The Phasmid Study Group

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Index

News, Information & Updates ................................................................. 3
Editorial ................................................................................................. 3
Diary Dates ............................................................................................ 3
Phasmid Studies, 17(2) ........................................................................ 4
Wants & Exchange List ........................................................................ 4
The PSG Constitution in 2008 ............................................................ 5
Additions to the culture list September 2008 ........................................ 5
Articles, Reviews & Submissions .......................................................... 6
Stick Insect Disease ............................................................................... 6
A bite from a stick insect ...................................................................... 6
Committee Biography I: Judith Marshall ............................................... 7
Observation of antennae cleaning in Sceptrophasma hispidulum .......... 7
Bugfest SouthWest, Yeovil, 23rd February 2008 .................................... 7
A Trip to the Philippines in March 2008 .............................................. 9
PSG SUMMER MEETING, 12 July 2008 ............................................. 12
Some Alternative Foodplants ............................................................... 14
PSG Website & Sticktalk Link ............................................................. 15
PHASMID STUDY GROUP CULTURE LIST SEPTEMBER 2008 .......... 16
“Why do we say it like that, and does it really matter?” ......................... 23
Behavioural observations of Necroscia annulipes ............................... 24
New Culture List Species

Above: *Necroscia annulipes*

Above left: *Lobolibethra* sp.

Right: *Pseudophasma phthisicum*
News, Information & Updates

Editorial
Ed Baker (Editor)
This newsletter comes with the latest PSG Culture List, again printed within the newsletter for cost reasons.

Many thanks to all contributors, as always more would have been welcomed!

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.

42nd Phasma meeting the 11th of October
Location: Bosch en Duin
           Oude Bosschelaan, 1
           5071 RP Udenhout, Holland
Programme: Doors open at 11 o’clock
          12:00: Welcome by Kristien and Rob
          13:00: An illustrated talk part II about the trip to the Philippines by Joachim, Ellen and Mark. Exhibition regarding the species they found on their trip and other new species in culture.
          14:30: Talk from Dr. Phil Bragg about the Phasmid Nomenclature.
          Livestock exchange.

Everybody is welcome.

Phasma Invitation 2
Saturday 27-Sunday 28 September
Guest exhibition of Phasmids for the yearly Reunion of the Gardeners Organisation in Flandres.
Location: Maekelbyde
           Saverianenstraat, 12
           Houthulst (W-VI)
Saturday:
          13:00 Reception.
          Open from 14:00 –20:00.
Sunday:
          From 10:00 to 12:00
          And from 14:00 to 20:00.

Invitation 3
From Saturday 8 November to Sunday 16 November
Exhibition by Betta vzw: Big jubilee aquarium, terrarium- Phasmid show.
Location: showroom “Nicolaas”
           Jachtweg, 1
           Buggenhout centre
Phasma gives a guest exhibition. Everybody is welcome!
The next issue is due for publication in October, and will be available from the website.

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.
The PSG Constitution in 2008
Judith Marshall (Chairman)

Every new member is sent a copy of the Constitution of 2nd July 1988: it is fairly lengthy, with 7 Aims and 24 Rules. In 20 years times have changed, with almost universal access to the internet and email, and we feel we should change the Constitution accordingly – and simplify it as far as possible. Over the years the PSG Committee has tried to work together, within the current Rules of the PSG, to uphold and promulgate the Aims of the PSG. Not always easy, and some ‘Rules’ have become very flexible, others are clearly redundant.

I would be grateful for comments and suggestions from members, by email or snailmail, and hope that at the AGM we will agree on a new, abbreviated Constitution.

Our sister organisation Phasma works exceedingly well without the need of written ‘Aims and Rules’, and it could be argued that we should also be able to do so.

So please, tell me your thoughts – this is your Society, we need to know how you want it to work!

N.B. The Constitution is available on the PSG website in the PSG Members’ Area; if this is not accessible to you, please ask me for a printed copy.

Additions to the culture list September 2008
Phil Bragg (Phasmid Studies Editor)

The following species have been added to the culture list.

PSG 290. Necroscia annulipes Gray, 1835
Necrosciniæ from West Malaysia. Brought into culture by Arnaud & Christophe Bauduin. Females 80mm, males 60mm. Feeds on privet.

PSG 291. Lobobilethra sp.
Diapheromeriæ from Lima in Peru. Collected by Frank Hennemann & Oskar Conle. Females 60mm, males 50mm. Feeds on bramble & raspberry. Seems to be very easy to rear.

PSG 292. Anchiale stolli Sharp, 1898
Phasmatiæ from Malaita. Feeds on Eucalyptus. The culture was identified by Frank Hennemann. This is a difficult species, several people have reported problems rearing it; I only managed to rear one male to adult from about 30 eggs that I was given. However, some people are doing well enough that it is being distributed around the PSG. Males are about 125mm long.

PSG 293. Pseudophasma phthisicum (Linnaeus, 1763)
Pseudophasmatiæ from French Guiana. I believe the culture is sexual but all my adults were female, length 80mm. Feeds on hebe and privet.

Changes to Lonchodinae on the PSG Culture list
Phil Bragg

Nine species that are on the PSG culture list have been moved to different genera in a paper by Hennemann & Conle (2007). These are listed below.

Mnesilochus Stål, 1877
PSG 29 Mnesilochus imitator (Brunner, 1907) [Previously Lonchodes]
PSG 138 Mnesilochus modestus (Brunner, 1907) [Previously Lonchodes]
PSG 169 Mnesilochus mindanaense (Brunner, 1907) [Previously Lonchodes]
PSG 246 Mnesilochus rusticus (Brunner, 1907) [Previously Lonchodes]

Hermagoras Stål, 1875
PSG 36 Hermagoras hosei Kirby, 1896 [Previously Lonchodes]
PSG 127 Hermagoras megabeast (Bragg, 2001) [Previously Lonchodes]
PSG 181 Hermagoras cultratolobatus (Brunner, 1907) [Previously Lonchodes]
Articles, Reviews & Submissions

Stick Insect Disease
Paul D. Brock (Treasurer & Membership Secretary)

I notice in a useful new publication 'Bugs alive! A guide to keeping Australian invertebrates' by Alan Henderson, Deanna Henderson and Jessie Sinclair (2008, Museum Victoria) that they refer to stick insect fungal disease on page 178, which states ‘Monash University researchers have isolated a lethal fungal disease in Spiny Leaf Insect (Extatosoma tiaratum), that is transmissible’. The authors refer to symptoms to watch out for such as floppy abdomens, also normally dry droppings becoming slimy in appearance; these insects normally die within a week. The cause is a candida yeast infection, contracted by stick insects feeding on leaves infected with mould. The advice given is to quarantine insects and obtain foodplant leaves from another source and check them carefully for mould. There is no treatment for this disease.

A bite from a stick insect
Phil Bragg (Phasmid Studies Editor)

On 25th August 2008 I was exhibiting phasmids at Moor Green Agricultural Show in Nottinghamshire. I had a female Trachyaretaon bruekneri out of the cage and wandering over some pot plants that were on the table. She started to eat one of the plants, an Aloe, I took her off and put her on my arm. Almost immediately she started biting my wrist. To find out how much damage she would inflict, and to see how long she would keep going I let her carry on. She continued to bite for about three quarters of a minute. The bite was not painful, just a pinching sensation, and she did not (quite) manage to break the skin. When I arrived home about six hours later I photographed the resulting marks (see photo). I started keeping phasmids 39 years ago and have never been bitten before. I think the plant being eaten was Aloe vera, but I am not certain about the species. The sap of this plant is quite sticky and I wonder if the, scented sap was sticking to the insect’s palps making it think that my arm was also Aloe.

