



**American Arachnological Society • 2008**  
**University of California, Berkeley**

# American Arachnology

Newsletter of the American Arachnological Society

Number 77

May 2008

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2008 A.A.S. Annual Meeting  
 University of California  
 Berkeley, California  
 Wednesday 25 June -  
 Monday 30 June

Hosted by:

**Rosemary Gillespie**  
**Charles Griswold**

Please note that all information concerning the 2008 Meeting is available online (complete with hyperlinks) at the A.A.S. website :

([HTTP://WWW.AMERICANARACHNOLOGY.ORG/AAS\\_MEETINGS/INDEX.HTML](http://www.americanarachnology.org/AAS_MEETINGS/INDEX.HTML)).

**It is preferred that Registration and abstract submission be done via the website.**

### Future A.A.S. Annual Meeting Sites

2008 – UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA  
 25 June – 30 June

2009 – Arkansas Tech, Russellville, Arkansas

2010 – Greenville, NC (tentative)

2011 – Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Oregon

2012 – U Wisconsin – Green Bay

**NEW!!! Registration and Abstract submission deadline**

**→ 26 May 2008 ←**

After this date a \$30 late fee will be applied.

# 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual A.A.S. Meeting

University of California

Berkeley, California

Wednesday 25 June -

Monday 30 June

Hosted by:

Rosemary Gillespie

and

Charles Griswold

**This year's AAS meeting will be held beside the campus of the University of California at Berkeley, founded in 1868.**

The UC Berkeley campus is home to a series of Natural History Museums, dating back to the early history of the institution: The Essig Museum of Entomology, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, the UC and Jepson Herbaria, the UC Museum of Paleontology, the Hearst Museum of Anthropology, and the UC Botanic Gardens. The city of Berkeley lies at the base of the Berkeley Hills, which rise steeply behind the campus (up to 535 m), and is traversed by the Hayward Fault, a major branch of the San Andreas Fault to the west. The city is well known for its vibrancy and liberalism, being the home of the 1960's Free Speech Movement. The city of San Francisco is well connected to Berkeley, and provides a rich array of cultural offerings. The California Academy of Sciences, currently closed as it moves to its new facilities, is scheduled to open later this year in Golden Gate Park. The new building, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, includes a huge, undulating, and functional, living roof, which will slope over interior exhibitions and read as hills against the natural landscape. It will house an aquarium, planetarium, and exhibition spaces.

## Campus & Housing Information

Oral and poster sessions, as well as accommodation, will be based in the Foothill Residence Halls in the Northside hills of Berkeley, located directly across the street from campus. Foothill offers suite style housing featuring single and double occupancy suites, as well as laundry facilities and lounges. The residence hall has the look and feel of a ski resort and provides a peaceful setting for meetings. All rooms are carpeted and furnished. Ethernet network connections are provided in every room allowing access to the internet and campus resources and free basic Cable TV. In-room telephone lines are also provided. The dining center for breakfast and lunch is in the same complex. Foothill has its own executive chef; menus include traditional favorites, ethnic specialties, vegetarian and vegan selections.

**Address:** UC Foothill Residence Hall

2700 Hearst Avenue (and Highland Place)

Berkeley, CA 94720

Ph: (510) 642-1676

**Check-In:** June 25th 2008 after 3:00 p.m.

Check in at the Stern Hall Front Desk which is located next to Foothill (there will be

signs directing you to Stern Hall), it is open from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

**Check-Out:** June 30th 2008 before Noon

**Package Rate** (room, breakfast, lunch): \$290.00 per person/double occupancy; \$420.00 per person/single occupancy. Dormitory-style room with a shared bath on the same floor (package price covers 5 nights accommodation and includes breakfast and lunch (not dinner); no refunds for late arrivals or early departure.) For those not staying in the dorm, there is the option of the "commuter package" (lunch on 26, 27, 28th) for \$31.50 per person.

**Meals at Foothill:** Breakfast Served: 7:15–9:30 a.m. and Lunch Served: 11a.m.-1.30 p.m.

If you would prefer not to stay in dorm rooms, there are several hotels nearby; however, these tend to be expensive, with a limited number of small rooms.

## Travel Information

Berkeley is easy to reach by your choice of transportation - highway, rail, or air.

**Flights:** There are two large airports that serve Berkeley: San Francisco International airport (SFO) which is 25 miles from the UC Berkeley campus, and Oakland International airport (OAK) which is 15 miles away. From the airport there are two easy options for reaching the Berkeley campus: (1) the BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) train that takes you to downtown Berkeley; and (2) the Bayporter Shuttle, a door-to-door van service.

