



NORTH AMERICAN SECTION

NAS/IUSSI NEWSLETTER



NAS/IUSSI

SPRING 2003

2002 NAS Officers

President: Robert Matthews
President-Elect: Diana Wheeler
Past President: Gene Robinson

Secretary-Treasurer: Sean O'Donnell
Archivist: Chris Starr

Nominating

Committee
Joan Strassmann
Gene Robinson
Dessie Underwood

Eickwort Student
Award Committee: Phil Starks (Chair)
Kenna MacKenzie
Bryan Danforth

Minutes of the NAS/IUSSI Business Meeting, November 19th, 2002, Ft. Lauderdale

-The presiding officer, President Gene Robinson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

-New member Phil Starks (Tufts University) was welcomed.

Old business:

-Sean O'Donnell delivered the secretary/treasurer's report.

-2002 Election results: Diana Wheeler was elected as President elect, to take the helm at the end of to NAS business meeting in 2003. The vote to choose a site for the 2004 NAS breakaway meeting resulted in a tie between the two top sites, 22 votes each for Southern Ontario and Arizona State University. A two week runoff election was announced.

New business:

-Bryan Danforth reminded the membership that two summer courses in Ant and Bee biology, respectively, are offered in conjunction with the Southwest Research Station near Portal, Arizona. The Ant course is organized by Brian Fisher, and the Bee course by Jerry Rosen. Courses run roughly 1 week to 10 days, both in August. Courses have a taxonomic/systematic focus, but evening seminars focus on other aspects of biology.

Web page for bee course: <http://research.amnh.org/invertzoo/bee/course/>

Web page for ant course: http://www.calacademy.org/research/entomology/ant_course/

-Sanford Porter proposed that the NAS sponsor a short honorary research talk at the business meeting. He noted that this would make the business meeting more visible in the ESA program, and could be used to honor a NAS member, perhaps the Eickwort Award winner. Discussion ensued; Sam Beshers noted that the meeting could run too long. Bob Matthews suggested that a poster could be presented in place of a talk. Despite some general concern about overly long meetings, the group was generally in favor of the idea and charged Sanford and the Executive committee with looking into it further.

-Tanya Pankiw noted that ESA is in need of volunteers to help at next year's ESA meeting- student paper judges, etc. Forms were sent around to solicit volunteers.

-The International IUSSI Congress in 2006 will be held in the US, in the Washington DC area. Anita Collins will be the Congress Secretary, assisted by Jeff Pettis. Walt Tschinkel will serve as Congress President, and Ed Vargo as Treasurer. The venue will be a single large hotel facility, with an estimate of 500 to 800 attendees. Two possibilities under consideration are a Hyatt near the DC Mall, and an Omni farther out (but on the Metro line) near the National Zoo. Room cost estimates are around \$125/night for students, and \$150/night regular members. Many dining alternatives are found near each hotel. Dates are constrained to late July through early August, with a Sunday start-Friday banquet, with Wednesday tours, planned. Registration should run around \$300.

Tentative time table:

July 2004: website, first announcement

July 2005: Second announcement, registration materials sent, abstracts solicited.

6 months ahead: Final reminder sent.

Volunteers are solicited from the NAS membership. Of special importance is help from webmasterly people. Artwork will also be needed, perhaps to be selected via a contest. A program committee will also be needed.

Funding: Development - e.g., corporate sponsors for coffee breaks. NSF funds to support student travel will be sought.

A motion was made for NAS to agree to loan up to \$2500 to cover the costs of conference insurance. The motion carried.

Anyone willing to help out can contact Anita or Jeff.

-The membership voted on the position of at-large member of the NAS nominating committee. O'Donnell suggested changing the tenure of this position from 1 year to 2 years. Because this might require a change in the by-laws, this proposal was tabled until next year's business meeting. Dessie Underwood was nominated and elected to a second term.

-Symposium topics for the October 2003 ESA meetings in Cincinnati, OH: Theme is "Entomology from many disciplines: a great science" (sec/tres note: shades of Entogreat).

1. Mike Breed suggested co-organizing a symposium with Rob Page on Genetics of Social Evolution. This would revisit the topic of a symposium in 1987 for an update.

