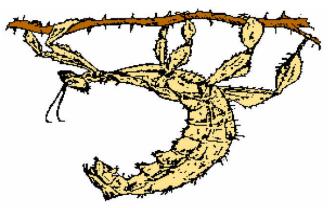
# The Phasmid Study Group

Newsletter No. 125 April 2011

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From the Saga Louts tour of Borneo & Java

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# **News, Information & Updates**

#### **Editorial**

Ed Baker (Editor)

Apologies for another late Newsletter, caused this time by a lack of articles, then a sudden flurry while I was concentrating on two new large projects at the Natural History Museum (ViBRANT & eMonocot - both large scale eTaxonomy initiatives).

As a result of this there will now be two Newsletters in quick succession, both before the Summer Meeting. The full agenda for the meeting will be in the June Newsletter, although I appreciate that some international members may well not recieve that in time. The meeting is on the 2nd July at the Natural History Museum, and will start with an informal catch-up as usual at 11am. Spare agendas will be available on the day.

Please also take the time to complete the questionnaire at the back of this Newsletter so that we can understand more about what members would like from the Group. This is your chance to have a say in the future of your Study Group.

#### The Committee

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Ian Abercrombie

# **Diary Dates**

**PSG Summer Meeting: 02 July 2011** 

Dorothea Bate Room, Natural History Museum, London

**AES Annual Exhibition: 01 October 2011** 

Kempton Park Racecourse

Please send details of any other forthcoming events to the editor (edwbaker@gmail.com)

# **Membership Renewal Form**

Dear Member,

Your subscription for 2011 is now due. The cost of membership has been held at the same level as 2010, and we hope that you wish to continue your membership.

The cost of renewal is:

UK £12.00 Europe £14.00 Overseas £15.00

Please return this form to the Membership Secretary togerther with your payment. A photocopy of the form is acceptable, or you can download and print a copy from http://phasmid-study-group.org/renewal-2011.

Payments can be made using one of the following payment methods:

Cheque (in GBP and drawn on a London bank)
Postal Order
International Postal Giro

We are unable to accept Eurocheques, and PayPal onoly in exceptional circumstances.

Cash may be sent (at your own risk) in your own currency (add an extra £3 for exchange rate variations). We recommend using registered post.

PSG No:		Name:	
Address:			
Post Code:		Country:	
E-mail:			
Subscription:	£		
Donation:	£		(optional)
Total:	£		
Please return	to:		

April 2011

Paul Brock, 2 Greenways Road, Brockenhurst, SO42 7RN (E: pauldbrock@btinternet.com)

### **PSG Merchandise**

On the PSG website (http://phasmid-study-group.org) under PSG Information, click on 'PSG shop' or go striaght to http://www.cafepress.co.uk/stickinsect

The standard T-shirt is £12.50, Golf shirt £14.00 – and you don't have to play golf to wear this!

Also shirts in many other shapes and colours, and Teddy Bear at £11.00 wearing a PSG T-shirt.

Anyone not able to access the internet to order goods, I am happy to take orders for delivery at the Summer Meeting, or make any other convenient arrangement – please contact Judith at the NHM, 0207 942 5610.







# AGM Saturday 15 January 2011

Paul Brock very kindly acted as Chairman with apologies for absence from Judith Marshall, and also from other Committee members Paul Jennings, David Robinson, Gavin Ridley and Phil Bragg. Paul B. read out Judith's Chairman's Report, in which she stated "We have a few things to sort out this year, with meetings, Newsletter, Phasmid Studies, website – to name but a few! You will hear from others, and I regret not being here to join in any discussion. Any comments, questions, complaints which may occur to you after today, please send to me by email, snailmail or 'phone!'" Judith is happy to continue to arrange meetings at the Natural History Museum, London in January and July, and has booked Saturday 2nd July 2011 for the Summer meeting.

Apologies were given to all members for the lateness of the newsletter and errors, due to a draft version being sent to the printers by accident. The corrected list of foodplants is to go on the website – so it can then be added to, as other food plant information is made available, as it is a very useful document. Judith has been working on the PSG Culture List, adding new species when identified specimens are received for the NHM collection, and would be happy to receive more such material. The Culture List on the PSG website is fully up to date, any name changes or corrections are added as soon as they are confirmed, though where new synonymies are involved the list is updated when the name change has been published.

Paul Brock then spoke for himself with the Treasurers Report: We ended 2010 with 110 members, 10 members down (8%) on 2009. Four Newsletters were issued during the year (one relating to 2008, another covering two quarters); but no online Phasmid Studies.

There was a 'deficit' of £429.40; but this includes a Newsletter that should been issued in 2009. Our general fund, however, is still a healthy £3130.25. He stated "High printing and postal costs, combined with low membership may result in problems for the Group in future. There are various options, but to avoid increasing the subscription, as a temporary measure (and due to fewer contributions) costs could be saved by reducing the number of Newsletters each year e.g. from four to two, or lose quality and perhaps print in-house. These and other options will be considered during 2011 and members will be consulted as part of the process."

lan Bushell (Secretary), Ed Baker (Newsletter Editor) and Mark Bushell (Livestock Co-ordinator) also discussed their roles in 2010. Paul Jennings provided notes to be read out on forthcoming shows on 30 January (Ashford) and 3 July (York), asking that volunteers contact him. Darren Moss gave further information on the Ashford show and circulated minutes.

Members present approved re-election of existing Committee, except Kristien Rabaey & Rob Simoens have stepped down from this role and were thanked for their service to the PSG. In any case, they will still be strongly involved via the PSGs close links with Phasma. There was no other business; any volunteers to serve on the Committee were asked to contact Judith.

Attention all members!!! PLEASE complete and return the questionnaire – see pages XX - follow the instructions and have a say in the Group's future. At the AGM Ian Abercrombie stressed how important it is to have your say on the way forward.

This is YOUR Study Group and we need your input here – and, please, your contributions for future newsletters!