**BART Info SFO:** SFO airport:

<http://www.flysfo.com/web/page/index.jsp>

From SFO Airport to the Downtown Berkeley Station. -

Take the Air Train inside the airport which has a stop at the BART station. One-way ticket from SFO to Downtown Berkeley is around \$5.65 and the machine takes either cash or credit cards. When you arrive at the Downtown Berkeley BART station, walk up the stairs, you will be on the corner of Center and Shattuck where taxis are always available. Take a Taxi (~\$10.00) to the Foothill Residence Halls located at 2700 Hearst and Highlands Place. There will be signs directing you to the Stern Hall Front Desk for check-in

**BART Info OAK:** OAK airport:

<http://www.flyoakland.com/index2.cfm>

BART from the Oakland airport to the Downtown Berkeley Station. Since BART does not stop inside the Oakland Airport you need to take the AirBART Shuttle, which is located in front of either Terminal 1 or 2 (Southwest Airlines), to the Coliseum/Oakland Airport BART Station. Fares for AirBART are \$3.00, payable in cash (EXACT FARE ONLY). The AirBART shuttle trip takes 15 to 30 minutes depending upon traffic. A one-way ticket from the Oakland Airport to Downtown Berkeley is around \$2.10 and the machine takes either cash or credit cards. When you arrive at the Downtown Berkeley

BART station, walk up the stairs, you will be on the corner of Center and Shattuck where taxis are always available.

Please read the instructions posted on the BART website for detailed instructions, train schedule, and transfer point to the Downtown Berkeley Station: <http://www.bart.gov/guide/airport/airport.asp>.

**Airport Shuttle:** Airport Shuttles are readily available at the airports. The cost of a one-way fare is about \$29. At both SFO and OAK there are designated courtyards where the shuttle stops, see <http://www.bayporter.com/info.htm> for maps. When you have your baggage and are ready for Ground Transportation at SFO, go to the Courtyards listed on the web site. The Bayporter Express shuttle will board passengers within 30 minutes upon arrival from 6am to 10pm daily. Reservation is recommended; call BayPorter Dispatcher at 1-877-467-1800 (Bay Area Toll Free) for airport pick ups.

**For OAK,** when you have your baggage and are ready for Ground Transportation, call the BayPorter Dispatcher at 1-877-467-1800 (Bay Area Toll Free) for airport pick up. Then go to the Door to Door Reservation Shuttle Stops at either (a) Terminal #1 (All Major Airlines Except Southwest Airline): Go out from the baggage door, cross the street to the last island. Look for a bus shelter #4B indicating "Door to Door Reservations". Be sure to inform the Curb Coordinator that you have reservation with BayPorter Express. (b) Terminal #2 (Southwest Airlines): Go out from the baggage door, cross the street to the last island. Look for a bus shelter #4G indicating "Door to Door Reservations". Be sure to inform the Curb Coordinator that you have reservation with BayPorter Express.

**Taxi Services:** Yellow Airport Taxi Service (510) 845-3333. Airport Express Taxi Service (510) 486-0222. Cost of a one-way fare to UC Berkeley will be around \$70.

**Automobiles:** From San Francisco airport, get on US-101 N via the ramp on the left toward San Francisco. After 12 miles, keep right to take I-80 E via exit 433B toward Bay Bridge/ Oakland/ Seventh St/ US-101 N. Exit after 11 miles, merging onto University Ave toward Berkeley. After 2.1 miles turn left on to Shattuck Avenue, and then after 0.1 miles turn right on to Hearst Avenue. After 0.7 miles you will arrive at Foothill (2700 Hearst Ave Berkeley, CA 94720-2293).

**Coming from Oakland airport,** start on Airport Drive towards Alan Shepard Way (0.2 miles); turn right on Alan Shepard Way and immediately right on John Glenn Drive (0.3 miles). Turn left on Airport Drive (0.7 miles) and stay straight to go on to 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue (0.4 miles). Turn left on to Airport Access Road (0.2 miles), then right on to Hegenberger Rd (0.8 miles). Merge onto I-880 N toward downtown Oakland (6.4 miles), then keep right to take I-980 toward CA-24/ Walnut Creek (1.5 miles). Keep left to take CA-24 E toward Berkeley/ Walnut Creek (1.7 miles) and then take the Claremont Avenue exit (0.2 miles). Turn slight left on to College Avenue (1.3 miles) then right on to Durant Avenue (0.1 miles). Then take a left on to Piedmont Avenue (0.3 miles). Piedmont Avenue becomes Gayley

Road (0.3 miles); end at 2700 Hearst Ave Berkeley, CA 94720-2293

## Restaurants

Although breakfast and lunch will be served on the Foothill site, there are multiple restaurants within easy walking distance of the Foothill campus that offer dinner options. The banquet will be held in the courtyard of the Valley Life Sciences on the west side of the main campus. Light aperitifs will be served at the welcome reception on the first evening.