The only other occasion that I have seen a cockroach, mantis or phasmid trying to bite anyone was several years ago. A girl held a mantis and almost immediately it appeared to be about bite her, I prevented it by blowing on it and then putting it back in its cage. She then held a cockroach and, again almost immediately, that also attempted to bite her. When I questioned her she said she was wearing hand cream. I have kept mantids for quite a lot of time during the past 20 years and only once have I had a mantis attempt to bite me. I have kept cockroaches for more than 25 years and never been bitten by one. I know that Aloe vera is used in cosmetic products and wonder if there is any connection between these incidents.

Having finished the above account, I decided to photograph a female Trachyaretaon bruekneri on the plant concerned. I put the insect on the plant, took one photo and then realised the battery in the camera was flat. I put the battery on to charge and went to put the insect away, only to find it had started eating the Aloe. Being a good scientist, I put the insect on my hand to see what would happen. I can now claim to have been bitten twice by a phasmid! I am not sure if it is the same female as the one that bit me yesterday, but it made no attempt to bite when I took it out of its cage, only when I removed it from the Aloe.
Committee Biography I: Judith Marshall
Judith Marshall (Chairman)

As a child I was always interested in natural history, insects in particular, and continued my interest by obtaining a BSc in Zoology, with Entomology as my special subject. This enabled me to apply to the NHM (or British Museum (Natural History) as its title was then) saying I was particularly interested in working on beetles, bees & wasps or flies – and was offered a job on grasshoppers and allied insects! I started in August 1964 thinking I’d try this for a year or so, and soon became very attached to the study of all orthopteroid insects.

I had kept Carausius morosus [PSG1] as a student, but was delighted to find more interesting species available at the NHM, P. macklottii [PSG2] and S. sipylus [PSG4] to start with. Staff at the NHM have always had a good relationship with staff in the Insect House at London Zoo, as Allan mentioned (Newsletter 114:13). E. tiaratum [PSG9] was distributed by Bob Humphrys after rearing eggs which Andrew Low (an amateur with world-wide contacts) obtained from Queensland. In 1970 I received eggs of C. phyllinus [PSG11] from a colleague in Brazil; he told me they fed on Mimosaceae, which I grew specially – only to find they ignored it but were very happy eating bramble, as were so many of the early cultures. Allan Harman provided many more species from his collecting trips, and I kept as many cultures going as possible although this involved picking a binbag full of bramble every weekend, and spending much spare time maintaining the cultures.

During the 1970s many of the NHM visitors were to be early members of the PSG. John Clark Sellick came to examine the eggs of stick insects, Paul Brock commenced his visits to work on the collection, David Robinson who also has wider Orthopteroid interests, and Tony James who in 1980 came up with the idea of starting a newsletter for fellow phasmid fanatics, and thus forming a society named the Phasmid Study Group. From 1982 we started holding regular meetings, here at the NHM which I was able to arrange, and also at the Centre for Life Studies, London Zoo, organised by Peter Curry. Since its inception many other members of the PSG regularly visit to study the collection and add to it with both wild-collected and cultured material, Phil Bragg with his Bornean studies, Chew Lun Chan (whose collection we are in the processs of obtaining for the NHM), Frank Hennemann and Oskar Conle, to name but a few.

As the PSG expanded and many more people were keeping cultures I cut down on my stocks, and as Pest Control measures were put into place within the NHM in the 1990s livestock was banned from working areas. Live insects were permitted only in the North West Tower so that I now maintain only limited livestock at home.

The Collection at the NHM is of prime importance because of its size and historical range, which means we have many visitors from around the world. I consider myself privileged to have met so many interesting people over the years.

Observation of antennae cleaning in Sceptrophasma hispidulum
Ed Baker (Editor)

I have several adult females of this species, one of which has lost one of the forelegs. I recently observed, during daylight, this female using her two midlegs to manipulate her antennae to the mouthparts for cleaning, a process usually carried out by the forelegs. Perhaps this method offered greater stability?

Bugfest SouthWest, Yeovil, 23rd February 2008
Sarah Darwin

I arrived at Trinity Church in Yeovil just before 10am. I was due to meet Mark and Ian Bushell at ten to set up the Phasmid Study Group table, and Alan Hardy would be along later to help us out.

No-one knew what BugFest would hold – it was a totally new show, new area, new venue, and new audience. I know a lot of traders were just not interested in showing up, as it was such an unknown quantity. I admit I did have nightmares about no-one turning up and the show being a total flop. How wrong was I going to be!

I started setting up the table but I had only brought with me a rather fetching tablecloth and two cages of insects, so it didn’t take me that long. I had a wander around and met up with Janine Fletcher who was helping a friend on another stall.
Janine gave me a cage of *Eurycnema goliath* to put on the PSG table, and we had another wander around together. I made my first purchase, a bracelet, and Janine made her first purchase, bacon sarnies.

It didn’t take too long to see all the stalls as it was after all only two rooms in a relatively small church, but by this time it was getting on to twenty to eleven – the grand opening was at eleven o’clock – and still no sign of Ian and Mark. Janine and I meandered back over to the Phasmid Study Group table (looking particularly sad now amidst many full tables) and my phone rang.

“Bet it’s Mark and they’re lost” quipped Janine.

And yes it was Mark and, yes, they were lost.

I managed to give them some rather poor directions (I don’t know Yeovil at all) and with the help of a rather helpful petrol station attendant, they got to the hall at ten to eleven.

The boys brought their cages in, and at last the PSG table started to rival its neighbours.

We were given a five minute warning, then all too quickly we were told that the doors were opening – and open they did in a flood of excited people battling to enter the building and see the bugs.

Alan turned up with some of his *Pharnacia kalag* – truly stunning insects which totally wowed the crowds with their immense size, and he was kind enough to let Mark and myself have some eggs.

Alan also had with him some *Acanthoxyla prasina*, I have never before seen these in real life, and they are amazing. Another species to add to my Most Wanted list!

The stall was kept busy throughout, and I do admit to spending more time talking to old friends and meeting new ones than maybe I should have done – at one point you literally couldn’t move around the stall, everyone was at a total standstill for about five minutes, it was total gridlock! My mother came in and told us that she had been queuing for over half an hour to get in, people were being turned away from the car park which was full and asked to park elsewhere.

I did manage to get an adult female *Pharnacia ponderosa*, some giant katydids and some beetle larvae, but could have bought much more than that! I also managed to give away a *Grammastola rosea* spiderling that Mark had been interested in – not to Mark as Ian wasn’t too keen, but to Janine who I think fell in love with the furry little critter on sight!.

Finally the rush slowed to a trickle, then to a halt at 3pm when the doors were closed. Kara and Nick Wadham, the event organizers, expected a couple of hundred people, and were keeping their fingers crossed for three hundred. The final visitor total to Bugfest for the day was nine hundred and sixty four people. Which is pretty amazing!

For a first show it was absolutely amazing, I think everyone was gobsmacked at the sheer number of people that came through the doors.

So if you would please, a round of applause to Kara and Nick for their Herculean efforts in promoting Bugfest SouthWest, and raised glasses to many more in the future!
A Trip to the Philippines in March 2008
Mark Bushell

On the 7th March 2008, myself, Joachim Bresseel and Ellen Caluwé embarked on a 2 week expedition to the Philippines in search of phasmid species, both new and described. A lot of fun was had, and it was a great experience for all of us. Hopefully we can repeat it again sometime in the future!