Members enjoyed interesting illustrated talks by Ed Baker and Christopher Davis (both Natural History Museum) about recording information on phasmid foodplants – posted on the PSG website for all to enjoy. Ian Abercrombie and Ian Bushell discussed a recent trip in S.E. Asia, including reference to a series of variably coloured leaf insects found on guava (Ian A. – why didn't you climb the tree yourself, sending the poor locals up!). There was also a short 'Panel of Experts' session to answer questions before the ever popular Livestock Exchange, with an exciting range of species available, some new in culture.

## **Information Request**

George (Chia-Chi) Hsiung, of Lyman Entomological and Research Laboratory, McGill University, Quebec, Canada (E-mail: Georgehsiung@hotmail.com) has asked us to publish this request:

"I am looking for Megacrania specimens collected in Japan and the Philippines for taxonomic research."

He has been working on this group for some years and has published the following:

2001. Megacrania Species in Indonesia (Cheleutoptera: Phasmatidae). Journal of Orthoptera Research 10: 293-301.

2003. Two New Species of Megacrania Kaup (Cheleutoptera: Phasmatidea) from the Admiralty Islands. Journal of Orthoptera Research 12: 31-35.

2007. Revision of the Genus Megacrania Kaup (Cheleutoptera: Phasmatidae). Journal of Orthoptera Research 16: 207-221.

2010. Systematic Study of Megacrania Species of Malo, New Hebrides (Cheleutoptera: Phasmatidae). Journal of Orthoptera Research 19: 381-385.

# **Articles, Reviews & Submissions**

## The Development of the Phasmid Species List: Part One PSG No. 1-50

A.J.E.Harman (PSG 189)

Prior to the establishment of the Phasmid Study Group the collecting, rearing and keeping of stick insects was somewhat random with few species being introduced and maintained in culture. Principally Zoological Gardens in the United Kingdom and abroad were responsible for the introduction of new species into culture. A few private individuals reared species but this was mainly in isolation. Very little in the way of popular literature was available and entomological societies, certainly in the UK, were more concerned with other Orders, Lepidoptera and Coleoptera being the most popular. There had been for some years a thriving trade in the rearing of eggs, larvae and pupae of silk moths of the family Saturnidae. However, with the forming of the PSG in 1980 things began to change as stick insects were acquired by personal collectors and through commercial trade dealers abroad.

At the time of writing this article some 400 species of stick insect are listed as being in culture or having been cultured and subsequently lost for some reason. I feel that it is now necessary to set down as accurately as possible the origin of these cultures with as much detail as possible. Due to the number involved the list is being treated in blocks of fifty.

#### PSG No.1 Valid name: Carausius morosus (Sinéty, 1901)

Original culture stock from India, Tamil Nadu State. Collected at the end of the 19th Century. Very commonly kept as culture throughout the world and occurring naturally in many countries due to accidental or deliberate release.

Originally placed in the genus Dixippus.

Transferred to Carausius by Brunner in 1907.

#### PSG No.2 Valid name: Pseudodiacantha macklottii (de Haan, 1842)

Original culture stock from Indonesia, Java where I believe it is an endemic species. The collector was a returning soldier who in 1946 gave specimens to staff at the Insect House at London Zoo where it was established. I was informed of this by Robert Humphreys who was Head Keeper there.

Originally placed in the genus *Phasma*.

Transferred to *Orxines* by Kirby in 1904 (a) and then to *Pseudodiacantha* by Zompro in 2001 (a).

#### PSG No.3 Valid name: Bacillus rossius (Rossi, 1790)

The exact origin of the culture in the 1960s is not known. It certainly was being sold in England by the commercial dealer trading as 'Worldwide Butterflies' at Yeovil in Somerset.

However, several subsequent importations are known.

Stock 2 from northern France by Stan Pack in the 1980s.

Stock 3 from southern France by M.Cooper in the 1980s.

Stock 4 from Sardinia, Giara de Gesturi by Paul Brock in April 1982.

Stock 5 from former Yugoslavia, Lanterna nr Porec by Paul Brock in June 1983.

Stock 6 from Italy nr Pisa by M.Brückner in the 1990s.

Stock 7 from Italy nr Genova, Via Vesuvio at 205m (675 ft) 'on bramble' by Frank Hennemann and Oskar Conle in September 1998.

Stock 8 from Sardinia, Aritzo at 350m (1150 ft) via Frank Hennemann and Oskar Conle in 2003.

Originally placed in the genus *Mantis*.

Transferred to Bacillus by Redtenbacher in 1906.

#### PSG No.4 Valid name: Sipyloidea sipylus (Westwood, 1859)

The original culture was being sold by Worldwide Butterflies at Yeovil in the early 1960s. This culture was believed to have originated in Madagascar.

Subsequent cultures were introduced.

Stock 2 from Sumatra, Lake Toba, collected by Bernd Keiler in July 1992.

Stock 3 from Thailand, Nakhon Ratchasima region collected by Ingo Fritzsche between October 1997 and January 1998.

Stock 4 from Vietnam, Ninh Binh Province, Cuc Phuong by Peter Heusi.

Originally described in Necroscia

Transferred to *Sipyloidea* by Redtenbacher, 1908. www.phasmid-study-group.org

#### PSG No.5 Valid name: Medauroidea extradentata (Brunner, 1907)

Apparently imported from Vietnam by an insect dealer Mr Rose who flourished in the Sevenoaks area of Kent during the 1950s and 1960s. Upon his death all his records and cultures were disposed of by his widow. However, a culture was passed to the Insect House at London Zoo and maintained. This species was originally bisexual but became parthenogenetic soon after establishment.

Originally placed in the genus Clitumnus as Clitumnus extradentatus.

Transferred to the genus Baculum by Clark in 1976.

Transferred to present genus by Zompro in 1999.

#### PSG No.6 Valid name: Acanthoxyla prasina (Westwood, 1859)

This species was originally introduced into the United Kingdom on New Zealand plants and became established in Cornwall. However, some eggs were imported from a dealer in New Zealand called Moore. I do not know of any cultures still existing.

Originally described as Acanthoderus prasinus.

Transferred to genus Macracantha by Kirby in 1904 (a).