## Weather

Berkeley has a Mediterranean climate, with dry summers and wet winters as is typical in the Mediterranean region, but with a cool modification in summer due to upwelling ocean currents along the California coast. Accordingly, summer typically brings night and morning fog, which can be chilly, followed by sunny, warm days.

## Local Sights and Things to Do

For a list of things to do and see in Berkeley, check out the web site [www.visitberkeley.com/things\\_to\\_do.cfm](http://www.visitberkeley.com/things_to_do.cfm). Berkeley attraction include: Lawrence Hall of Science- UC Berkeley's public science center- planetarium and hands-on exhibits for scientists of all ages <http://www.lawrencehallofscience.org/> . Public transit access: UCB Hill shuttle line from campus. Scharffen Berger Chocolate Factory- See all the steps for making chocolate plus get tasty free samples. Must reserve a spot on the factory tour at <http://www.scharffenberger.com> Public transit access: NA. Tilden Park- Nice hikes with beautiful views of the bay. Many different attractions for all ages <http://www.ebparks.org/parks/tilden> Public transit access: AC Transit #67 from the Berkeley BART station. UC Berkeley Botanical Garden- Worldwide collection used as a live museum by UCB researchers <http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/> Public transit access: UCB Hill shuttle line from campus. For San Francisco attractions, see "Field Trips" below. For those feeling more adventurous, the Greater Bay Area offers the following (no public transit access): Monterey Bay Aquarium- One of the world's best aquaria with exhibits including a kelp forest, amazing jelly fish, penguins and otters (2.5 hour drive) <http://www.mbayaq.org/> Big Sur- Beautiful vistas and great hiking on the California coast (3+ hour scenic drive) <http://www.bigsurcalifornia.org/> Paramount's Great America Theme Park- Amusement park with great rides and a big water park (less than 1 hr drive) <http://www.pgathrills.com/> Wine Tours- Napa and Sonoma County Wineries (see also Field Trips below): accessible by car or join a winery tour group (1.5 hr drive). Old Faithful Geyser of California- the CA version of Yellowstone geyser erupts regularly (every 40 minutes) (1.5 hr. drive) <http://gocalifornia.about.com/cs/napasonoma/a/canapageyser.htm> Hearst Castle- Strange architecture at its best. Wander through countless rooms in this maze of a building. Tour reservations recommended but not required. (5 hour drive) <http://www.hearstcastle.com/> Jelly Belly Candy Company- Free tour (with samples)of the jelly bean company located in Fairfield CA (45 min. drive) <http://jellybelly.com/Cultures/en-US/NewsEvents/Stores/Jelly+Belly+Visitor+Center++Fairfield.htm>

## Preliminary Schedule:

### Wednesday, June 25th:

Registration and Check-in  
Informal Mixer

### Thursday, June 26th:

Oral & Poster Sessions

### Friday, June 27th:

Oral Sessions  
Casual Arachnid Evening

### Saturday, June 28th:

Oral Sessions  
Business Meeting  
Evening Banquet & Student Awards, Auction (Life Science Building)

### Sunday, June 29th:

Field Trips

## Special Events

There will be a mixer the first night. Also, an informal social event and poster display the second night. The conference banquet will be held in the Valley Life Sciences Building courtyard, adjacent to the Berkeley Natural History Museums (Essig Museum of Entomology, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UC and Jepson Herbaria, UC Museum of Paleontology) on the UC Berkeley campus.

### Field trips

We plan to offer a collecting trip to a local reserve and a "fun" trip to Napa for wine tasting.

**Tilden Park Collecting Trip:** Tilden Park is a local favorite that offers access to hiking trails in a mixture of habitat types including oak woodland and redwood forest. The park is situated high in the Berkeley Hills, provides excellent views of the Bay Area, and features a botanical garden devoted to California endemics. Participants will be loaned basic collecting equipment and allowed to collect arachnids in specific areas of the park. Transportation and a picnic lunch will be provided.