Foremost I would like to say a big “thank you” to Ellen Caluwé. Ellen kept a very detailed diary on all the events that befell us in the Philippines, unlike myself, with a hastily scribbled collection of notes, some of which I still have no idea what I intended them to mean! A lot of this article is based around the extremely good one Ellen wrote for the Phasma newsletter.

Saturday 8th March – Arrival in Manila

After about 25 hours worth of flying about and waiting in airports for transfers I finally arrived in Manila airport, where I ended up waiting for Joachim and Ellen to arrive. In my infinite wisdom I had got a flight that arrived 4 hours before theirs. Time was passed reading books bought in the duty free and chatting to various people in the airport, some of which were surprised that we’d come all this way to look for insects that they saw as “quite boring”; while others weren’t even sure what phasmids were.

When Joachim and Ellen finally arrived, a lot of frenzied phone calls were made between us trying to locate each other, much to the amusement of the security where I was! After about 10 minutes it dawned on us that we’d flown into different terminals – we didn’t even know that there was more than one! Joachim and Ellen jumped into a Jeepney (more on these later) and headed over to Terminal 1 to pick me up, where we were chauffeur driven (flash!) to the hotel where we would spend our first night.

Not long after we had arrived we received a phone call from reception – someone was here to see us! Enter Benjie Mabanta, one of the kindest people we met in the Philippines. We had all conversed via e-mail with Benjie in the past, and it was wonderful to finally meet this great man. Arrangements were finalised to stay at Benjie’s fathers house, situated on Mt. Sembrano, for a couple of days and nights. Once all was ready for tomorrow we popped out to buy some celebratory beers (finally) and talked into the wee hours of the morning about what we would do in the Philippines. We were all rather excited about the prospect of seeing phasmids in the wild, especially Joachim and Ellens as it was their first trip of this kind. Eventually, jet lag kicked in and we all drifted off to sleep...

Sunday 9th March – Mt. Sembrano
For some unknown reason I got up about 6.30am, the jet lag clearly not having kicked in properly! After a quick breakfast we were met at 8am by our chauffeur for the week, Tony Flor. Tony worked as a driver in Benjie’s company and was absolutely brilliant – I don’t think the first week would have gone as smoothly as it did without his help. We first went to visit Benjie at his house in Pilillia, where we met his wife and children (whose names escape me) and had a look at some of his inverts, including some fantastic black and yellow millipedes.

After a brief discussion of our plans for the week, and plugging the coordinates of Benjie’s Dad's house into our GPS in case we got lost, we set off for Mt. Sembrano. Our directions were fairly simple, and involved the strange line “look out for Jesus”. Initially puzzled, we discovered that there was a scale model of the “Christ the Redeemer” statue from Rio de Janeiro built on the hill, and we should be able to spot it from the road. Sure enough, as we got nearer we spotted it and took a side road to head up the hill. We drove a bit too far up and ended up at someone else's house, but got there in the end!

The house itself was situated in an absolutely gorgeous “garden” - a horticulturists dream! Beautiful orchids, banana trees, pineapple bushes, huge tree-ferns... We also met Benjie's father, brother and a few other family
members, and were shown round the grounds. We had already spotted a few insects including (thanks to Joachim) a 1st instar praying mantis nymph and some natty little millipedes, which only added to the anticipation of the first night collecting there. The house also had an amazing view of Laguna Bay, which had several tilapia farms near the coast. Tilapia is a fish that seemed to be served everywhere we went, much to my "joy".

After a dinner of tilapia and a couple of beers, we watched the sunset. I remember similar sunsets when I lived in Brunei as a child, so it always brings back happy memories – it’s just not the same in the UK! It was now that we discovered Ellen was a “mosquito magnet”, being bitten several times already. Over the course of the trip we tried creams, lotions, sprays, wrist-bands, patches... Nothing seemed to stop them. We kitted up and headed out to have a good hunt-round for phasmids on our first collecting night..

We didn't find any phasmids for about an hour, but we did spot lots of other insects and nocturnal animals – ones that spring to mind were a huge toad (*Bufo marinus*) and a rather nice green katydid with attitude! Then Joachim spotted our first phasmid of the trip – a beautiful adult female *Rhamphosipyloidea gorkomi*. We found another two shortly after, but nothing else really for the rest of the night. Tired, but happy, we returned to the house and examined our finds before going to bed.

**Monday 10th March – Pagsanjan Falls**

Ellen was up at 5.30am, but myself and Joachim were being much more sensible and stayed in bed until about 8am. After breakfast we decided that we were going to have a look at Pagsanjan Falls, situated in the Laguna province. The falls are a very popular tourist attraction, with many visitors over the year taking boat rides along the river to the base of the falls. Before we could go we had to register at the office situated at the “Pueblo El Salvador Cavinti Nature Park & Picnic Grove”, based near the falls. The park normally shuts at 5pm – far too early for hunting for phasmids, but after a bit of careful negotiation we convinced the guard that we could stay until 11pm. We had a brief walk along the route we would take whilst searching, where I found out just how unfit I was! Everything looked very promising. Toni disappeared into town to fetch some dinner for us, so to make good use of the time we had before sunset we had a nose around for what insects were about, finding a big weevil and a *Panesthia* sp. cockroach. The ground-crew at the park noticed what we were doing, and pretty soon they were all looking in the hedgerows and bushes for anything they thought might be interesting to us, including several beetles and a gorgeous Draco lizard.

Tony arrived back with the dinner, which was eaten "al-fresco" on banana leaves, then we kitted up and walked out to the path we'd been on previously, agreeing to meet Tony at 11pm. Along one side of the path we found a multitude of small mantids – even before we'd got to the "good part"! We thought this was a pretty good start, but soon after we found the first phasmid, a sub adult female and two adult male *Orthomeria pandora*. From then on we found many species, including *R. philippa*, but mostly unidentified Necrosciinae – the night was filled with enthusiastic cries of “stick insect!” The star find of the night however was an adult female phasmid Ellen found, which Joachim later identified as *Lonchodiodes* sp. Gradually the finds seemed to peter out, so at 10pm we headed back, but not before finding another large toad and a female *Ramulus philippinicus*. We met Tony and headed back to Mt. Sembrano, happy with an extremely successful night.

**Tuesday 11th March – Mt. Banahaw & Mt. Cristobal**

After an extremely good night's sleep, we awoke at 8am to the sound of breakfast. The previous nights "catch" was scrutinised, and all were happy. We planned that after lunch we would head to a "reserve" situated in-between Mt. Banahaw and Mt. Cristobal, but first we had to register in the nearby town. Lunch eaten, we drove out to the town, registered to climb the mountain and went on possibly the most bumpy ride ever in a rather battered pick-up truck. Arriving bruised and slightly battered, we were greeted by the park owner, Dion. Dion spoke incredibly good English, and we found out that he had lived in Australia for a number of years before moving back to the Philippines. He owned the land that the park was sited on, and had people from the village nearby
helping him with building and maintenance – while we were there the locals were building a basketball court on an old tennis court, with occasional breaks for “testing”.

We decided that as we had a tent we should camp there for the night – something I later regretted! Dion showed us around the site, pointing out various plants that were toxic if touched and some beautiful flowers, including arum lilies. He also pointed out where he grew coffee plants, so he could then produce “civet-coffee”. The local population of civets (a weasel-y type animal) are extremely fond of coffee berries and eat them with great relish. However, the bean itself isn’t digested, so passes unharmed through the civet’s digestive system. These are then collected, roasted, and ground into coffee which is an expensive delicacy. I wasn’t keen on trying it to be honest! We then pitched our tent so we’d have a fantastic view of the mountains in the morning, and went back to the main building where we were served “chips” made from sweet potato – unusual, but delicious. Dion had to send someone down to the main town for our dinner as we were “short-notice”, so we had tilapia (again), although it was rather delicious. When the sun went down we had a quick look along the road for any insects, and Joachim found a small tree that was covered in R. philippa of all sizes – a great start! The evening looked like it would be quite productive.

