access to back issues of the PSG newsletter, Phasma and Le Monde des Phasmes.

**New Mantis Study Group Website**
The Mantis Study Group (MSG) may be dormant, but that doesn’t stop it having its very own website. Based on the Scratchpad system used by the PSG and Blattodea Culture Group it has a diverse range and growing amount of information related to mantids. The website can be found at http://mantodea.myspecies.info.
Culture Survey 2008

Dear all, every year we send this list to all our members. With this list we want to update which species of phasmids are still in culture. This is very important for the species that are about to be lost. With the September edition of the PSG newsletter, and Phasma, we will give the results. This encourages people to take care of their endangered cultures.

X (cross): an established culture.
● (point): a tentative culture.

Species not on this list can be added at the bottom.

Name: ...................................................................................................................................................

Date: ........................................................................................................................................

Please send this form before the 15th of July to:
Tim Bollens en Caroline, Driesbos 19, 2200 Noorderwijk (Belgium) or email to:
tim.bollens@pandora.be

Thank you very much for your cooperation! Kristien and Rob

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<td>Dares verrucosus</td>
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<td>Lopahus trilineatus</td>
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<td>Clonaria luethyi</td>
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**June 2008**

www.phasmid-study-group.org
PSG Summer Meeting, Saturday, 12th JULY 2008
DOROTHEA BATE ROOM (Formerly Palaeontology Demonstration Room), NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, CROMWELL ROAD, LONDON, ENGLAND  (FREE PUBLIC ENTRY* members may also walk round the excellent museum if they wish)

AGENDA

11.30am – 11.35pm  WELCOME, and introduction to the various stands and activities taking place.

11.35am - 12.30pm  ARRIVALS & INFORMAL GATHERING:

 Members are encouraged to exchange ideas and experiences, and view the displays, and merchandise.

 Exhibitors to display their Pharmaciini and Phasmatini (by 12.30, please)**.

 Jungle Nymph entrants to register their entries (by 1.30 please)**.

 You are welcome to have a go at the Quiz****** – a special prize for the winner!

 For Committee Members: Committee Meeting (bring your agenda & minutes).

12.30pm - 1.15pm  Illustrated Talk on “A Trip to the Philippines” by Mark Bushell, Joachim Bresseel and Ellen Caluwe.

1.15pm – 2.00 pm  Lunch**** and viewing of exhibits, displays, and merchandise, and a chance to finish the Quiz.

2.00pm – 2.15pm  Introduction to, and a discussion on, Pharmaciini and Phasmatini by Judith Marshall**.

2.20pm – 2.55pm  Talk on “Naming Phasmids” by Phil Bragg.

3.00pm – 3.15pm  Illustrated Talk on “Stick Talk” by Derek Tylden-Pattenson.

3.15pm – 3.20pm  Results of the Jungle Nymph weigh-in, by George Beccaloni ***.

3.20pm – 3.25pm  Results of the Quiz competition, by Sarah Houghton ******.

3.30pm - 4.00pm  Livestock Exchange***** and final viewing of displays, etc.

4.00pm – 4.30pm  Further informal gathering, competitors and exhibitors to collect their entries, leftover livestock***** should be taken back by the contributor (please check).

*You are requested to bring this sheet with you for security reasons to ensure access to the meeting room (bring in the whole Newsletter, or a photocopy of the appropriate page, if you do not want to tear the page out). The agenda will also help you follow the proceedings.

**The subject of display at this meeting is none of the tribes Pharmaciini and Phasmatini - phasmid giants of the Old World (of the subfamily Phasmatinae, some of the genera included in these tribes are Phasmidae) Phobaeticus, Acrophylla, Eurycynema and Phasma*. There are no rules for the display, just bring in your favourite specimens male, female, adults and/or nymphs, in a suitable container with food, labelled however you wish but ideally to include your name, their PSG No, and a few details about your specimen(s), please.