**Napa Valley Winery Tour:** The Napa Valley is one of the most famous wine regions in the world, and offers visitors access to more than 300 tasting rooms. We will be visiting 4 wineries on this trip, including St. Supéry, V. Sattui, Beaulieu Vineyards, and Rombauer all of which have won awards in recent years and are Napa favorites. Transportation and a picnic lunch will be provided, but please bring \$5 per winery as they typically charge a small tasting fee.

**San Francisco:** An alternative "self-guided" option is to visit the sights of San Francisco: **Pier 39** Tourist central: shops, sea lions, wax museums, Aquarium of the Bay <http://www.pier39.com/> Public transit access: BART to Embarcadero Stn., Muni #10 or F line. **Alcatraz**- Audio or live tours explaining the history of the many notorious inmates and how a lucky few escaped. [www.alcatrazcruises.com](http://www.alcatrazcruises.com) Public transit access: same as Pier 39 (ferries leave from nearby piers). **Chinatown**- Largest Chinatown outside of Asia. Interesting shops- not for those with a weak stomach. You will see many interesting shops selling food you never knew existed (let alone eaten). Also check out the shrines, gardens and even fortune cookie factory <http://www.sanfranciscochinatown.com/> Public transit access: BART

to Powell St Stn. Muni #45 or 30. **Architecture Walking Tours**- Tour of unique downtown buildings [www.architecturesf.com](http://www.architecturesf.com) Public transit access: BART to downtown SF. **SF MoMA**- Great temporary exhibits and permanent collection including O'Keefe, Pollock, Warhol and Matisse <http://www.sfmoma.org/> Public transit access: BART to Montgomery St stn. **Golden Gate Bridge**- Walk across this iconic bridge or stay on solid ground and take pictures <http://goldengatebridge.org/> Public transit access: BART to downtown SF, Golden Gate Transit #10, 60, 70 or 80 or Muni #28.

**Golden Gate Park**- This park has it all: Conservancy of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, Old people playing Bocce ball, Disc Golf course, Botanical Garden, Windmills, Bison, DeYoung Art Museum, Drum circles and Roller Disco on Sundays. Public transit access: BART to Civic Center Stn. Muni #5.

## Auction Items/Reprints

Be sure to comb-your-closets for items suitable to be placed on the block at the annual Vince Roth Memorial Auction. All sorts of arachnological books, clothing, and paraphernalia may be offered. You can either mail items to Rosemary Gillespie at the address below, or bring them with you. If you plan to bring items, please let me know in advance so we can begin to put together a list.

## Reprints

Bring your extra reprints to the meeting to exchange with colleagues. A room will be available during the meeting where reprints will be available for exchange.

## Casual Night with Arachnids

The traditional informal presentations will be held on Friday evening (27 June) from 7 -9 pm. In the past, these presentations have been free-form. As in the past, there will be a time limit of no more than 15 minutes. Please indicate on your registrations whether you plan to give a presentation.

## AAAFF

Talks for the Arachnological Association for the Absorption of Federal Funds (AAAFF) can take place during the Casual Night with Arachnids. Let me know whether you have an AAAFF presentation for the meeting.

## Local Host Contact Information:

**Rosemary G. Gillespie,**

**University of California Berkeley,**

**Division of Insect Biology, 137 Mulford Hall**

**Berkeley, CA 94720-3114**

**Tel 510-642-3445; fax 510-642-7428**

**email: [gillespie@berkeley.edu](mailto:gillespie@berkeley.edu)**

**Charles E. Griswold,**

**Department of Entomology**

**California Academy of Sciences**

**875 Howard Street**

**San Francisco, CA 94103 USA**

**Tel: 415-321-8312; fax: 415-321-8640**

**Email: [cgriswold@calacademy.org](mailto:cgriswold@calacademy.org)**

# 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the American Arachnological Society

University of California

Berkeley, California

Wednesday 25 June – Monday 30 June, 2008

Hosted by: Rosemary Gillespie & Charles Griswold

(510) 642-3445/ (415) 321-8312; E-mail: [gillespie@berkeley.edu](mailto:gillespie@berkeley.edu) / [cgriswold@calacademy.org](mailto:cgriswold@calacademy.org)

This form can be used for registration or you can register online at [http://www.americanarachnology.org/AAS\\_Meetings/index.html](http://www.americanarachnology.org/AAS_Meetings/index.html); (you can also pay online through PayPal).