Dion had offered to take us out that night along a “dry” river course, so after dinner we got ready and headed out. The walk along the river was quite treacherous, with slippery rocks proving tricky to negotiate, but we scrabbled and crawled along. Sadly, despite covering a decent length we didn’t find any phasmids, and very few invertebrates apart from a few spiders, and moths attracted to our head-torches. Dion found us a break back onto the main path (through a fruit plantation) and we almost immediately started finding phasmids – mostly small members of Lonchodinae, with some Necrosciinae thrown in for good measure, and some R. philippa.

Slowly we made our way back, slightly disappointed that we hadn’t found as much as we had hoped, but happy that we had at least found something. A few beers in the “bar” (help yourself and pay later – great idea!) while we checked out our finds for the night, and we headed to bed. In my infinite wisdom I hadn’t brought a sleeping bag, thinking it would be nice and warm – I was rather wrong, the night was freezing! I slept in my collecting clothes and tried to pile on whatever I had to hand, but couldn’t get to sleep. When I finally did manage to get some kip, I was punched in the head by Joachim – I’d woken him up with my snoring. What could I do?

Wednesday 12th March – Quezon National Park
It was “stupid o’clock” - unable to sleep, I got up and headed to the main building to drink some coffee and watch the sunrise. Ellen joined me slightly later, while Joachim had a lie-in (lucky for some!). We paid our bill and had a quick breakfast with Dion before we were met by Tony and headed to our next destination – Quezon National Park. We passed through the park on our way to Antimonan, where we would stay the night in the mayor’s hotel. The road itself is known locally as the “Zig-Zag Road”, and consists mostly of tight hairpin bends which are patrolled by volunteer helpers who direct the traffic to minimise collisions and other accidents. Once checked in to the hotel we sorted through all the insects we had already obtained, and headed up to the park to see if we could find the best place to search, collecting some much needed food plants for the insects as we went along. We eventually found where we were looking for, the stairway to the Pinagbanderahan shrine, which has a stairway lined with various plants.

We headed back to Antimonan for some much needed refreshment and to feed our insects, before setting back out again once it had become dark. Handily there was a rest area close to where we wanted to search, so Tony waited for us there and chatted with the guards who were still present while we went looking. We decided to search along the sides of the road first, before ascending the stairs. Here we found quite a few nymphs of Stenobrimus bolivari, as well as an adult male, plus some nymphs of Mnesilochus sp. (possibly M. mindanense).
Heading up the stairway we were greeted by a huge variety of plant life, and the accompanying invertebrate life. Huge moths, a tiny scorpion eating a roach bigger than itself and various snails were among some of the specimens we saw. As for phasmids, we found at least 7 species in walking only about 40 yards, including a *Eubulides* sp. at ground level and a pair of *Asceles* sp. (?) My personal favourite for the night was an adult female *Ophicrania palinurus* – I’d never seen such a colourful phasmid before. We hadn’t gone very far along the path before it started to rain quite heavily, so we began to make our way back. Joachim grabbed a few more *S. bolivari* before we piled into the waiting car with Tony and headed back to our (dry) hotel. We decided that the night needed a few “celebratory” beers, so sat up for a while to discuss the night, and our plans for the next week. Pleased with our progress, we called it a night around midnight.

**Thursday 13th March – Back to Manila**

From Antimonan it was a 3 hour car-ride back to Manila, where we stopped for a snack at Jollibee – the Filipino version of McDonald’s, although far tastier! Checking back into our hotel where we had started from, we sorted though our finds and photographed them all. We then took all the insects over to Benjie, where we would be leaving them while we were in Mindanao as it wouldn’t be practical to take them with us. That sorted, we went for dinner at a pizzeria near our hotel and talked about what we had done so far, what the plans were for the next half of our trip and what we were expecting to come out of the expedition. Soon it was time for bed, so we retired for the night.

Next stop – Mindanao!

**PSG SUMMER MEETING, 12 July 2008**

Mike Smith

What a great meeting it was! The closure of some London Underground stations for planned engineering work was a bit of a concern at first, but I just changed my route a little and arrived in virtually my normal time. We had I’d guess about 50+ members who made it too, so it certainly was “business as usual” for the PSG. Judith Marshall had kindly arranged for the microphone, laptop, internet connection, etc, for the speakers to use, and Ed Baker set them up and made sure they worked OK. We agreed not to have a formal Committee Meeting as we had already had email discussions. I was concerned that the extra hour might drag on a bit – I could not have been more wrong! It was fantastic to look around at the planned activities, chat to old friends, have some refreshments, etc., and the time whizzed by - before I knew it, it was 12.30 and time for the first talk.

**THE FIRST TALK.** The first talk was by Mark Bushell with help from Joachim Bresseel and Ellen Caluwe. It was about their first week of a phasmid finding trip in the Philippines. (The talk on their second week is promised for another meeting). They certainly did find lots of stick insects - and lots of other critters too. Their photos were superb and all put nicely into context by Mark. Having been to the Philippines myself a few years ago, and been looked after by Benjie and his family, including visiting his father’s wonderful farm overlooking the sea, Mark’s talk brought back some happy memories for me.

**LUNCH TIME.** Lunch time was another good time to check out the activities, look over the well-stocked Livestock Exchange table, chat with members, and I even found time for a very quick look round the museum. Oh yes, I also ate my lunch. It was good to see lots of members attempting the Prize Quiz Sarah had kindly arranged, there was some interest in the Heaviest Jungle Nymphs being weighed by Katherine, and members looked in awe at the giant stick insects of the Pharnaciini and Phasmatini tribes in the museum drawers that Judith had kindly arranged nicely around one corner of the room. The Bring and Buy table had books on it, as well as some PSG merchandise, and some dried butterflies in nice glass-domed containers which Sarah brought in and was selling at remarkably cheap prices. Indeed, I bought one myself. Sadly lacking were any new PSG Merchandise items – but we plan our next purchase to be some T-shirts. (Some Phasma members were wearing their newly-designed T-shirts, and looked great). We are waiting to see what designs members can suggest, so please send in your proposed T-shirt designs as soon as possible to Judith (e-mail: j.marshall@nhm.ac.uk).
GUEST PHASMIDS. Straight after lunch Judith introduced these stick insect giants and began a very interesting discussion on them. The guest phasmids were the Pharnacini and Phasmatini tribes, of the sub-family Phasmatinae. These are the giants of the stick insect world (they include the genera \textit{Pharnacia}, \textit{Phobaeticus}, \textit{Acrophylla}, \textit{Eurycnema}, and \textit{Phasma}). Presumably, because of their size, no members brought in any live samples, however this was more than made up for with the numerous drawers of these magnificent creatures that Judith had borrowed from the Museum.

NAMING PHASMIDS. This is a subject members had been seeking a talk on for a while. And who better to give the talk than the phasmid-naming maestro himself, Dr Phil Bragg. Phil carefully explained the history and evolution of scientific names, and he made it all seem so simple. With pictures and examples, it all became so clear why the names were as they are, and why some have had to be changed over the years. Indeed, Phil’s talk attracted many interesting questions, it would have been a shame not to allow them, and so the talk overran its time a bit. However, the meeting was not due to finish until 4.30pm, and we were still well on target to finish before then.