Transferred back to *Acanthoderus* in 1907 by Brunner.

To the genus Macracantha by Gunther in 1931.

Transferred to genus Acanthoxyla by Uvarov in 1944.

#### PSG No.7 Valid name: Clitarchus hookeri (White, 1846)

This is another New Zealand species that has become established in the United Kingdom and is thriving outside. As a boy I bought some eggs from Mr Rose, the dealer from Sevenoaks, but they never hatched. I do not know of any established culture of this species being kept indoors.

Originally placed in the genus Phasma.

Transferred to the genus Bacillus by Westwood in 1859.

Transferred to the genus Clitarchus by Kirby in 1904 (a).

#### PSG No.8 Valid name: Bactrododema tiaratum Stal, 1858

This culture was established in the early 1970s from eggs sent to George Ashby, Head Keepercof Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates at London Zoo by Professor Elliot Pinhey, the Keeper of Entomology, National Museum, Bulawayo, then Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. I saw the culture which at the time was sub-adult and feeding on bramble. Shortly after the entire culture was stolen from the Insect House.

Originally placed in the genus Bactrododema by Stal in 1858.

Transferred to the genus Palophus by Griffini in 1897.

Transferred back to the genus Bactrododema by Kirby in 1904 (a).

Transferred back to the genus Palophus by Redtenbacher in 1908.

Transferred back to Bactrododema by Karny in 1923.

#### PSG No.9 Valid name: Extatosoma tiaratum tiaratum (Macleay, 1826)

Originally imported from Australia by Andrew Low an amateur entomologist who passed them to London Zoo. Andrew Low was interested in various orders of insects and was the author of a book on Birdwing butterflies.

Originally placed in the genus *Phasma*.

Transferred to the genus *Extatosoma* by Gray in 1833.

In 2003 the former species *bufonium* Westwood, 1874 was transferred as a sub-species of tiaratum by Brock.

#### PSG No.10 Valid name: Phyllium bioculatum Gray, 1832

Country of origin: Java.

Many importations of eggs from insect dealers in Java since the 1970s and still flourishing.

#### PSG No.11 Valid name: Cladomorphus phyllinus Gray, 1835

Cultured by Judith Marshall at the Natural History Museum, London in 1968 from eggs sent from Brazil by Dr.Louis Otero. The culture was originally bisexual but became parthenogenetic and died out in the 1980s. A further stock was imported by Christoph Seiler and Rainer Koch. This culture also failed.

Originally placed in the genus *Cladomorphus*.

Transferred to the genus Cladoxerus by Burmeister in 1838.

Transferred back to the genus *Cladomorphus* by Kirby in 1904 (a).

Transferred to the genus *Phibalosoma* by Redtenbacher in 1908.

Finally transferred back to Cladomorphus by Zompro and Domenico in 2006.

#### PSG No.12 Valid name: Anisomorpha buprestoides (Stoll, 1813)

Country of origin: USA.

Originally cultured by Judith Marshall from eggs received from John Bradley.

Originally placed in the genus *Phasma*.

Transferred to the genus Anisomorpha by Kirby in 1904 (a).

#### PSG No.13 Valid name: Acrophylla wuelfingi (Redtenbacher, 1908)

Country of origin: Australia. Originally cultured from eggs imported into the United Kingdom.

This was originally believed to be an allied species A. titan.

First described in the genus Vetilia.

Transferred to the genus Acrophylla by Kirby in 1904 (a).

#### PSG No.14 Valid name: Eurycnema goliath (Gray, 1834)

Cultured during the 1970s at London Zoo and imported from various sources i.e. insect dealers.

Originally placed in the genus *Phasma*.

Transferred to the genus Acrophylla by Gray in 1835.

Transferred to the genus Cyphocrania by de Haan in 1842.

Transferred to the genus Eurycnema by Redtenbacher in 1908.

#### PSG No.15 Valid name: Anchiale briareus (Gray, 1834)

Country of origin: Australia. This culture was reared by me from a quantity of eggs received from Eric Gowing Scopes, a prominent amateur coleopterist but with an interest in Phasmids. Eric was known to me for many years; he finally died at the age of 93 in 2007. His collection of 44,000 beetles is now in the Natural History Museum, London.

A further stock was collected by me at Cairns Botanical Garden from a female found feeding on a guava. This was designated as PSG No.74.

Another stock was introduced in May 2001 by Oskar Conle, again from the Cairns area of Queensland.

At first was placed in the genus Phasma.

Transferred to the genus *Ctenomorpha* by Kirby in 1904 (a), and to *Anchiale* by Brock & Hasenpusch, 2007.

#### PSG No.16 Valid name: Carausius sechellensis (Bolivar, 1895)

Country of origin: Seychelles. Originally brought into culture by John Bradley from eggs collected in July 1965 on Mahé, Seychelles by Peter Dawson, a member of the Bristol University expedition. This stock was briefly in culture but died out during 1966. In April 1983 Mary Salton and I collected more specimens on Mahé and a culture was established. A further culture was established by Tony and Pat James. At the present time no culture of this species exist.

Originally placed in the genus Lonchodes.

Transferred to the genus Staelonchodes by Kirby in 1904 (a).

Transferred to the genus Carausius by Brunner in 1907.

#### PSG No.17 Valid name: Caribbiopheromera jamaicana Zompro, 2001

Country of origin: Jamaica. The original culture was established in the Insect House at London Zoo by specimens brought back from Jamaica by John and George Newmark in the early 1970s. The Newmarks were twin brothers who spent their holidays collecting invertebrates for the Insect House at London Zoo.

#### PSG No.18 Valid name: Heteropteryx dilatata (Parkinson, 1798)

Original culture was established from eggs received from C.C.Chua, a Malaysian insect dealer in Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands, during 1974. Other subsequent importations of eggs occurred.

Originally described as Phasma dilatatum.

Transferred to the genus *Heteropteryx* by Gray in 1835.

Transferred to the genus *Diapherodes* by Burmeister in 1838.

Transferred to the genus *Heteropteryx* by Kirby in 1904 (a).