Registration and abstract submission through the website is preferred but not required!

**Deadline: 26 May** registration and abstract submission deadline. **Those who register early will be entered into a drawing for free meeting T-shirts & other prizes.** After the deadline, a late fee will be charged (see below) and you must contact the host for permission to present a paper or poster. **All presenters must have registered by 30 May to present a paper.**

**Registration and Abstract Submission Deadline is 26 May 2008**

## Personal Information

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code/country code: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone & FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

## Registration Fees

\_\_\_\_\_ \$85 - AAS Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$120 - AAS Member PLUS 1 Non-participant guest

\_\_\_\_\_ \$110 - Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$145 - Non-Member PLUS 1 Non-participant guest

\_\_\_\_\_ \$55 - AAS Student member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$85 - Non- AAS Student (*Join AAS for \$30 student membership and register at the lower rate!*)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 - Non-participant (Taking part in breaks and socials)

Name of non-participant guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Late Fee per person (if you register and/or pay after 26 May)

## **Special Events (please check all those events you plan to attend and include fees if relevant)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday evening (25 June) Informal mixer (*no extra charge*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday evening (28 June) banquet and auction (\$45 regular; \$40 student)

\_\_\_\_\_ Field Trip to Tilden Park, Berkeley (\$20 – includes transportation)

\_\_\_\_\_ Field Trip to Napa Valley Wineries (\$20 – includes transportation but not tasting fees)

## Photo & Shirts

\_\_\_ **Group photo (\$12 each)**

### **T-shirts:**

Navy shirts with white logo design (right) (**\$15 each**):

\_\_\_ Small; \_\_\_ Medium; \_\_\_ Large; \_\_\_ X-Large; \_\_\_ XXL

White shirts with navy logo design (right) (**\$15 each**):

\_\_\_ Small; \_\_\_ Medium; \_\_\_ Large; \_\_\_ X-Large; \_\_\_ XXL

## **Housing & Meals**

**Foothill Housing Complex** (indicate single or double): We have negotiated a full package that includes: Room for the nights of 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 June. Beds are made prior to arrival with pillow, pillow case, sheets, blanket and bedspread. Two towels, face cloth and a bar of soap are provided and a small lamp is placed on each desk. Linens are changed weekly and towels are changed every other day. Bedrooms are not cleaned during your stay, however, common areas such as lounges and bathrooms are cleaned daily. Breakfast and lunch are included in the package for 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> June. Foothill features a lodge-like dining room on the northeast side of campus where meals are served cafeteria style. For Sunday lunch, the dining facilities offer "to-go" boxes, which you can pack yourself and is already included in the full package prices.

**Full Package:**       **\$290.00** per person/double occupancy

**\$420.00** per person/single occupancy

Roommate name \_\_\_\_\_

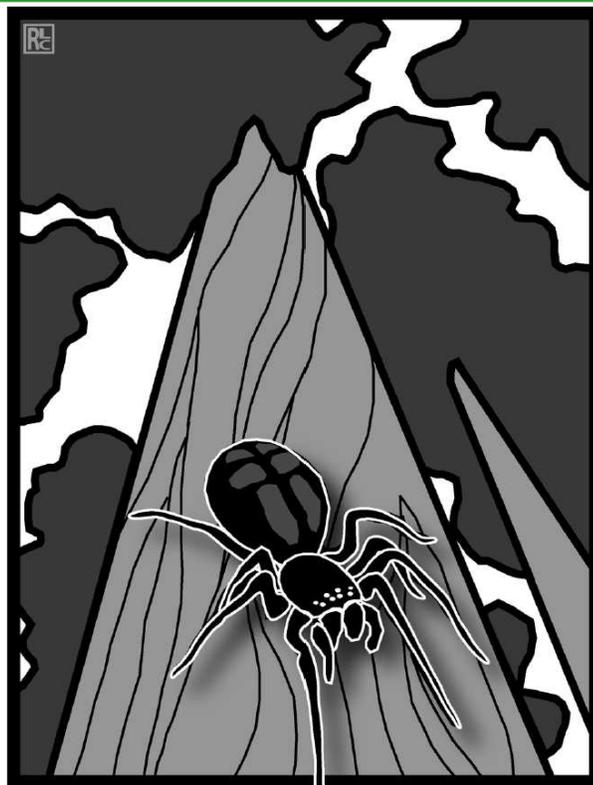
**Commuters:** For those that are staying elsewhere, there is a Commuter Package (lunch only on 26, 27, 28 June) for **\$31.50** per person

### **Daily Refreshments**

Light refreshments (coffee, juice, cookies, fruit) will be served during the morning and afternoon breaks. Light refreshments will be provided at the mixer on Wednesday evening and at the poster session on Thursday evening.