TALK ON STICKTALK. Derek Tylden-Pattenson (aka Derek TP) introduced us to the Stick List and its associated Stick Talk e-mails. Many if not most PSG members were already members of Stick Talk, but to others it was probably all a bit of a mystery. Members of it or not, we all learned much about the enthusiasm, hard work, safety features, and innovation that had gone into our “sister” organisation. In particular, Derek used the internet connection to show off some of the excellent features of the Stick List website. If you want to know more, go to www.sticklist.com. Finally, Derek explained they were in need of some more volunteer moderators for Stick Talk, and invited anyone interested to contact him. (You can do this by sending an e-mail to sticktalk@sticklist.com, titled “Moderator”).

JUNGLE NYMPH (\textit{Heteropteryx dilatata}) WEIGH-IN. To put things into perspective, the record given in The Guinness Book of Records and The Guinness Book of Animal Facts & Feats is of a 160 mm dead female specimen in Paul Brock’s collection, which probably weighed at least 65 grams in her egg-laying prime. The problem is that this was an educated guess rather than an accurate measurement. The heaviest, reliably measured Jungle Nymph weighed 51.2 grams; it was a 140mm female at London Zoo. At our Jungle Nymph weigh-in at the 2006 PSG Summer Meeting, Sergi Romeu won with a 150mm female weighing 42.9 grams. At the 2007 PSG Summer Meeting, Sergi had a 152mm female but weighing only 34.6 grams, and it was won by Bob Simoens & Kristien Rabaey with an amazing 158mm female weighing 49.2 grams. Well, Sergi was back again this year with a winning 160mm female weighing 43.6 grams and took first place – he also took second place with a 165mm female weighing 38.3 grams. Third place went to Darren Moss, with a 91mm specimen weighing 6.2 grams. Many thanks to Katherine Strick who handled all the weigh-ins for George Beccaloni who could not make this meeting.

PHASMID QUIZ. The quiz was kindly written and run by Sarah Darwin (formerly Sarah Houghton). There were 14 questions ranging from fairly easy to quite hard, and many members took part in it. There were two winners, each gaining 10 correct answers, so these names were put in a hat and the first one pulled out was Rowena Tylden-Pattenson. The prize was one of Sarah’s lovely dried butterflies in a glass-domed container.

LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE. For many, this is the highlight of PSG meetings. It is wonderful to see how many generous members have contributed their spare phasmid livestock and eggs. There were two very strange fun items on the livestock table this time, which kept us amused, courtesy of Richard Bradbury and his two sons Robert and David. One was an enormous, green stick insect which did not move, the other had to be kept in a padlocked container – but had escaped! (See photos). The table had the usual spread of bread and butter favourites, plus many of the newer species, there were also vast quantities of eggs available. I picked up some interesting additions to my collection, as did most others but, as is sometimes the case, there were seemingly more sticks available than people willing and able to take them home – though Janine and her helpers did a fantastic job in distributing virtually everything there.
Finally, all too soon the meeting was over, and it was time to go home. The London Underground was still playing up a bit but, all things considered, the journey was not too bad - I got home about 20 minutes later than if the trains were working normally, and then happily looked through my new acquisitions. Many thanks to everyone who checked through this article for me, to help ensure I got my facts on them correct.

I hope all attendees had a fantastic time, and found lots of things that interested them. If anyone has 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).

Some Alternative Foodplants
Mark Bushell

BRAMBLE (Rubus fructicosus agg.)
- Asceles sp. (267)
- Dinophasma sp. (Crocker Range) (Can be used temporarily)
- Lonchodes philippinicus (282) (might need privet for first few instars though)
- Parectatosoma mocquersyi (258) (Can be reared temporarily for larger nymphs)

EUCALYPTUS (Eucalyptus spp.)
- Phaenopharos struthioneus (205) (Can be reared exclusively on this)

COTONEASTER (Cotoneaster spp.)
- Aretaon asperrimus (118)
- Brasidas samarensis (235)
- Sungaya inexpectata (195)
- Trachyaretaon brueckneri (255)
- Dares sp. (Crocker Range)
- Dares ulula (117)
- Dares validispinus (38)

HYPERICUM (Hypericum spp.)
- Acanthoxyla inermis (81)
- Acanthoxyla intermedia (33)
- Acanthoxyla prasina (6)

IVY (Hedera spp.)
- Dimorphodes catenulatus (236)

OAK (Quercus spp.)
- Dimorphodes catenulatus (236)

STRAWBERRY (Fragaria spp.)
- Abrosoma festinatum (231)
- Abrosoma johorensis (265)
- Dinophasma sp. (Crocker Range)

BEECH (Fagus spp.)
- Aretaon asperrimus (118)
- Brasidas samarensis (235)
- Sungaya inexpectata (195)
- Trachyaretaon brueckneri (255)
- Dares sp. (Crocker Range)
- Dares ulula (117)
- Dares validispinus (38)
- Dares verrucosus (69)
- Haaniella dehaani (126)
- Haaniella echinata (26)
HAZEL (Corylus spp.)

- Acanthoxyla inermis (81)
- Acanthoxyla prasina (6)
- Agamemmon cornutus (266)
- Anchialae stolli (292)
- Brasidas samarensis (235)
- Carausius cristatus (120)
- Carausius spinosus (241)
- Dares ulula (117)
- Dares verrucosus (69)
- Haaniella dehaani (126)
- Haaniella scabra (70)
- Lonchodes amauros (100)
- Lonchodes malleti (200)
- Mnesilocthis imitator (29)
- Mnesilocthis modestus (138)
- Parapachymorpha zomproi (224)
- Phenacephorus cornucervi (73)
- Rhamphosipyloidea gorkomi (90)
- Sungaya inexpectata (195)

- Acanthoxyla intermedia (33)
- Acrophylla wulffingi (13)
- Arienobostra brocki (52)
- Aretaon asperrimus (118)
- Carausius sp. (Ban Salok)
- Carausius sanguineoligatus (66)
- Dares sp. (Crocker Range)
- Dares validispinus (38)
- Epidares nolimetangere (99)
- Haaniella echinata (26)
- Haaniella saussurei (177)
- Hoploclonia abercrombiei (165)
- Lonchodes brevipes (19)
- Lopaphus perakensis (37)
- Mnesilocthus mindanaense (169)
- Mnesilocthus rusticus (246)
- Phaenopharostruthioneus (205)
- Pylaemenes guangxiensis (248)
- Rhamphosipyloidea philippa (223)
- Trachyaretaon brueckneri (255)

PSG Website & Sticktalk Link

Ed Baker (Editor)

A recent update to the Scratchpad (http://scratchpads.eu) project has meant that we can now make information on the website available in a machine-readable form. Our first project along these lines has been the creation of a machine-readable version of the PSG Culture List. The list on our website (http://phasmid-study-group.org) is regularly updated, and until now these modifications had to be manually entered by the Sticktalk administration.

Now Sticktalk is updated automatically (daily) direct from the PSG Website, so it will take at most 24hours for any changes to the Culture List to be reflected on the Sticktalk culture list and label maker.