***The weigh-in could not be easier, just bring along your Jungle Nymphs (Heteropteryx dilatata) on the day, in a suitable container. Registration details etc will be fully explained in the meeting room. Please bring in ANY of your specimens, so we can compare notes and have a good display, though of course the main purpose of the weigh-in is to find the heaviest specimen (likely to be an adult female laden with eggs), and the judge’s decision is final. Thanks to George Beccaloni for arranging this weigh-in.

**** Tea, coffee, squash, and biscuits will be available all day (from about 10.15 am), for a voluntary contribution, in the meeting room (courtesy of Judith). Food shops are available in the museum, offering good food at reasonable prices, but there may be queues. You are welcome to bring your own lunch, to eat in the meeting room or in the museum. You may also “donate” cakes, biscuits, etc, if you wish.

***** You are reminded to follow the rules as laid down concerning the Livestock Exchange: eg livestock should be given some foodstuff, and their container be clearly labelled with their name & PSG number; the food plant they are being fed on, and your name & PSG number. Please don’t forget to check before you leave that all of your livestock has been distributed and, if not, take them back with you. Do not overcrowd the sticks, but also please use reasonably-sized containers (not too big), and do not spread the spare stock over too many different containers (especially common species). Please remain in your normal seats throughout the session – ie do not crowd round, or obscure, the livestock table during livestock distribution.

******You can do the quiz for fun only but, if you want to enter the competition, please ensure you hand it in by 1.30pm (full details are by the quiz sheet). Answers will be put by the quiz sheets mid-afternoon. The judge’s decision is final. Thanks to Sarah Houghton for arranging this competition.
Articles, Reviews & Submissions

PSG Summer Meeting, Saturday, 12th July 2008

Mike Smith

Yes, the PSG Summer Meeting 2008 is nearly upon us, and the good news is we have planned yet another fantastic day for it. Have a look at the Agenda (copy in this Newsletter) and see for yourself. Remember, entrance to the meeting and museums are completely free.

The Natural History Museum in London might be a long haul for some members, although members do manage to attend regularly from all over the country and indeed even mainland Europe. But, as a PSG member, you really should try to make it to at least one PSG meeting, you will be glad you did. If you don't want to come on your own, bring a friend who is interested in phasmids and try to get them to join the PSG. If you are a youngster you can bring a parent or other adult with you. There is so much going on that day, plus the museum to go round, everyone will definitely have a great time. Anyway, I'll write a report on the meeting for the next Newsletter, so everyone can read what went on whether they came or not.

The agenda lists all the planned activities, and summarises all the details, so I’ll not repeat it here, but please do have a read of it in advance, and do bring it along with you. (However, there will be spare agendas there on the day). The Natural History Museum’s main entrance is in Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, there is also a side entrance in Exhibition Road (which tends to have shorter queues), and either way the nearest tube is South Kensington which is on the Circle, District, and Piccadilly Lines. The Natural History Museum opens at 10am so, if you get there early, you can walk around this amazing museum for an hour or so before the PSG Meeting starts. Ideally you would need all day to do the museum justice, and there is also free entry to the equally amazing Science Museum next door which also needs a day to see it all. But an hour or so is fine to get a flavour of the place, and you have time at the lunch break and after the PSG meeting to have another look as well.

You can go to the PSG meeting room early if you wish, probably after 10.30am is best. It is in the Dorothea Bate Room, when you arrive ring the bell for someone to let you in. There will be a sprinkling of members there then that arrive early to help set things up and have a social chat. The meeting proper starts at 11.30am, by then everything should be laid out ready for use – books and merchandise for sale, the refreshment table, etc. At 11.30am the Committee “disappear” for a Committee Meeting, giving the members a chance to socialise, view the exhibits, do the quiz, etc. Then at 12.30pm the meeting continues with the first talk of the day.