## **Miscellaneous**

**Vince Roth Memorial Auction:** If you have items for the annual arachno-auction (during the banquet) you can mail them to Rosemary Gillespie at the address below. If you plan to bring items instead of mailing them in advance, please let Rosemary know how many and what items you plan to bring so a list could be started.



**American Arachnological  
Society • 2008  
University of California, Berkeley**

**Reprints:** Do you have stacks of old reprints cluttering your office shelves? Bring them to the meeting to exchange with colleagues. We will have a room available during the meeting where reprints will be available for exchange.

**AAAFF:** We will try to put together some talks for the Arachnological Association for the Absorption of Federal Funds (AAAFF) during the Casual Night with Arachnids, depending on a critical mass of contributions. Please indicate whether you have a AAAFF presentation for the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you have a presentation.

Presenters Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Abstract:** no more than 100 words. (Please send as either an e-mail attachment, or on a separate sheet of paper with your registration).

**Casual Night with Arachnids:** The traditional informal presentations will be held on Friday evening (27 June) from 7 - 9 p.m. In the past, these presentations have been free-form. There will be a time limit of no more than 15 minutes.

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you have a presentation (no abstract necessary).

Presenters Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Totals

Registration: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt(s): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Group Photo: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Field Trips: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Housing/ Meal Package: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Late Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to "AAS Meeting 2008" or pay and/or register online through PayPal at

[HTTP://WWW.AMERICANARACHNOLOGY.ORG/AAS\\_MEETINGS/INDEX.HTML](http://www.americanarachnology.org/aas_meetings/index.html)

If you are not registering/paying online, send registration form, abstract and payment to:

**Rosemary G. Gillespie,**

**University of California Berkeley,**

**Division of Insect Biology, 137 Mulford Hall**

**Berkeley, CA 94720-3114**

All payments must be received by **26 May 2008** to avoid the late registration fee.

Please see next page for abstract submission.

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## Abstract Submission

**Deadline: 26 May, 2008**

### Type of presentation

- Oral (15 min total including questions)
- Poster (Posters must fit in a space absolutely no more than 4 ft X 4 ft.)
- AAAFF (enter details on pg. 7)
- Casual presentation for Sunday evening (enter details on pg. 7)
- Not presenting but plan on attending

Check here if you would like to be considered for the student competition. This is open to any student who has not previously won the student competition. Former runners-up may enter. Additional information can be found at the Meeting Website (at the AAS website) – look under information about presentations in this Newsletter (pg. 10).

### Circle the category below that best describes your formal presentation

Anatomy/Physiology      Behavior      Evolution      Ecology      Systematics/Taxonomy

Other. Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Presenters Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Presenter's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of oral presentation or poster:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**First author's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Second author's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Third author's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Abstract submission

Abstracts should be no more than 250 words. Presentation Title, author's names and institutions are not included in the word count. Do not include your full address, only institutional affiliation, State, and Country. Following the abstract, include the presenter's name, whether the abstract is for an oral presentation or poster.

(An example abstract is available on the AAS website and on pg. 9)

## Please indicate below how your abstract is/was sent

- \_\_\_\_\_ Abstract on 3.5" diskette or CD (PC formatted) included  
\_\_\_\_\_ Abstract submitted online at <http://www.americanarachnology.org>  
\_\_\_\_\_ Paper copy of abstract included

## Check all audio visual needs for your presentation

- \_\_\_\_\_ PowerPoint  
\_\_\_\_\_ slide projector  
\_\_\_\_\_ overhead projector  
\_\_\_\_\_ VCR  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other: please describe \_\_\_\_\_

### Use the following format for abstracts:

Submissions must be in English. For the entire document, please use 12 point text, either Arial or Helvetica.