If anybody else has a website that would benefit from sharing data from the PSG Website then please contact me (details in the ‘Committee’ section).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PSG Num</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Subfamily</th>
<th>Locality of culture stock</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Foodplants</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<td>Carausius morosus (Siniety, 1901)</td>
<td>Lonchodinae</td>
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<td>160</td>
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<td>B.E.H.O.Py.Ro. 15, 47</td>
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<td>210</td>
<td>145</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
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<td>Trinidad.</td>
<td>S T W</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>P L</td>
<td>90*</td>
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<td>Tectarchus buttoni (Brummer, 1907)</td>
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<td>60*</td>
<td>42*</td>
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<td>S C</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>O. B. Ro. 24</td>
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<td>Hermeragora hessei hessei (Kirby, 1896)</td>
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<td>130</td>
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<td>B.H.Py.Py. 22, P5:38</td>
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<td>90</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>Sarawak &amp; Brunei.</td>
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<td>45</td>
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<td>B. O. Ro. 26</td>
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<td>Lonchodides jejunus (Brummer, 1907)</td>
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<td>S L w</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>B. -</td>
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<td>Tanzania.</td>
<td>S L</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>L. Grasses. (9/10:3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Gnatea sp.</td>
<td>Platymerinae</td>
<td>Fiji.</td>
<td>- L</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Cloeonis gallica (Charpentier, 1825)</td>
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<td>P C</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>B. Broom. Ro. 38</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>Marmessoidea rosea (Fabricius, 1793)</td>
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<td>S L W</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Cinnamon. -</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Newsletter of The Phasmid Study Group

PHASMID STUDY GROUP CULTURE LIST SEPTEMBER 2008
| Page 90* | Phanocles costaricensis Hennemann, 2002 | Diapheromerinae | Costa Rica. | S | T | 185 | 110 | B. Ro. | P1.5, P11.8
| 91 | Hoplopus cytherea (Westwood, 1859) | Cladomorphinae | Dominican Republic | S | C | W | 120 | 90 | Ro.B.E.H.O.Ra. | 45, 19
| 92 | unclassified. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 93 | Paramirisomorpha sp. | Pseudophasmatinae | Peru. | S | L | S | - | B. | - |
| 94 | Libethra sp. | Diapheromerinae | Peru. | S | L | 45 | 40 | B. | - |
| 95 | Aisenoboa brocki (Hauseleithner, 1987) | Diapheromerinae | Costa Rica. | S | C | - | 140 | 80 | B. Py. Ro. | 23
| 96 | Hemerucha inermis Redtenbacher, 1908 | Phasmatinae | Fiji. | S | L | M | Guava. | - |
| 97 | unidentified. | Pachymorphinae | Tanzania. | S | L | S | - | L. | - |
| 98 | Ramulus nematodes (de Haan, 1842) | Phasmatinae | West Malaysia. | S | C | W | 130 | 100 | B. O. Ra. Ro. | Rb. | 17
| 99 | SAME AS P.S.G. 5. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 100 | SAME AS P.S.G. 37. | Necrosciinae | Sabah. | P** | L | W | S | - | B. | - |
| 101 | Carausius sanguineoligatus (Brunner, 1907) | Phasmatinae | West Malaysia. | S | L | W | 210 | 125 | B. O. | - |
| 102 | Lonchodinae everetti (Kirby, 1896) | Phyllinae | Sri Lanka. | S | C | W | 85 | 55 | O. B. | - |
| 103 | Lonchodes sp. | Phyllinae | West Malaysia. | S | L | W | 85 | 55 | O. B. | - |
| 105 | Hauniella scabra (Redtenbacher, 1906) | Heteropteryginae | Sabah. | S | C | w | 70 | 55 | B. O. | (23:6)
| 106 | Bacillus aticus cyprius Uvarov, 1936 | Bacillinae | Cyprus. | P | L | 80 | - | Lentisc - | - |
| 107 | Phyllium giganteum Hauseleithner, 1984 | Phyllinae | West Malaysia. | P** | C | W | 105 | 82 | O. B. | P4:64
| 108 | Phenacephorus cornucervi Brunner, 1907 | Lonchodinae | Sabah. | S | C | - | 80 | 65 | B. I. Ro. Ra. | 32
| 109 | Anchialae sp. | Phasmatinae | Australia. | S | L | W | 155 | 95 | B. O. E. | - |
| 110 | SAME AS P.S.G. 25. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 111 | Phyllium siccifolium (Linnaeus, 1758) | Phyllinae | West Malaysia. | S | L | W | 80 | 60 | O. B. | - |
| 112 | Phyllium sp. | Phyllinae | West Malaysia. | S | L | W | S | - | O. B. | - |
| 113 | SAME AS P.S.G. 30. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 114 | Bostra aetolus (Westwood, 1859) | Diapheromerinae | Mexico. | S | L | - | 170* | ? | A. Rb. Py. | 31
| 115 | Acanthoxyla geiosorii (Kaup, 1846) | Phasmatinae | New Zealand & UK | P | T | 75 | - | B. E. Cupressus | - |
| 116 | Acanthoxyla inermis Salmon, 1955 | Phasmatinae | New Zealand & UK | P | C | - | 90* | - | Ro. B. E. | - |
| 117 | Rhaphiderus spiniger (Lucas, 1863) | Tropidoderinae | La Reunion. | S | C | - | 75 | 60 | Rh. E. B. O. Ro. | 33
| 118 | Rhaphiderus scalbrosus (Percheron, 1829) | Tropidoderinae | Mauritius. | S | C | - | 95 | 70 | Ro. | - |
| 119 | Oreophoeus peruana (Saussure, 1868) | Diapheromerinae | Peru. | S | C | - | 60 | 55 | F. | 39
| 120 | Pseudophasma rufipes (Redtenbacher, 1906) | Pseudophasmatinae | Peru. | P** | C | W | 75 | 50 | P. | 46,105:12
| 121 | Dyne rarosinosa Brunner, 1907 | Diapheromerinae | Peru. | S | T | - | 80 | 65 | B. O. | 34
| 122 | Paracolopha jatrostrastra Zompro, 2001 | Diapheromerinae | Peru. | S | L | - | S | - | B. | - |
| 123 | Necrosciia sp. | Necrosciinae | Sulawesi. | S | L | W | S | - | B. | - |
| 124 | Sosibia parvipennis (Stål, 1877) | Nvecrosciinae | Philippines. | S | C | W | 75 | 50 | B. Hy. | 42, P4:67
| 125 | Rhaphidioptiloidea gorkomi (Hauseleithner, 1990) | Necrosciinae | Philippines. | S | L | - | 100 | 60 | B. E. Hy. Ra. | 34
| 126 | SAME AS P.S.G. 45. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 127 | Menesenas exiguus alienigena Günther, 1939 | Lonchodinae | Sulawesi. | S | L | 50 | 35 | B. | P10:35
| 128 | unidentified. | Lonchodinae | India. | S | L | S | - | B. | (30:6)
| 129 | Cuniculus insignis (Wood-Mason, 1873) | Phasmatinae | India. | S | T | - | 195 | 115 | Ro. B. | 39
| 130 | Ramulus frustrans (Brunner, 1907) | Phasmatinae | India. | S | L | - | 92 | ? | B. | (30:6)
| 131 | Menesenas nudiusculus Hauseleithner, 1992 | Lonchodinae | India. | S | L | - | 70 | 55 | B. Rh. Ro. | 41
| 132 | Diapheromerinae arizonensis Casadell, 1903 | Diapheromerinae | U.S.A. | S | L | - | 76* | ? | A. | - |
| 133 | Parabacillus hesperus Hebard, 1934 | Pachyformhinae | U.S.A. | P | L | 75* | 50* | A. Rb. B. | - |
The Newsletter of The Phasmid Study Group