#### PSG No.19 Valid name: Lonchodes brevipes Gray, 1835

Country of origin: Malaysia. Bred from eggs collected by me from Gunung Jasar in the Cameron Highlands in 1974.

Originally considered as *Lonchodes pterodactylus* by Gunther, 1932.

#### PSG No.20 Valid name: Anchiale maculata (Olivier, 1792)

Country of origin: Papua New Guinea. The original culture was collected by me and Mary Salton in September 1977. The species was very common around Wau Ecology Institute in Morobo Province and was feeding on a wide variety of plants including introduced species Thrived in culture for a number of years but is now lost.

Originally placed in the genus Mantis.

Transferred to the genus Anchiale by Kirby in 1904 (a).

#### PSG No. 21 Valid name: Extatosoma popa popa Stal, 1875

Country of origin: Papua New Guinea. The original culture was established from specimens obtained by me and Mary Salton in September 1977. It occurred in the same locality as PSG No.20. From some 30 eggs a culture was established but died out after one generation. A subsequent importation of eggs by Ian Abercrombie and me in the 1990s was established but again died out soon after.

Occurs in two forms, the nominate popa popa and popa carlbergi Beccaloni, a lichenose type occurring in mossy forests.

#### PSG No.22 Valid name: Ramulus thaii (Hausleithner, 1985)

Country of origin: Thailand. Originally collected by Anthony Julian-Ottie in Khao Yai National Park in November 1977.

A second stock was collected by Ingo Fritzsche between November 1977 and January 1998 in the Nakhon Ratchasima region of Thailand.

A third stock was collected by me and Mary Salton in the region around Khao Yai National Park in August 2000.

Originally placed in the genus Baculum.

#### PSG No.23 Valid name: Eurycantha calcarata Lucas, 1870

Country of origin: Papua New Guinea. This culture was established by me in 1977 from eggs received from Bob Prior who was an entomologist employed by the Department of Agriculture in Papua New Guinea. These were collected from specimens feeding in oil palms at Kimbe, New Britain.

#### PSG No.24 Valid name: Medauroidea extradentata

This culture was established from eggs imported from Europe in the 1970s. Same species as PSG No.5.

#### PSG No.25 Valid name: Phobaeticus serratipes (Gray, 1835)

The original culture was established from eggs imported from Malaysia in 1980 by Tony and Pat James. Subsequent eggs were also imported.

Originally placed in the genus Cladoxerus.

Transferred to the genus *Phibalosoma* by Westwood in 1859.

Transferred to the genus *Pharnacia* by Kirby in 1904 (a).

Transferred to the genus Baculolonga by Hennemann and Conle in 1997,

since synonymised with *Phobaeticus* by Brock, 1999 and 2002.

#### PSG No.26 Valid name: Haaniella echinata (Redtenbacher, 1906)

Original culture established from stock collected in Ulu Dusun, Sabah by me and Mary Salton in August 1979.

A second culture was established by Jonathan Cocking from specimens collected at Sepilok, Sabah in 1984.

A third culture was collected by Thomas Guttmann at Poring Hot Springs, Kinabalu National Park, Sabah.

A fourth culture was collected by Mel Herbert at Badas in Brunei.

A fifth culture was collected by Frank Hennemann from Badas.

A sixth culture was collected by Frank Hennemann and Oskar Conle at Batu Niah, Sarawak in August 1996.

Originally placed in the genus *Heteropteryx*.

Transferred to the genus Haaniella by Rehn in 1938.

#### PSG No.27 Valid name: Carausius chani (Hausleithner, 1991)

Country of origin: Sabah. The original culture was established from specimens collected by me and Mary Salton at Ulu Dusun in Sabah in August 1979.

Originally identified as *Phasgania sanguineoligatus* – a misidentification.

Originally described in *Phasgania*, transferred to *Carausius* by Brock in 1998.

#### PSG No.28 Valid name: Eurycnema versirubra (Serville, 1838)

Country of origin: Malaysia. A stock of eggs was obtained from the Curator of Kuala Lumpur Zoo in 1974 by me. Some difficulty was found in rearing this species. Several subsequent stocks have been established.

Originally placed in the genus Cyphocrana.

Transferred to the genus Eurycnema by Charpentier in 1845.

#### PSG No.29 Valid name: *Mnesilochus imitator* (Brunner, 1907)

Country of origin: Sarawak. Original culture collected by me at Batu Niah, Sarawak in 1980.

Initially placed in the genus *Dixippus* by Brunner in 1907.

Transferred to the genus Lonchodes by Bragg in 2001.

Transferred to the genus *Mnesilochus* by Hennemann and Conle in 2007.

#### PSG No.30 Valid name: Tirachoidea cantori (Westwood, 1859)

Country of origin: Malaysia. The original culture was established from eggs imported by Tony and Pat James in 1980.

Initially placed in the genus *Phibalosoma* by Westwood in 1859.

Transferred to the genus *Tirachoidea* by Kirby in 1904 (a).

Transferred to the genus *Pharnacia* by Redtenbacher in 1908.

Transferred to the genus Tirachoidea by Hennemann and Conle in 2008.

#### PSG No.31 Valid name: Creoxylus spinosus (Fabricius, 1775)

Country of origin: Trinidad. Brought into culture by Dave Garthwaite in 1980.

Initially placed in the genus *Mantis*.

Transferred to the genus *Creoxylus* by Redtenbacher in 1906.

#### PSG No.32 Valid name: *Ocnophiloidea regularis* (Brunner, 1907)

Country of origin: Trinidad. Brought into culture by Dave Garthwaite in 1980.

Initially described in the genus Libethra.

Transferred to the genus Ocnophiloidea by Zompro in 2001.

#### PSG No.33 Valid name: Acanthoxyla intermedia Salmon, 1955

Country of origin: New Zealand. Brought into culture by Paul Brock in 1981. Culture lost.

#### PSG No.34 Valid name: Tectarchus huttoni (Brunner, 1907)

Country of origin: New Zealand. Brought into culture by Paul Brock in 1981.