2. Bob Matthews proposed a symposium honoring Howard Evans, perhaps titled, "Life on a little known planet." It may be co-sponsored with Section A, Mary Jane West Eberhard will be invited to speak.

Both proposals received strong support from the membership.

-Gene passed the gavel and corkscrew to 2003 NAS President Bob Matthews, who closed the meeting and opened a real hum-dinger of a party.

-Thanks to all who carted food and drinks to the party, and most especially to Sam Beshers and Robin Stuart for commitment in the face of automotive adversity.

Current NAS/IUSSI membership tally:

Full members-

125 (66 with journal; 4 members on Insectes Sociaux editorial board)

Student members-

29 (7 with journal)

News and Announcements:

From: Zachary Huang <bees@msu.edu>

The web address of NAS/IUSSI is now at:

<http://iussi.bees.net>

The webmaster is myself.

From: David R. Tarpy

Mike Breed and I are currently putting together the **web site for the 2006 international congress** in Washington, D.C. While I know that it is still a long way off, we would like to develop a home page for the meeting as soon as possible so that we may build upon it at our convenience. Thus it would be nice to post some social insect pictures or artwork. Since I mainly have pictures of honey bees, I would appreciate anyone sending me some files (preferably in JPEG format) that you think would be appropriate. Please send them to dt66@cornell.edu. In doing so, please let me know (a) the photographer and (b) if the picture is under copyright so that we can post credits. David R. Tarpy, Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, Seeley G. Mudd Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

From: Sanford Porter

Dear Section C members: This message is a reminder for several upcoming deadlines for the Annual ESA meeting October 26-29, 2003 in Cincinnati.

-March 1 - All symposia (i.e., Program, Section, and Standard) need to be submitted in final format to Program Chair, Bob Wright. (Proposals for Section C Symposia can still be submitted to me for the next day or two.)

-April 1-29 - Symposia Organizers enter presentations into ESP (Electronic Submission Program)

-May 1 - ESP (Electronic Submission Program) ready for all other paper submissions.

-June 10 - Deadline for submission of all other presentations (TMPs, Posters, SCTMP, SCPosters)

Please note that the deadline for general presentations will be several weeks earlier this year because of the early meeting date in October.

Sanford D. Porter, Chair Section C, Entomological Society of America

Meetings:

Arizona State University is pleased to have been chosen to host the **Fall 2004 NAS-IUSSI Section meeting**. We have selected 7-10 October, 2004, (Thursday – Sunday) as the dates for our meeting at Camp Tontozona, with talks and posters to be presented on 8-9 October. To our knowledge, these dates do not conflict with other meetings, etc, so please inform me if you know of any conflicts. We will be setting up a WEB page with additional information as it becomes available.

Please reply to Bob Johnson (atraj@imap1.asu.edu) about any conflicts with these dates so that they can be changed accordingly.

IUSSI BOLIVARIAN SECTION -- Fifth Biennial Meeting, First Announcement.

The Bolivarian Section of IUSSI is the organizing body for insect sociobiology in the northern neotropics. The section's next general meeting and research conference will take place on 11-15 July 2003 at the University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago. Members of all IUSSI sections who work on neotropical social arthropods or general problems applicable to them are cordially invited to participate in this meeting. The languages of the meeting will be English and Spanish. Trinidad & Tobago have a continental biota broadly harmonic with that of the nearby South American mainland. The meeting will include an all-day field excursion, and there will be additional opportunities for field trips and ecotourism. Arrangements for official collecting permits are part of the organization of the meeting.

Colleagues interested in receiving further announcements or other information may contact the Organizing Committee through: Christopher K. Starr, Dept. of Life Sciences, University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago Email: ckstarr99@hotmail.com, tel (868) 662-2002 ext 3096 fax (868) 663-5241

IUSSI BOLIVARIAN SECTION -- Fifth Biennial Meeting, Second Announcement:

-It is recommended to register no later than 31 March, in order to reserve accommodation and aid the Organizing Committee in planning the meeting.

-Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 10 June if by e-mail, 1 June if by fax or post.