There will be a table with books and PSG merchandise for sale on it. You are welcome to put your own phasmid-related items on it to give away or to sell at a reasonable price – but no livestock, please (livestock should go on the Livestock Exchange Table). There will be a Heaviest Jungle Nymph weigh-in so, if you have any Heteropteryx dilatata, however big or small, please bring them along for the weigh-in, the more the merrier (registration details will be available on the day – entries to be registered by 1.30pm please). No prizes, but you could end up in the Guinness Book of Records! There will be a written quiz available which you can do just for fun, or hand it in and try for a nice prize - full rules will be available on the day, but generally just write down the answers and hand the sheet in before 1.30pm. There will be a display of Museum drawers of some of the Pharnaciini and Phasmatini, of the subfamily Phasmatinae. Some of the genera included in these tribes are Pharmacia, Phobaeticus, Acrophylla, Eurycnema and Phasma, so please bring in your living examples to supplement the collection material.

Virtually everyone’s favourite moment is the Livestock Exchange, where members bring in their spare stock, and people wanting such stock can take it away, all free of charge. We of course want stick insects for this table but, if you have any other critters you have an excess of (e.g. cockroaches, sun beetles, snails, centipedes, etc.), you are welcome to bring these to the table too.

Finally, I hope you all have a fantastic time, and find lots of things that interest you. If you have any comments on what was done, or on what you would like to see at future PSG Meetings, or if you would be willing to give a talk or other offering at a future PSG meeting, please let me know (mikelsmith@tinyworld.co.uk).
A problem with *Pterinoxylus crassus* Kirby, 1889

A. J. E. Harman

I have reared *P. crassus* for some three years and have had a good survival rate for both sexes when fed on a mixture of bramble, oak and *Eucalyptus*.

No problem was experienced with males although with my last culture a high percentage of females were much smaller than had previously been reared. On average the larger females which survived, mated, and laid eggs were 14.0 to 14.5cm. However several females in reaching adulthood were some 2cm shorter. In addition these smaller females remained teneral and thus were unable to feed and starved to death.

I feel that this problem is probably due to a deficiency of minerals which manifests itself this way. A female phasmid has to divert resources to egg development in addition to the other normal life processes.

I have some 50 eggs incubating and hope to further explore this problem by dividing the culture into two cages and offering one a much more varied foodplant choice, and to the other spraying the foodplant with a solution of multi-minerals in water hoping to correct the deficiency.

This is of course only a theory and may not be effective.

Edinburgh Butterfly and Insect World

Felicity Muth

Having worked at Edinburgh butterfly and insect world for a summer, I feel I am in an excellent (and highly unbiased) position to state that the phasmids that reside there are undoubtedly some of the most startling, beautiful and just plain weird of all the insects.

There is nothing more entertaining than seeing the look of horrified shock on a child’s face as you ‘throw’ a pink-winged stick insect (*Sipyloidea sipylus*) at another member of staff. This expression rapidly changes to awe as *Sipyloidea*, usually dull in colour, shoots out two startling pink wings, and settles gracefully to safety, usually on the member of staff’s face.

In contrast to these fairy-like belles, that are brought out regularly for “entertainment purposes”, other phasmids which secrete a toxic chemical are only released from their cages for particularly mischievous children.

Also saved for these children are the giant jungle nymphs, *Heteropteryx dilatata*. The females of this species, much larger in size than the males, have rows of ominous thorns decorating the inside of their legs. Holding a female *Heteropteryx* is generally quite safe, until she realises that there may be danger at hand (usually when your “hilarious” friend decides to give her a poke). At this point she makes a crunching sound with her wings and digs her back legs into your hand, usually drawing blood.

Edinburgh’s Insect World has a wild, untamed feel to it: many of the insects wander free inside a large, overgrown greenhouse. But what the place lacks in sophisticated décor, it makes up for in character. The staff are friendly to the point that if you’re nice enough to them you’ll probably be given an insect or two to take home. Since spiny sabah (*Aretaon asperrimus*) breed faster than rabbits, the staff are often more than happy to offload a few.

Plus, if by any chance you get bored of the phasmids, there is a menagerie of butterflies, tarantulas, praying mantids, and ants, not to mention a wide array of reptiles.