Initially described in the genus Pachymorpha.

Transferred to the genus Tectarchus by Brock in 2003.

#### PSG No.35 Valid name: Diapheromera femorata (Say, 1824)

Country of origin: U.S.A. Brought into culture by Paul Brock in 1981. Some subsequent importation of eggs during the 1980s.

Initially placed in the genus Spectrum.

Transferred to the genus *Diapheromera* by Kirby in 1904 (a).

#### PSG No.36 Valid name: Hermagoras hosei hosei Kirby, 1896

Country of origin: Sarawak. The culture was initially established from eggs collected by me in 1980 and forwarded to Judith Marshall. This species was common in the area around Batu Niah in Sarawak.

Initially placed in the genus *Hermagoras* by Kirby in 1896.

Transferred to the genus *Prisomera* by Brunner in 1907.

Transferred to the genus *Lonchodes* by Hausleithner in 1990.

Transferred back to the genus *Hermagoras* by Hennemann and Conle in 2002.

#### PSG No.37 Valid name: Lopaphus perakensis (Redtenbacher, 1908)

Country of origin: Malaysia. Original culture was collected by me in November 1980, a subsequent collection was made in June 1983. Species is quite common around Tannah Rata in the Cameron Highlands. A further collection was made by Rainer Stobbe in Phuket, Thailand.

Originally placed in the genus *Paramyronides*.

Transferred to the genus Lopaphus by Brock in 1995.

#### PSG No.38 Valid name: Dares validispinus Stal, 1875

Country of origin: Sarawak. Initial culture collected by me and Mary Salton in July 1979 at Batu Niah.

A further culture was collected at the same locality by me in December 1980.

A further culture was collected by Frank Hennemann and Oskar Conle at Mount Serapi, Sarawak in August 1996

#### PSG No.39 Valid name: Lonchodes everetti (Kirby, 1896)

Country of origin: Sarawak. Initially collected by me in December 1980 at Batu Niah. Initially placed in the genus Phasgania.

Transferred to the genus Lonchodes by Hausleithner, 1989.

#### PSG No.40 Valid name: Lopaphus nanoalatus Brock, 1999

Country of origin: West Malaysia.

Initially collected by me in the Cameron Highlands around Tanah Rata at about 5,000 feet (1525 m) in 1980.

#### PSG No.41 Believed to be: Clonaria sp.

Country of origin: Tanzania

Collected by Charles Woolman near Dar es Salaam in July 1981. Culture lost.

#### PSG No.42 Believed to be: Clonaria sp.

Country of origin: Tanzania.

Collected by Charles Woolman near Dar es Salaam in July 1981. Culture lost.

#### PSG No.43 Valid name: Graeffea sp.

Country of origin: Fiji, Viti Levu Island.

Culture established for a short time from eggs obtained by me from the Agricultural Institute near Suva.

Culture lost.

#### PSG No.44 Valid name: Eurycantha sp.

Country of origin: Papua New Guinea or Irian Java.

The origin of this culture is somewhat vague. The exact locality of the original specimens appears to be

unknown

This is very similar to *E. calcarata*.

#### PSG No.45 Valid name: Clonopsis gallica (Charpentier, 1825)

Country of origin: France.

Various importations of this species have occurred most notably

that of J.Guerinean between September and November 1984.

that of H.Turner from the south of France, Petit Camargue area in May 1985 and

that of J.Lambert from Varennes sur Loire, again in 1985.

#### Initially placed in the genus Phasma.

Transferred to the genus Bacillus by Kirby in 1904 (a).

Transferred to the genus Clonopsis by Pantel in 1915.

#### PSG No.46 Valid name: Marmessoidea rosea (Fabricius, 1793)

Country of origin: Malaysia.

Initially brought into culture by Paul Brock.

Culture failed to become established.

#### Placed in the genus *Mantis* initially.

Transferred to the genus *Phasma* by Fabricus in 1798.

Transferred to the genus Marmessoidea by Kirby in 1904 (a).

#### PSG No.47 Valid name: Phanocles costaricensis Hennemann, 2002

Country of origin: Costa Rica.

Originally collected by me and Mary Salton along the road leading to Monteverde National Park, Costa Rica.

A further collection was made by Oskar Conle from the same area in 2005.

#### PSG No.48 Valid name: Haplopus spinipes Gray, 1835

Country of origin: Dominican Republic.

Originally brought into culture by Miguel Adams in the late 1980s.

#### PSG No.49 'Amani Devils', probably Xylica sp.

Country of origin: Tanzania.

Initially collected by Charles Woolman near Research Station 'Amani', Usambara Mountains at altitude 1500m (4920 ft). Not properly identified and culture now lost.

#### PSG.No.50 possibly Peruphasma sp.

Country of origin: Peru.

Collected by me at Tingo Maria, Huanuco Province in 1982. Culture lost

#### **Acknowledgements**

Grateful thanks to Ian Abercrombie, Ed Baker, Paul Brock, Ian Bushell, Mark Bushell, Ingo Fritzsche, Frank Hennemann, Judith Marshall, Kristien Rabaey, Mary Salton and Rob Simoens.

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### 2011 Winter Meeting & AGM Report

Rowena Patterson

On 15th January, the first PSG meeting of the year took place at the Natural History Museum, in the Dorothea Bate room as usual. For the first time in the many years we've been coming to the PSG meetings, we drove into London - I've never realised how close the NHM is to Hyde Park!

The meeting started off with the annual AGM. Apologies came from Judith, who was in Paris for the weekend, not having realised the dates clashed with the PSG meeting. After reports from the committee, covering the newsletter-lan B? requested for more articles of any description to be submitted- and finances, which are still healthy, despite a drop in members, the current committee were re-elected. One change is that Kristien and Rob Simoens have stepped down from the committee.