#### **Predation risk of males and females of the wolf spider *Pardosa milvina* (Araneae: Lycosidae) during courtship and copulation**

**Bryant T. Upton**

**Department of Biology, Susquehanna University  
Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania USA**

**Ann Rypstra**

**Department of Zoology, Miami University  
Hamilton, Ohio USA**

**Matthew H. Persons**

**Department of Biology, Susquehanna University  
Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania USA**

Courtship and mating may impose substantial predation risk to wolf spiders due to reduced vigilance, conspicuous courtship displays, and lack of mobility during copulation; however, the level of risk may differ between males and females. The wolf spider, *Pardosa milvina*, modify their courtship and mating behavior in the presence of silk cues from a larger co-occurring predatory wolf spider, *Hogna helluo*. We compared male and female *Pardosa* predation by *Hogna* during courtship interactions and copulation with and without silk cues from *Hogna* (21 pairs/treatment). We measured mating success, courtship latency, courtship intensity, and copulation duration in the presence of predator cues and a live predator. We also measured attempted and successful predation by *Hogna* or female *Pardosa* in the presence of predator cues. We compared four treatments introducing the predator, *Hogna*, either during courtship or during copulation and either with or without the presence of associated *Hogna* silk and excreta. We found that females have significantly higher predation rates during copulation with predator cues compared to males, however, the other three treatments showed no significant difference in predation between males and females. We also found no significant difference in lunge rates by *Hogna* toward males across silk deposition treatments. Females were also significantly more aggressive towards males when there were no predator cues present suggesting females may reduce sexual cannibalism while under predation risk. Male *Pardosa* delay courtship in the presence of chemical cues from *Hogna* and male courtship display rates were greatly reduced after *Hogna* introduction.

Presenter: Bryant Upton

Poster

Student poster competition

## STUDENT PAPER PRESENTATION AWARD GUIDELINES

### **I. ELIGIBILITY**

**A.** The student should submit a copy of the paper's abstract\* to the meeting organizer by the specified deadline (26 May, 2008). A letter containing a statement from the student's major professor or supervisor indicating the extent to which the work was independently developed and executed by the student also must be sent to the meeting host\*\*. The name and mailing address of the Meeting Host are:

**Rosemary G. Gillespie,**

**University of California Berkeley,**

**Division of Insect Biology, 137 Mulford Hall**

**Berkeley, CA 94720-3114**

**E-mail: gillespie@berkeley.edu**

\*The abstract may be submitted via the A.A.S. Website

\*\*The letter should be sent either electronically or by post to the host.

**B.** The presentation either represents independent or joint research in which the student's contribution has been substantial. In case of a co-authored paper the student presenting the paper must be first author.

**C.** Entry is limited to one standard paper per meeting.

**D.** Previous winners of the Student Paper award are not eligible. Runner-ups are eligible.

### **II. JUDGES**

**A.** A panel of three judges will be appointed by the President -Elect before the meeting. Abstracts of all student papers and a copy of the judging guidelines will be mailed to each judge prior to the meeting. An appropriate number of evaluation sheets (listing the criteria as below) shall accompany the abstract package for each judge. Judges will be chosen from different disciplines (systematics, morphology, physiology, ecology, behavior).

**B.** Efforts should be made to avoid bias or conflict of interest in judging, either by appointing judges with no students in the competition or, if that is unavoidable, by having judges abstain from voting on their own students.

**C.** Judges should meet twice: once before the paper presentation to review the guidelines and once afterward to make a decision on ranking.

**D.** At least one hour should be available between the last eligible presentation and the scheduled announcement of the award.

### **III. EVALUATION**

**A.** Judges should rate presentations as "Outstanding, Good, Adequate, or Poor" based on the criteria listed below. In co-authored papers, the judges will carefully evaluate the student's contribution to the presented research. In case of a tie or very close ranking, the judges may decide on a joint award.

### **B. Scientific Criteria**

#### 1. Introduction:

- Was there a clear introduction to the research problem?
- Was the importance of the research question explained? Why was the work done?
- Did the speaker provide a background and context for the research? What was the state of the field prior to this study? A review of the entire field is not necessary, but the speaker must provide a reference framework in which to assess the work.
- Was a clear statement of the hypothesis(es) provided?

#### 2. Methods:

- Was there a clear explanation of the techniques used in the project?
- How creative was the work? If the presentation involved techniques commonly used by the advisor, did the student utilize the technique to approach novel issues or novel questions?

#### 3. Results:

- Were the results of the study a valuable contribution to the field? Was the significance of the results clearly demonstrated? Could the student convince the audience they should care about their results?!
- Were the experiments or results approached from several perspectives?