[http://www.edinburgh-butterfly-world.co.uk/](http://www.edinburgh-butterfly-world.co.uk/)
Buddleja and Lonicera as Foodplants
A. J. E. Harman

Buddleja (family Buddlejaceae) is a common shrub found widely in gardens and on waste ground all over the country. The flowers are attractive to butterflies and moths. I offered it as a foodplant to the following species.

Dinophasma sp.
Currently in culture and feeding of Fuchsia and willowherb.

Pylaemenes mitratus (Redtenbacher, 1906) [PSG 212]
Well established in culture and feeding on a variety of foodplants.

Pylaemenes guangxiensis (Bi & Li, 1994) [PSG 248]
Feeding on bramble, etc.

Dares sp.
An undescribed species from Sabah currently feeding on bramble.

Spinohirasea bengalensis (Brunner, 1907) [PSG 272]
Feeding on bramble, ivy and oaks.

Lonchodes philippinicus Hennemann & Conle, 2007 [PSG 282]
Feeding on hebe and privet

Pterinoxylus crassus Kirby, 1889 [PSG 281]
Feeding on bramble, oaks and Eucalyptus spp.

Pharnacia ponderosa Stål, 1877 [PSG 284]
Feeding on bramble, oaks and Eucalyptus spp.

Leiophasma lucubense (Brancsik, 1893) [PSG 268]
Feeding on Hypericum and Eucalyptus.

Lamponius portoricensis (Redtenbacher, 1908) [PSG 240]
Feeding on bramble and oaks.

Parectatosoma mocquerysi Finot, 1898 [PSG 258]
Feeding on Hypericum and Eucalyptus.

Phenacephorus cornucervi Brunner, 1907 [PSG 73]
Feeding on bramble, rose and oaks.

In addition to their usual foodplants an unnamed variety of Buddleja was offered in a separate container. The plants were left for at least a week and then carefully examined for feeding marks. The only species that ate any Buddleja was Phenacephorus cornucervi; all other species rejected it.

Honeysuckle, Lonicera Linné, (family Caprifoliaceae) is again a common climbing shrub found in gardens and waste-ground. I offered this as an additional foodplant to the phasmid species for up to a week but again only Phenacephorus cornucervi accepted and ate any.
Some more information on *Lonicera*

Ed Baker (Editor)

There are circa 180 species of *Lonicera*. The genus is native to the Northern Hemisphere, and by far the greatest abundance of species (>100) are found in China. The plants are either shrubby or take the form of twining vines. Leaves are up to 10cm, and generally deciduous, although there are some evergreen species.

*Lonicera* can be propagated from softwood cuttings in late spring or summer, or from mature growth later in the summer. Seeds can be sown as soon as they are ripe, if outdoors a cold frame is recommended to protect the seedlings from frost.

*Lonicera* is also a hostplant of various butterflies and moths, most notably of the family Geometridae.

I would welcome any further comments of this nature, either regarding *Lonicera*, or any other potential foodplant.

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Further notes on *Lonicera* as a foodplant

Judith Marshall (Chairman)

My *Spinohirasea bengalensis* feed happily on *Lonicera nitida*, an evergreen shrubby hedging plant with a superficial resemblance to box (*Buxus*).
A Life in Entomology
A. J. E. Harman

I joined the Amateur Entomologists’ Society in 1954. In those far off days exotic insects both live and dead were somewhat uncommon. There were only four of five species of stick insects in culture: Carausius morosus, Bacillus rossius, Clonopsis gallica and Pseudodiacantha macklottii then known as Oxines macklottii. The latter species was in culture in the Insect House at London Zoo.

Very occasionally another species would appear in dealers’ lists- I well remember seeing an advertisement for Acanthoxyla prasina and paying a few shillings (pre-decimal currency) for a dozen eggs. Needless to say these never hatched.