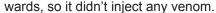
The first talk of the day was by Ed Baker and Christopher Davis, a botanist at the NHM, but who has previously worked on Lepidoptera. Their talk was about collecting data to make a database of knowledge about the foodplants of phasmids. They talked about how easy it is to collect data, and very useful for collectors looking at a specific species or area. Their slideshow was quite hypnotic to watch... One way of contributing to collecting data is by feeding unusual plants to insects, to see which plants an insect may or may not eat (and whether the plant kills them or not). Other ideas suggested including taking pictures of where plants were found, and recording where insects were collected on holidays, to try and build up a map of the ecology of an area. Information in all areas is being collected though information about tropical plants is especially fragmentary, and information on leaf form, arrangement, flower arrangement, petals, fruits and seeds is also needed to increase an ecology database.



Ed stressed that it would be a collaborative project, with much of the data being submitted normally, then much of it sorted by Ed and Chris. A framework for the sorts of information that they want to be collected is going to be put up on the Phasmid Study Group website.

lan pointed out that there is great variation in some species of phasmids, with changes occurring in a species depending on foodplant and humidity. Even information on these variations is of interest for these records. After lunch, in which I took a whirlwind tour of the volcanoes and earthquakes galleries for some well-needed geography revision, and saw the dodos in the bird gallery (they're always bigger than I think they are), there was another illustrated talk, this time by Ian Bushell and Ian Abercrombie. Their talk showed gorgeous photographs of their adventures in Singapore, from the Crocker Range in Borneo, to Kota Kinabalu in Sabah and Mount Serapi in Sarawak. For much of their expedition it seemed they had dry weather, which might mean a good thing in England, but in the rainforest, it meant that there were a lot less insects about to collect. They did have some nice shots of *Haaniella scabra*, *Prosentoria arrogans* and *Nescicroa poeciloptera*, a striking insect ranging from green to red, and everything in between, and with bright spots on its legs and antennae to match!

There were also other photographs of wild bearded pigs and a beautiful green vine snake - with an amusing story about how it took five minutes to prize it off lan A's hand, and the surgeon he was travelling with spent the rest of the evening checking to see if he was feeling any after effects of being bitten. Luckily, the vine snake's fangs point back-



Their talk ended with photographs of the leaf insects they found, all in tubs according to species. It was amazing to see the variation in colour these insects have, all the way from a bright green through gold and yellow to almost a scarlet red!

After a short break, during which Ian A described how over the twenty years he had been going to collect insects in Malaysia the insects seem to be moving away from the deforestation occurring lower down in the rainforest, to escape being destroyed by it, and the "ask the experts" panel, the livestock exchange started. There was a good mixture of insects on the table, ranging from some of the

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largest species such as *A. titan*, to the more common *Peruphasma schultei* (an insect you wouldn't believe had only been discovered five years ago, from the amount of stock) and the ever popular *Eurycantha calcarata* (we always seem to come home with these every PSG meeting, the log in their cage is stuffed to the brim with insects during the day now, it's like something out of Indiana Jones).

We came away with some *Mearnsiana bullosa*, as well as the inevitable *Eurycantha*, and *Tirachoidea jianfenglingensis* eggs. Also valuable information about starting up a fruit fly culture for my praying mantis by using porridge and apple. No more catching hoverflies in the back garden for me anymore!

After a quick wander past Dippy after the meeting broke up, we headed back home again, trying not to shake our new insects up too much with the stops and starts of the unavoidable traffic lights, traffic and other perils of driving in London!

# Saga Lout Tour - Borneo/Java 2010

Ian Bushell

It all started at the January 2010 AGM when I asked Ian Abercrombie if he was going to Borneo that year, and expressing interest if there was a 'spare' place. Ian was keen to return to one of his favourite places Mt Serapi in Sarawak, and the best time for him would be around October that year - if this fitted in with Francis Seow-Choen's plans. Time passed and then a phone call asking if I was still keen – obviously – and then the more serious planning began. By the time we were ready for the off and to encompass all our particular interests, we would be away for just short of three weeks and be visiting Sabah, Sarawak, Java and of course Singapore.

We met up at London Heathrow on Thursday 14th October and after a long but pleasant flight arrived at Singapore some 20 hours later; 1500hrs Friday Singapore time. Francis's wife, Ching Peng, met us and whisked us back home, a very familiar place for Ian as a long time friend of the family and allowed us time to relax and catch up with all the news before Francis returned. As a 'shake-down' exercise Francis was keen to go to a wet-land area in Singapore where long winged *Haaniella* had been reported. This led to some 4 hours of happy searching, especially after Francis found an adult male long winged *Haaniella muelleri*, but search as we might no female. However, we did find and photograph *Necroscia punctata*, *Asceles malaccae*, *Pylaemenes mitratus*, various *Asceles* sp. nymphs, plus small mantis, flat millipedes and assassin bug nymphs. All in all a good start.

The next day, Saturday, we flew to Kota Kinabalu in the late afternoon and on arrival met Datuk Miriam, a long time friend of Francis. Arrangements had been made for official permission for collecting in Sabah and hire car arrangements. After a brief chat it was an exhilarating drive from the airport to the Crocker range and the lodge we had booked. By 2200 hrs we were out walking on a track leading to the top of the range, about 1668m, and the start of a good six hours searching. Unfortunately for the last couple of weeks it had been dry in Sabah, and cool on Crocker, and this certainly showed in the vegetation and number of insects around. Ian was keen to come to the Crocker to find *Dajaca chani*, but search as we might none showed. That said we found *Phobaeticus kirbyi* nymphs, plenty of *Haaniella scabra* both adults and nymphs, *Phenacephorus cornucervi*, *Phenacephorus spinulosus* and *Necroscia*, plus a big headed frog. Back to the lodge and a couple of hours rest before driving back down to Kota Kinabalu and meeting up with Datuks Chan Chew

Lun (Natural History Publications Borneo and several phasmids to his name) and Miriam for lunch – a grand taste of Borneo. Commitments meant Francis had to return to Singapore, but we would meet up later in Sarawak. Ian and I drove to Poring Hot Springs via Mt Kinabalu; about 3 hours on a winding road with superb scenery.