100. Lonchodinae (Sarawak, 1859)

101. Lamponius guerini (Sassure, 1868)

102. Clonaria sp.

103. Sipyloidea sp. "THAILAND 8"

104. Phamopharos herwardeii Hennem. et al., 1996

105. Paraphamotus spinosus (Brunner, 1893)

106. Oncothassa martini (Griffini, 1896)

107. Bacillius lucceorum Bullini et al., 1894


109. Carausius abbreviatus (Brunner, 1907)

110. Hoplocasia gecko (Westwood, 1859)

111. Eurycaeninae instarulis Lucas, 1869

112. Hamaella muelleri (de Haan, 1842)

113. Dyne sp.

114. Ramulus sp. "THAILAND 2"

115. Lopaphus sp. "THAILAND 6"

116. Pseudophasmatina bipinosa (Redtenbacher, 1906)

117. Dares ulula (Westwood, 1859)

118. Aretaon asperinus (Redtenbacher, 1906)

119. Lonchodinae jejunus (Brunner, 1907)

120. Carausius cristatus Brunner, 1907

121. Carausius spinulosus (Hausleitner, 1991)

122. Anisomorpha paromalus (Westwood, 1859)

123. Leptia hispanica (Bolivar, 1878)

124. Acacuc sarawacus (Westwood, 1859)

125. Haaniella gracilis (Westwood, 1859)

126. Haaniella dehaanii (Westwood, 1859)

127. Hermagoras megabeast (Bragg, 2001)

128. Phyllium celebicum de Haan, 1842

129. Lonchodinae jejunus (Brunner, 1907)

130. Diesbacia heliotis (Westwood, 1859)

131. Leiphitus adustum (Redtenbacher, 1906)

132. Acacuc sarawacus (Westwood, 1859)

133. Hermagoras megabeast (Bragg, 2001)

134. Phyllium celebicum de Haan, 1842

135. Lonchodinae sp.

136. Carausius sp.

137. Phramacia sp.

138. Mnesiochus modestus (Brunner, 1907)

139. Carausius sp.

140. Bactria sp.

141. Clonaria sp.

142. Clonaria sp.

143. Sipyloidea sp. ?

144. Ramulus sp. (? artemis ?)

145. Paramenon exsatus (Kirby, 1904)

146. Centrophasmatia hadriilum (Westwood, 1859)

147. Carausius alluandi (Bolivar, 1895)

148. Paraclonistria sp. ST. KITTS

149. Acroriptera punctipes (Audinet-Serville, 1838)

150. Dinophasma guttigerum (Westwood, 1859)
Asceles margaritatus | Necrosciinae | Sabah. | S C w | 60 | 50 | E. B. O. | (56:5)  
Phanocloidea nodulosa (Redtenbacher, 1908) | Diapheromerinae | Venezuela. | S C - | 150 | 100 | B. | (62:8)  
Ramulus siamensis (Brunner, 1907) CHIANG MAI | Phasmatinae | Thailand. | S C - | 105 | 80 | B. Ro. O. | P4:39  
Acrophylla titan (Macleay, 1827) | Phasmatinae | Australia. | S C W | 220 | 140 | E.B.Hy.Ra. Hazel. | -  
Anchiale austroestussata Brock & Hasenpusch, 2007 | Phasmatinae | Australia. | S C W | 130 | 90 | E. B. Ra. Ro. | -  
Bacillus atticus atticus Brunner, 1882 | Bacillinae | Greece. | P L - | 70 | 70 | Ro. | M30:23  
Trachythorax maculicollis (Westwood, 1848) | Necrosiinae | Burma & Rambalabash | S C W | 70 | 35 | Py. | -  
Parapachymorphoma spiniger (Brunner, 1907) | Pachymorphinae | Vietnam. | P C - | 70 | 68 | B. Ro. Py. | (64:4)  
Dinophasma saginatum (Redtenbacher, 1906) | Asclphansmatinae | Sarawak. | S C W | 65 | 45 | Fu. Willowherb | (64:4)  
Clonistria bartholomaei Stål, 1875 | Diapheromerinae | Grenada. | S T - | 90 | 60 | B. P. | (64:4)  
Mnixochloos mindanaensis (Brunner, 1907) | Lonchodinae | Philippines. | S C - | 105 | 90 | B. H. Ra. | (64:5)  
Phanocloidea maricata (Brunner, 1838) | Diapheromerinae | French Guiana. | S C - | 180 | 145 | B. Ra. Ro. | M29:15  
Neohirasea maerens (Brunner, 1907) | Lonchodinae | Vietnam. | S C - | 80 | 65 | B. I. | (65:4)  
Lopopus caesius (Redtenbacher, 1908) | Necrosiinae | Vietnam. | S C W | 120 | 80 | B. Ro. | (65:4)  
Lonchodes geniculatus Gray, 1835 | Lonchodinae | Singapore. | S L - | 120 | 90 | B. O. P. | (65:5)  
Haaniella saussurei Kirby, 1904 | Heteropteryginae | Sarawak. | S C w | 120 | 80 | B.E.I.O.Ra.Ro. | (67:5)  
Clonistria sp. | Diapheromerinae | St. Lucia. | S T - | 95 | 65 | B. | (67:6)  
Sthenoeboea malaya (Stål, 1875) | Lonchodinae | Singapore. | B. I. & Sabah | S L - | 95 | 75 | B. O. Ra. | -  
Hermagoras cultralcolbatas (Brunner, 1907) | Lonchodinae | B. I. & Sabah | S C - | 130 | 100 | B. Ra. Ro. | -  
Oxyartes lamellatus Kirby, 1904 | Necrosciinae | Vietnam. | S C w | 105 | 90 | B. I. O. Ra. Ro. | -  
Sceptarphasma hispidulum (Wood-Mason, 1873) | Pachymorphinae | Andaman Islands. | S C - | 70 | 60 | B. O. Ra. | (70:6)  
unidentified. | Necrosciinae | Andaman Islands. | S T W | 75 | 55 | B. O. Ra. | -  
Chondrostethus woodfordi Kirby, 1896 | Lonchodinae | Solomon Islands. | S C - | 95 | 60 | F. B. Rh. | -  
Creosylus hagani Redtenbacher, 1906 | Xerosomatinae | Venezuela. | S T W | 70 | 60 | B. | -  
Oxyartes spinipennis Carl, 1913 | Necrosciinae | Vietnam. | S C w | 100 | 85 | B. | -  
Pseudophasma acanthonotus (Redtenbacher, 1906) | Pseudophasmatinae | Venezuela. | S C W | 75 | 55 | B. Hy. P. | -  
Urccamania borelli (Giglio-Tos, 1897) | Pseudophasmatinae | Paraguay. | S T - | 55 | 40 | B. | -  
Orestes mouhoti (Bates, 1865) | Dataminae | Thailand & Malaysia. | P C - | 50 | 40 | B. Ro. | 104:06:00  
Tropidoderus childreni (Gray, 1833) | Tropidoderinae | Australia. | S T W | 140 | 120 | E. | -  
Rhaphrophasma spinicornis (Stål, 1875) | Phasmatinae | Bangladesh. | S C - | 80 | 70 | B. | P7:45  
Baculofractum insignis (Brunner, 1907) | Necrosciinae | Sumatra. | S C w | 140 | 110 | B. Ro. | 97:13:00  
Pharmac a westwoodii (Wood-Mason, 1875) | Phasmatinae | Thailand. | S T w | 235 ? | O. B. | -  
Anisomorpha ferruginea (Beauvois, 1821) | Pseudophasmatinae | U.S.A.? | S C - | 50 | 30 | B. | -  
Hoplocladia cuspipata Redtenbacher, 1906 | Obriminae | Brunei. | S C - | 50 | 30 | B. O. | -  
Lonchodes mallei Bragg, 2001 | Lonchodinae | Sabah. | S C - | 125 | 90 | B. H. | -  
Sipyloidea sp. | Necrosciinae | Bangladesh. | S C W | 85 | 60 | B. H. Ro. | P7:48  
Medaura johnensis Brock & Cliquennois, 2000 | Phasmatinae | Bangladesh. | S C - | 100 | 70 | B. H. | P9:19  

The Newsletter of The Phasmid Study Group
**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
If the insect has not been classified to species level, this column gives the common name that has been used in the Newsletters.