Fees may be paid upon arrival by cash or traveler's check in Trinidad & Tobago dollars (TT\$), US\$ or Euros. Participants need not be IUSSI members, although we certainly encourage all to join.

-It is preferred that you register by e-mail to: iussibolivariana@yahoo.com and at the same time tockstarr99@hotmail.com.

-Alternatively, it can be sent by a) fax to: C.K. Starr, (868) 645_7132, or b) post to: C.K. Starr, Dept of Life Sciences, University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago.

Please fill in the blanks and delete options that do not apply.

IUSSI BOLIVARIAN SECTION -- Fifth Biennial Meeting REGISTRATION

The registration fee for all categories includes welcoming social evening, lunch on each meeting day, and all-day field trip to the Arima Valley and North Coast. Accompanying children under 12 years of age need not register and have gratis entry to all events. Name:

Affiliation:

Postal address:

E_mail address:

Telephone (day):

Telephone (night):

Registration fee (delete whichever categories do not apply):

Regular TT\$450 or US\$75 or 75 euros.

Student TT\$300 or US\$50 or 50 euros.

Accompanying person TT\$210 or US\$35 or 35 euros.

Names of accompanying persons:

ACCOMMODATION

Please indicate number of persons. A more detailed bulletin on accommodation options will go out within a few days.

UWI post-graduate dormitory single at US\$25/night:

UWI undergraduate dormitory single at US\$20/night:

UWI undergraduate dormitory double at US\$30/night:

Pax Guest House single with shared bathroom at US\$43.18/night:

Pax Guest House double with shared bathroom at US\$62.15/night:

Pax Guest House single with private bathroom at US\$55.44/night:

Pax Guest House double with private bathroom at US\$92.73/night:

NOTE: If your choice is the Pax Guest House, please copy this form at the same time to the managers, Gerard & Oda Ramsawak, at pax_g_h@trinidad.net.

CALL FOR PAPERS

In the case of a multi-author paper, this form should be submitted by the author who will present it. Copy the form if you expect to present more than one paper. Abstracts should be at least 100 words and no more than 400 words long, with a suggested length of 200-300 words. Each abstract Titles and abstracts will appear in the meeting proceedings in both English and Spanish. If you submit your abstract in only the language of presentation, the Organizing Committee will be responsible for translation. If you submit it in both languages, begin with the language of presentation.

First author:

Affiliation (name of institution and country):

Second author:

Affiliation:

Third author:

Affiliation:

Add other authors as needed. Underline name of presenter.

Title:

Abstract:

Preferred presentation medium (delete whichever does not apply):

oral

poster

Audiovisual media for oral presentation (delete whichever do not apply):

overhead

slide

PowerPoint

Video

International Symposium-"Life Cycles in Social Insects: Behavioural, Ecological and Evolutionary Approach" that I am organizing in St. Petersburg, Russia, 22-27 September 2003. I attach to this letter the Second Announcement of the Symposium. If you are able to include the information on this meeting in your newsletters and email this to all your members, that would be ideal.

Please, advertise this Symposium on the websites of your sections as well.

The URL of the Symposium website is: <http://www.bio.pu.ru/win/entomol/Kipyatkov/iussi/2003/index.shtml>

With very many thanks, Prof. Vladilen E. Kipyatkov, Symposium Organiser, President of the Russian IUSI Section, E-MAIL: vk@VK1280.spb.edu, Web Page: <http://www.bio.pu.ru/win/entomol/Kipyatkov/index.htm>

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Open positions/Employment opportunities:

A Graduate Assistantship is available in Ed Vargo's lab for a Ph.D. or M.S. student to conduct thesis research in the area of molecular ecology of subterranean termites. Potential research topics include comparative studies of breeding systems, colony foraging areas and population dynamics, and the genetic basis of cuticular hydrocarbon variation. The successful student will have the opportunity to participate in a joint research project with French scientists, including travel to France. The Department of Entomology at NC State University (<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/entomology/>) is a large, highly interactive department with a wide range of basic and applied research programs.