Approaching Poring Hot Springs the road-side stalls offered an abundance of local fruit and some advertised viewings of Rafflesia, but unfortunately there were none of this spectacular flower in bloom at the time. On arrival we booked in and found we had been allocated Lodge Number 1 – luxury accommodation and the honeymoon cabin. Poring Hot Springs



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is at about 500m elevation; however, although it was humid there had been little rain for the past fortnight. A quick bite to eat and then out at 1900 hrs as dusk was falling and the Cicadas' were getting into full voice. With only the one night on site we initially split up and took separate trails. As with Crocker the dry conditions reduced the number of species emerging, but we did find adult *Haaniella echinata* and several nymphs, and adult pair of *Hermagoras cultratolobatus* and numerous *Asceles* sp. nymphs. Ian A was looking in particular for *Diesbachia sophae*. This species has never been found anywhere else but Poring, and then only females have been seen. Towards then end of our searching Ian eventually found one about 5m up on a tree and after carefully netting it identified it as a male, unfortunately we did not get a photograph of it. Throughout the time we were searching there had been a continual clamour of what sounded like monkeys and as we continued on the track down towards the waterfalls the noise grew louder interspersed with

loud 'clangs'. All was explained; Ian pointed out a very large fig tree, beloved of the fruit bats with a tin shelter covered part of the track under the tree. This welcome structure is as a visitors' refuge from being brained by solid fig fruits falling some 80 feet or spattered with the same only processed.

Mid-morning Monday and it was time to leave Poring for Mt Kinabalu, but before going we had to visit lan's girlfriend Jacky. Sadly lan had not told her he was coming and she had wandered off into the ulu – such is the course of true love, and lan has vowed that he will never go out with another Orang-utan, no matter how beautiful! Mt Kinabalu was its usual bustling self with organised tours and individuals all jostling to register to climb to the peak. We were booked into one of The Hill Lodges,

a comfortable cabin and of all the accommodation placed fur-



thest into the park, thus ideal for starting the trails. At some 1581m it allowed a fabulous view of the peak and all of the surrounding park forest. During late afternoon there was low cloud drifting over the forest but, as for the last ten days or so, no rain. Dusk was greeted by the cicadas and we set off on the upper Silau Silau trail, then joined the Power Station Road and searched up to the Water treatment station before returning to the lodge by about 0200hrs. During this time we found *Parasthenoboea laetior laetior* and *exotica*, *Diesbachia chani*, *Phaenacephorus cornucervi*, *Lonchodes harmani*, Necrosciinae sp., *Pharnacia* sp. and *Haaniella scabra*.

Later that morning we visited the Park HQ and called on John Lapidin, the Curator of Entomology, and looked through the Park's small collection; some 2000+ specimens but not a great cross section of what is known to be in the area. In the afternoon there was again low cloud and drizzle for about 30 mins, but basically it still remained dry on the forest floor. This would be our last search through the park so again as dusk drew on we set off this time picking up the lower Silau Silau trail, then the Bukit Burung, Bukit Tupai and a small part of the Liwagu Trails. We found an adult pair of *Dinophasma kinabaluensis*, adult females of *Parastheneboa laetior laetior* and exotica, *Lonchodes harmani*, *Nearchus* sp, an adult pair of *Haaniella scabra* plus many nymphs, *Necroscia affinis*, *Phaenacephorus cornucervi*, and *Carausius sanguineoligatus*.

Wednesday was our last day in Sabah. Having cleared the park we enjoyed the return journey to Kota Kinabalu and met up with Datuk Chan for lunch. Then to the airport for the evening flight to Kuching, however, this was delayed so that by the time we landed it was too late to travel to Kubah National Park. Ian had a cunning plan, ask the taxi driver to find a decent cheap little B&B and we would have a night off after six straight nights searching. We duly arrived at Mr D's, in the centre of Kuching behind the Chinese Temple, a backpackers retreat; still it was cheap and the other residents interesting. Thursday morning dawned with a half hour downpour, perhaps our luck was changing and damper conditions would draw out more insects. Having shopped for a few supplies we got a taxi out to Kubah National Park, stopping on the way to get an enormous watermelon plus some of the delicious small local bananas. In Kubah we had Chalet No3 – somewhat different to Mr D's – palatial and looking out straight into the forest. Although humid no rain had fallen or did fall that day, but the noise of the cicadas as dusk fell was almost deafening. Mt Serapi is probably lan's favourite phasmid site, and after a night off, we were eager to set off up the road to the summit. The HQ and chalets are at about 150m and the road although only 5km to the summit rises to 2300m. So booted and spurred, day-bags, cameras, nets, and very effective torches, we each took a side and slowly searched the trees and vegetation on 'our' side. Soon in the lower vegetation and ditches we came across an adult pair of Dares ulula and numerous adult Epidares nolimetangere and then, over the night, 20+ adult Haaniella grayii plus lots of nymphs. Higher up we came across Lonchodes brevipes and amaurops. Throughout the climb we found Dinophasma guttigerum, Asceles margaritatus, Phobeticus kirbyi and lots of 'flying jobs'. At 2100m we found what I thought was a Lonchodes on a Casuarina tree but on closer examination of the subsequent photographs it proved to be a *Pharnacia* sp., the first time that Ian has seen this species in this area. Apart from the main interest we also came across several nice snakes, one being an extremely large (7-8 feet) vine snake, easily the largest that Ian has seen. We had set out at 1900hrs and tired but happy returned to the chalet at 0430hrs to indulge in some chilled water melon.