**NOTES**
1. **BREEDING:** S = Sexual. P = Parthenogenetic. P* = Parthenogenetic in culture, believed to be sexual in the wild.
2. **CULTURE STATUS:** (Based mainly on 1999 census returns)
   - C = At least one established culture reported.
   - T = Tentative culture.
   - L = Lost (no cultures reported).
3. **WINGS:** W = at least one sex can fly or glide. w = Wings present in one or both sexes but neither sex can fly.

**SIZE**
This gives approximate sizes of females and males in mm. Remember sizes can vary greatly in some species.

If measurements of PSG stock are not available then: * = taken from literature. S = up to 10cm. M = 10 to 15cm. L = over 15cm.

**PREFERRED FOODPLANTS**
Where a species is known to have a very clear preference and difficulties are known to be common when other plants are used, the first plant listed is the preferred foodplant and is recommended for starting newly hatched nymphs; otherwise the list is alphabetical. The list is not comprehensive, most species which eat bramble will also eat hawthorn, pyracantha, raspberry, rose and other members of the Rosaceae.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. = Acacia.</th>
<th>B. = Bramble.</th>
<th>E. = Eucalyptus.</th>
<th>F. = Ferns.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**SPECIES REPORT**
This column gives the number of the *Newsletter or Phasmid Studies* in which there has been a report on the culture.

Full reports in the *Newsletter* are shown by the issue number only eg. 47.

A number in brackets gives the issue and page number of a brief note in the *Newsletter* eg. (63:3).

Items in *Phasmid Studies* are shown by the letter P followed by the volume and page number eg. P1:2.

Reports in *Le Monde des Phasmes* are shown by the letter M followed by the volume and page number eg. M29:15, and those in *Phasma* are prefixed by a D followed by volume and page numbers; these are only given if a report has not appeared in *Phasmid Studies* or the *Newsletter*.

**STATUS OF CULTURES**
The culture status column is based on the 1999 census returns, with modifications where the status is known to have changed. Few census forms were returned so some marked as lost may still be in culture. However, the information is obviously very out-of-date. It is possible that some of those marked as established cultures may also have been lost. Please check this column before requesting livestock and make sure you do not request stock of lost cultures.

**HUMIDITY**
The following is a general guide to the preferences of species. The desirable conditions may vary depending on the age of the insects, in particular, adults and large nymphs may prefer lower humidity to small nymphs. If you are starting with a species which is new to you then check where the culture originated and find out what the natural climate is like.

1. High humidity required (i.e. almost fully enclosed). All Heteropterygidae and Eurycanthinae.
2. Quite high humidity recommended. Most species from tropical rainforests, e.g. Borneo, New Guinea, Java, Peru. However, very large species and winged species from these areas may prefer slightly lower humidity.
3. Low humidity essential (i.e. a very well ventilated cage, e.g. all netting). All European species (*Bacillus & Clonopsis*).
4. Lowish humidity desirable (known to suffer in high humidity): *Curculina insignis*.
5. Moderate humidity generally acceptable. All other species.
6. Different people have very differing opinions about *Phyllium* spp.

**NEW CULTURES:** Please notify Phil Bragg if you have a species established in culture which is not on the list. To try to avoid confusion between similar species, new cultures will only be added to the list once I have a specimen of either the egg or adult.
“Why do we say it like that, and does it really matter?”
Judith Marshall (Chairman)

I have always advocated learning the derivation and original significance, the etymology, of a scientific name, because this knowledge helps to spell the name correctly. It also assists in knowing how to pronounce the name; complicated scientific names may be pronounced in a variety of ways which can lead to misunderstandings, especially if then misspelt as a result of the variable pronunciation.

Brown’s splendid work on the roots of scientific names is an essential resource for many animal names, but we can learn much about name formation from botanical sources. There is a wonderful book Botanical Latin by the great Linnaean authority William Stearn which covers everything a botanist needs to know about plant names. On a simpler note, several years ago I was delighted, as a gardener, to discover Allen Coombes’ Dictionary of Plant Names giving both origin and pronunciation of each name. Recently I bought The Names of Plants by David Gledhill, who very helpfully gives the Greek lettering for names of Greek origin. Also Stearn’s Dictionary of Plant Names for Gardeners: A Handbook on the Origin and Meaning of the Botanical Names of Some Cultivated Plants has been published in paperback. If your preference is to access websites, try: http://botanicallatin.org/latinhandout.pdf.

Many names are derived from Latin or Greek sources, and we are assisted by the rules of pronunciation for these languages. For example, many phasmid names include ‘ch’, as in Lonchodes, from the Greek λογχη, loncho- = lance (spear, javelin); the ‘ch’ is the Greek letter Chi, ‘χ’ which is always pronounced hard, as ‘k’.

Unfortunately there are two distinct ways of pronouncing Latin for English-speakers: there is the academic or classical pronunciation, as spoken in the past by educated Romans, and similar to that used now in Europe, and there is the traditional English form used by gardeners and many biologists. Stearn produced a detailed comparison of the two forms in his book on Botanical Latin.

There are a few basic rules which it may be useful to remember:
‘a’ as in ‘cat’ ‘i’ as in ‘it’ ‘u’ as in ‘put’ ‘e’ as in ‘egg’ ‘o’ as in ‘on’
‘c’ before a, o and u is hard, as ‘k’; ‘c’ before e and i is soft, as ‘s’
[so the bush-cricket Conocephalus should sound like ‘Konosefalus’]
‘ch’ (of Greek and German words) always hard as ‘k’

Even so rules are not always followed, we all know Fuchsia, the plant named after Fuchs which should be pronounced ‘fuxsia’ but is commonly known as ‘fewsha’, with the associated misspellings!

Of course it is not just complicated names than may be pronounced differently; at a recent PSG meeting Phil and I were chatting with a fellow member about cockroaches, and he mentioned a species called “dubbya” [as in George W. Bush?] which stumped us both. He then produced a container with the title “B. dubia” and light dawned on us – Blaptica dubia, as in dubious = doubtful.

So – if we can all try to pronounce names as accurately as possible, we may all agree on what we are talking about!

References:
GLEDHILL, D. 2006. The Names of Plants. 4th Edn. CUP.
Behavioural observations of *Necroscia annulipes*  
**Ed Baker (Editor)**

I received a pair of this species from Allan Harman recently. We have both noticed that they tend to rest on the sides of the enclosure rather than the foodplant.

Both males and females of this species are also very quick to fly at room temperature.

Egg laying seems to be a slow process, with relatively few eggs being laid. This, and the unusual shape of the egg, would perhaps indicate that they are carefully positioned rather than scattered widely.

**Next Newsletter**  
**Ed Baker (Editor)**

Contributions for the next issue of the Newsletter should be sent to me, either by post or by e-mail, to reach me before the 1st December.

Please send submissions on any subject matter relating to phasmids, in particular short articles and photographs.