The only freely available exotic insects were silkmoths such as Attacus atlas, Actias selene, and other species. I spent a few years rearing C. morosus and B. rossius or C. gallica and in 1959 I was called up for National Service and on my induction documents I entered my interests as “Entomology”. After basic training I was sent to the Royal Army Medical College at Millbank, London to study medical entomology. In those days Britain was heavily involved in researching insect borne diseases in the former colonies. After some three months I was posted to the Far East School of Health at Nee Soon, Singapore. I was very fortunate to be sent there as I was more or less left alone except the odd sentry duty or Fire Piquet. Whilst on Fire Piquet I saw my first leaf insect, a male flying around the perimeter lights. I used to spend a great deal of time looking for insects and other beasties in the local area. I did find Lonchodes brevipes and Phaenopharos struthioneus though efforts to rear them were not successful.

I did not have a great deal of success in rearing stick insects and after being demobilised and returned to England I decided that I would give up tropical entomology and concentrate on British and European insects.

This situation came to an end in the early 1960s when I met Judith Meadows at the British Museum (Natural History) – now the Natural History Museum. She later became Judith Marshall and kept a veritable menagerie in her lab space in the Entomology Department. I also met Bob Humphries and George Ashby at the Insect House at London Zoo. By offering other livestock I obtained Oxines macklottii (now Pseudodiacantha macklottii). This striking insect thrives in a humid atmosphere and being fed on Rhododendron. A number of other species occurred from time to time including Bactrododema tiaratum from Zimbabwae. I saw the culture once but it was subsequently stolen.

During the 1970s many new species were bought into culture including Lonchodes brevipes, Ctenomorphodes briareus (now Anchiale briareus). A number of these cultures were very tenuous, though there were an increasing number of enthusiasts. In 1971 I went to Papua New Guinea and managed to bring into culture Eurycantha calcarata and Anchiale maculata. At the time E. calcarata was the most spectacular and most sought after species.

During the later 1970s and 80s Mary and I spent every year travelling and collecting as many stick insects as possible. Not all the species made it into culture and I feel that a lack of expertise was the cause, that I hope has now improved.

After a few years of not collecting we resumed and collected from regions not previously visited. By this time Tony James and others had formed the PSG. I must stress that I was in no way involved in this event.

In moving into the 21st century many more people have become active in field trips and many new interesting and exciting species are now in culture.

I should like to finish by stating that the PSG has in 25 years achieved through members’ efforts the greatest advance in phasmid taxonomy and ecology. May it long continue.
Marvellous Minibeasts at the Isle of Wight Zoo

Tracy Dove (Education Officer, Isle of Wight Zoo)

Visitors young and old took the opportunity to find out about phasmids and cockroaches when Ed Baker brought a selection of fascinating animals to the Isle of Wight Zoo. Ed kindly came along as our special guest during the Zoo’s ‘Marvellous Minibeasts’ week at May half term. Visitors were able to take a close look or even (for those who were brave enough) to hold some really exotic-looking insects, including *Peruphasma schultei*, *Lamponius portoricensis*, *Carausius morosus*, *Lonchodes philippinicus*, and *Necroscia annulipes*. Ed shared his enthusiasm and his expertise throughout the day and Zoo staff all agreed that they had also learned a great deal more about phasmids as a result of his visit. At the end of the day Ed generously donated some adult phasmids and some ova to be used in education sessions with the many school groups that visit the zoo. As a small thank you to Ed for giving up his time we were able to arrange for him to go behind the scenes of the Big Cat section, where he gave a milk feed to our white Indian tiger, Zena.

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Dryococelus australis: The Story So Far

Ed Baker (Editor)

History

The Lord Howe Island Stick Insect, *Dryococelus australis* (Montrouzier, 1885) was formerly abundant on Lord Howe Island, which is part of a large, dormant, shield volcano that formed circa seven million years ago.

Black rats, *Rattus rattus*, were unintentionally introduced to the island in 1918. The rats were carried ashore with cargo from the trading vessel *SS Makambo* which ran aground off the coast of the island. The rats quickly reduced the phasmid population by predation, and the insects were considered to be extinct by 1935.