Friday, and Francis was due to join us. He turned up with Maj Dennis Lim, a friend and Chinook pilot of the Singapore Armed Forces, and was keen to try Bako National Park – the other side of Kuching. Anyway after a taxi ride and then an exhilarating boat ride – the only way to get to this National park – we arrived at Bako and booked in to one of the dormitories. Bako is a popular attraction for its forest walks, cheeky monkeys and families of wild Bearded pigs [babi hutan] roaming through the base area and accommodation. A refreshing walk on the beach and up to one of the vantage points, followed by dinner and we were all ready to venture out. We followed the Litang, Serait and part of the Ulu Assam trails. The first part was mostly a mix of mangrove and pandans, but once we started to climb then the variety of undergrowth and trees became more interesting. On this part of the trail we discovered some 25 *Haaniella grayii* mostly nymphs, 3 adult pairs of *Datames borneensis borneensis*, an adult female *Dares ulula*, several *Lonchodes* sp. probably *amaurops*, *Acacus sarawacus*, and many *Epidares nolimetangere*, the interesting point being that all the males had a distinct golden dorsal stripe. We finished at about 0130hrs. Again the next day was humid but dry. Francis was keen to try another area, Serian, so he and Dennis left saying we would see them back in Singapore. Ian and I stayed for another night at Bako and covered further along the Lintang and Ulu Assam trails finding much as before but in addition *Hopoclonia gecko*.

lan was keen to return to Mt Serapi and so we travelled back via the boat and taxi and were able to book into one of the cheaper hostel rooms, and as a bonus this was nearer the road. At dusk we first took the road up to the 500m point finding plenty of *Epidares nolimetangere* and three *Dares ulula*. Then rather than continue on the road we took the Main trail and then the Waterfall trail through the forest up towards the summit. It was an arduous uneven trail rising through the forest, and although we found some Lonchodes nymphs, the odd Asceles sp. and one very large and tetchy female Haaniella grayii, there was not the same 'density' of insect life under this canopy. Emerging on to the road at some 1800m we rested and then made a weary way back down to the hostel finding on the way Dinophasma guttigerum, Lonchodes amaurops and more Haaniella grayii and Epidares nolimetangere. It was now about 0100 hrs and within sight of the hostel when I found another large and tetchy female Haaniella grayii – she even drew blood. Ian meanwhile had continued down the road a little way. A muffled cry and I went to his light. Utter despair – Ian had found and photographed a Planispectrum sp. only about the 4th specimen seen in the last 20 years, but the little blighter, they are only 20 - 25mm long, had then dropped into the deep leaf litter. Searching blindfolded for a needle in a haystack would be simpler. After about half an hour lan gave up and we back to the hostel for a consoling coffee and bed. Subsequently Ian and Allan Harman have examined the photographs and concluded that in all probability this was a Planispectrum bakiensis.

The next day was our last in Sarawak. We wandered down to the Families Centre just outside the park for lunch to find we were the only visitors, and on return arranged with one of the wardens to take us to the airport at 0530 hrs the next morning. It started to rain at 1700 hrs and continued for some 45 minutes, perhaps this would draw more insects out. Rather than go up again we decided to search the bottom, Belait Trail, this running at about the 200m elevation, but first and on the way had another good look for the Planispectrum, however, no luck. Despite the rain, it started again at about 2000 hrs, there was little along the trail. We found both adult and nymphs of *Haaniella grayii*, a pair of *Dinophasma guttigerum*, *Necroscia* sp. nymphs and some 4 adult female and 15 adult male *Epidares nolimetangere*. On the way back we again looked for the *Planispectrum*, but still no joy.



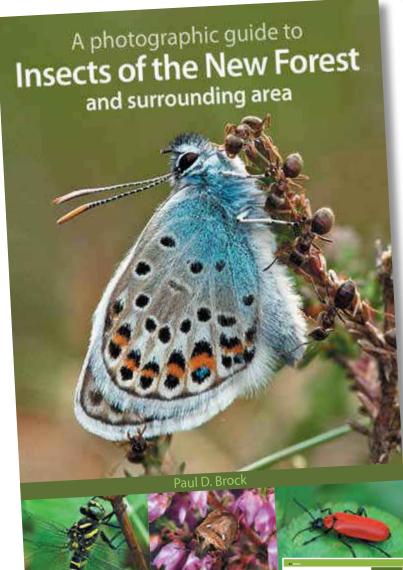
Tuesday morning dawned as we sat in Kuching International airport waiting to return to Singapore. The first half of the adventure had passed so quickly, but we had Java and the search for *Phyllium* spp. to look forward to.

#### **New Book: Insects of the New Forest**

Paul Brock's comprehensive new book 'A photographic guide to Insects of the New Forest and surrounding area' is expected to be published c. May 2011, order online from www.naturebureau.co.uk/shop or contact your usual bookshop. There is only one phasmid species covered, but the New Forest national Park has an estimated 63% of the UK insect fauna, so UK members would find the book has useful coverage similar to classic fieldguides, with insect behaviour images included. Signed copies are available by post from the author pauldbrock@btinternet.com or can be reserved for collection at the summer PSG meeting.

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Every time Sometimes Never	Every time Sometimes Never
3/ Which of the following financial options would you prefer?	8/ If printed, which of the following colour options would you prefer?
No cost - keep Phasmid Studies an all- colour on-line publication [accessed by members and other enthusiasts]	Continue with present arrangements for the PSG Newsletter (some colour pages, and an all-colour copy on-line accessed by members only), using professional printers
On-line with option of separate payment for black & white photocopy on demand only. Cost depends on number of pages, but photocopying and postage will be charged at cost, upon issue	To help keep membership fees low, revert to printing in house, mostly in black and white (with an all-colour copy on-line accessed by members only)
Print for all members, even if it entail s more than doubling the current membership fee	All PSG Newsletters to be all-colour copies, even if it entails a significant increase in the current membership fee
4/ Which of the following format options would you prefer?	9/ Which of the following format options would you prefer?
Phasmid Studies to continue in its present A4 format	PSG Newsletter to continue in its present format
Phasmid Studies to have pages printed in a different (eg more contemporary) format	PSG Newsletter to continue with a different format (you may add a suggested format under "17")
5/ Which of the following presentation formats would you prefer?	10/ How often do you wish to receive PSG Newsletters, noting that little copy is received from members
Phasmid Studies to continue as a separate publication as now	Continue with present arrangement (quarterly)
Phasmid Studies to be included as part of the PSG Newsletter	Reduce to twice a year, which will help

**SPECIES REPORTS** - currently

irregular, so little is recorded about most species in culture

**MEETINGS** - currently two per year, on Saturdays in Jan [AGM] and July, in London

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