Interested applicants should contact:

Ed Vargo, Department of Entomology, Box 7613, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695 Tel.: (919) 513-2743 Fax: (919) 515-7746 ed_vargo@ncsu.edu

Social evolution Ph.D. positions. We have a couple of openings for Ph.D. students interested in social evolution in an excellent model system: social amoebae. Social amoebae (cellular slime molds, Dictyostelids) are particularly interesting for social evolution because they have individuals who die for the group, forming a stalk which lifts living spores to a location better for dispersal. We have found that genetically distinct clones come together in groups, and some clones are better at avoiding contributing to the stalk and dying than are other clones. We are currently looking at this phenomenon in additional species and are looking for genes involved so we can trace the history of exploitation, and get at its genetic basis. These positions may be particularly good for students interested in social insects, but who want to turn to a system where we can get at the genetic mechanisms in a well-equipped evolutionary molecular genetics lab. Successful pursuit of other funding by some in our lab group means we have funded graduate positions for Fall 2003 at this unusual time of the year. If you have any good undergraduates still uncertain about what to do next year that might be interested, please have them email Joan Strassmann (strassm@rice.edu) or David Queller (queller@rice.edu). They can also check out our web page (<http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~evolve/>). Joan E. Strassmann, Professor, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, MS 170, Rice University, 6100 Main St., Houston TX 77005-1892 USA phone: (713) 348-4922 fax: (713) 348-5232, e-mail STRASSM@RICE.EDU, <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~evolve/>

URBAN ENTOMOLOGY Position: Ph.D. Research Assistantship – Subterranean Termites. The Urban Entomology Program at the University of Nebraska has one opening for a graduate assistantship to pursue Ph.D. The assistantship will include research on: "Effect of New Generation Termiticides on Feeding Behavior of Subterranean Termites" OR "Molecular Characterization of Subterranean Termites in Nebraska". The successful candidate will need background in insect physiology, insect toxicology, biochemistry and molecular techniques. Since, student will be assisting in field projects, a valid driver's license will be required. The research assistantship is \$16,440/year. In addition, approximately \$3,285 will be paid to the University for your tuition remission and \$493 for student insurance. The total cost is \$20,218. Publications are required from dissertation research in peer-reviewed scientific journals. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska that student who holds assistantship may not work more than halftime, or 20 hours per week, all jobs considered, including assistantship. Please contact: Dr. Shripat T. Kamble, Professor of Entomology, Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0816 Phone: (402) 472-6857 Email: skamble@unlnotes.unl.edu

Post Doctorate Associate (Molecular Biology/Toxicology). Position: One year and renewable depending upon progress and funding availability. Available: ASAP or until suitable candidate is found.

Research: Research will be focused on one or more areas as follows:

1. Uptake of termiticides, Secondary toxicity (through trophallaxis) of bait products to subterranean termites.
2. Effect of soil eco-factors on performance of termiticides including bait products.
3. Growth regulators affecting termite biology.
4. Molecular characterization of subterranean termites in Nebraska. Techniques include: Gel electrophoresis, DNA isolation, DNA amplification and sequencing, PCR, genomic DNA library construction, and other molecular techniques. Qualification: Ph.D. in Entomology with training in toxicology, biochemistry and/or molecular biology. Candidate should have experience with GC, HPLC, insecticide extraction and analysis or molecular techniques. Writing and publishing data in peer reviewed journals will be required. Salary: Negotiable based on training and experience. Application: Send CV, publications and names of three references to: Dr. Shripat T. Kamble, Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0816
Phone: (402) 472-6857, Cell Phone: (402) 417-5148 Email: skamble@unl.edu

Becky Rosengaus, Ph.D., Northeastern University: As some of you might know, I am now working at Northeastern University. Construction/remodeling of my lab has been completed (yes!!) and I am now actively seeking to **recruit graduate students** interested in the evolution of social behavior, particularly in the social insects. If you have any good undergraduate students interested in continuing with graduate school, please have them email Becky Rosengaus at r.rosengaus@neu.edu. They can also check my web page www.biology.neu.edu/faculty/rosengaus.html.

Becky Rosengaus, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Northeastern University, 414 Mugar Life Science Building, 360 Huntington Avenue, Boston MA 02115-5000 Phone: 617-373-7032