Fresh remains of the phasmid were found on Ball’s Pyramid, a rocky outcrop located 16km south of Lord Howe Island on two separate occasions in the 1960s. Live female insects were found by a team of researchers from the New South Wales Parks and Wildlife Services, the Australian Museum and the Lord Howe Island Board. These insects were not captured, but were observed. The insects sought shelter in cavities in vegetative debris clumps. A follow up survey in March 2002 found two males amongst ten sexed insects.

Melbourne Zoo received a pair of insects following a research expedition in February 2003, and the first captive-born individual hatched in September 2003.

Notes from Captive Breeding

*Honan et al. (2007)*

‘Housing conditions are paramount for this species.’ A high relative humidity (>50%) is required, 80-95% being optimal. The temperature should be kept between 15 and 30°C (20-27°C being optimal).

The nymphs of this species are diurnal, although the adults are nocturnal. The insects are not affected by red light, so this may be used to observe nocturnal behaviour of the adults.
The use of a nesting box to provide a retreat and the provision of a box containing peat to allow the females to bury the eggs are recommended.

Inbreeding does seem to affect this species, the following symptoms have been reported: morphological abnormalities (especially in the abdomen of adults), small egg volume (more pronounced in each generation), low egg hatching rate, small size of nymphs on hatching and low nymph survival rate. The introduction of new genes to the breeding pool solved all of these issues, and the population rose from a steady twenty individuals over the preceding three years to 600 within twelve months. Eggs are laid in batches of around 10, 7-10 days apart although single eggs may be laid in the intervening period.

Nymphs take on average 210 days to achieve adulthood, and adults may live for a further 18 months.

The insects have been fed on Lord Howe Island Melaleuca (Melaleuca howeana), Tree Lucerne Chamaecytisus prolifer) and Moreton Bay Fig (Ficus macrophylla). Juveniles have done well on Bramble (Rubus fructicosus agg.) but have not fed on this for an entire generation.

**Captive Behaioir**

*Honan et al. (2007)*

Insects consume leaves of all ages when fed on Melaleuca howeana, methodically consuming every leaf on the branchlet. Leaves are consumed right to the petiole, and often the insects will continue to chew the bark. Feeding sessions seem to last 60-90 minutes and are followed by a period of inactivity.

Mating takes around twenty minutes, and there may be up to three matings on a given night, with 1-2 nights between mating events. The male may remain on the female for ‘some time’ after mating.

Eggs are laid in the peat substrate, the female laying eggs individually in an excavation and covering them with peat using the underside of abdomen once laid.

**Record Keeping**

*Honan et al. (2007)*

The following are all recorded:

- incubation time of eggs
- length and width of eggs
- weight of eggs
- condition of nymphs on hatching (poor, good, very good, excellent)
- size of nymph on hatching
- incubation medium
- comments on eggs (abnormalities, changes to micropylar plate)
- moultng periods (i.e. length of instar)
- medical information and veterinary treatments
- behavioural observations
- pairing for mating
- nymph or adult deaths (especially if unexpected)
- dietary changes or supplements

**Veterinary Procedures**

*Honan et al. (2007)*

Several instances have been recorded of distressed and dead insects having a foregut containing air (measured in the former case by x-ray, in the latter by dissection). The swallowing of air (aerophagy is a known distress response in many vertebrates, especially birds).

A female that appeared to be dying was saved by administering a solution of mashed foodplant leaves (melaleuca), glucose and calcium in distilled water. It is worth trying this technique with other phasmid species if specimens seem to be at risk of premature death. Glucose may be substituted with sucrose (the sugar you have at home) and calcium can
come either from calcium supplement tablets or from powdered chalk which is often sold as powdered calcium as a dietary supplement for reptiles and snails.

Dissection of dead specimens has revealed desiccation as the cause of death in one case. In one case a deposit in the gut was consistent with Greenjacket Osmocote (used in the potting mix for the foodplants), suggesting that the use of solid soil additives should be avoided when offering live foodplants.

There are newspaper cuttings regarding the re-discovery of the Lord Howe Island Stick Insect on the PSG website.