#### 4. Discussion & Conclusions:

- Were the results well summarized and placed in context relative to the introduction?
- How sound were the conclusions?
- Did the student extend the work beyond other projects associated with their advisor, or was it simply a minor increment of similar work?
- Was the research sufficiently independent, unique, or creative?
- Were the conclusions put in a broader context extending the value of the work beyond a small area in arachnology to better understanding within the field of systematics/ behavior/ ecology/ etc?

#### **C. Presentation Style and Logistics (oral):**

- Did the speaker speak clearly and logically or was the organization of the talk confused and disorganized? Did the speaker communicate clearly and easily? Was eye contact made with the audience, or was the paper simply read from notes or the screen?
- Were the graphics lucid? Were all of the figures intelligible with axes clearly labeled? Were tables broken into decipherable segments? Did the student clearly put effort into making the graphics used for the talk self-explanatory or informative?
- Were the techniques used explained with a minimal use of specialist jargon so that a nonspecialist or non-scientist could understand how the project was done?
- Did the student project a professional demeanor, or were unnecessary 'humor', inappropriate references, or excessive excuses made?
- How poised was the speaker? Was the presentation "timed" correctly?
- How well did the speaker respond to questions?

#### **D. Presentation Style and logistics (poster):**

- Was the poster clearly organized and well planned or was it clearly done at the last minute?
- Were the graphics lucid? Were all of the figures intelligible with axes clearly labeled? Were tables broken into deci-

- pherable segments? Were the text, tables, and graphics self-explanatory or informative?
- Were the techniques used clearly explained with a minimal use of specialist jargon, such that a non-specialist or non-scientist could understand how the project was done?
  - Was the poster clearly arranged such that there was minimal text for maximal effect? Were the visuals used appropriate for the point being made?
  - How well did the presenter respond to questions?

#### IV. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES

Traditionally, the award is announced at the society's banquet. Students are strongly encouraged to attend the banquet since this is an ideal setting to "schmooze" with established arachnologists and to see George Uetz, auctioneer extraordinaire, and his faithful companion, Al Cady, at their best.

#### V. AWARDS

The top ranking and runner-up individuals traditionally receive a monetary award. Other awards vary according to donations and other philanthropy.

#### SAMPLE JUDGING SHEET

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-authors: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Paper: \_\_\_\_\_

OVERALL RATING - \_\_\_\_\_

#### Scientific criteria:

- Clarity of Introduction; background & context.
- Abstract; summarize main results of research?
- Scope of research problem; hypothesis(es) stated?
- Approach, design, and creativity of study
- Quality and details of analysis; clearly explained?
- Significance of results; different perspectives used?
- Soundness of conclusions; relation to Introduction?
- Contribution to field; impact outside immediate field?

Rating of Scientific Criteria - \_\_\_\_\_

#### Presentation (oral):

- Overall organization and clarity; proper timing?
- Oral presentation skill; presence, poise, & demeanor.
- Graphics were high quality and easy to read and interpret.
- Ability to respond to questions.

Rating of Oral Presentation Criteria - \_\_\_\_\_

#### Presentation (poster):

- Overall organization and clarity.
- Minimal text for maximal effect?
- Graphics were high quality and easy to read and interpret.
- Ability to respond to questions.

Rating of Poster Presentation Criteria - \_\_\_\_\_

#### HINTS ON GIVING A GREAT RESEARCH PRESENTATION

Thanks to Linda Rayor!

#### Scientific Criteria:

- Give a clear introduction to your research problem. Provide a

background to your research and inform the audience about the state of the field prior to this study. You need not provide a review of the entire field, but your listeners deserve to have your contribution to the field put into context. Explain the *importance* of your research question and why the work is of value.

- Clearly state the hypothesis(es) tested.
- Clearly explain the techniques or experiments used in the project. Explicitly describe any novel or uncommon apparatus or protocol.
- Explain your results clearly. The audience only has a minute or two to digest the content of your figures, so make the figures easy to read and to understand (uncluttered). It is often much better to present smaller portions of your data rather than large, unintelligible tables or figures ("less is best"). Provide telegraphic titles that help the audience grasp the meaning of the results more easily. Try to minimize abbreviations and jargon that only you understand. Basically, make it *easy* for your audience to understand your data as you guide them through it.
- Explain why the results of your study are a valuable contribution to your field. In your talk or poster, you should put the research in context so that the audience *cares* about your results. Do your conclusions extend beyond a small question in arachnology? Does your work contribute to better understanding within the broader field of systematics/ behavior/ ecology, etc.?

#### Presentation Style & Logistics:

- It is much easier to understand a talk or poster that is logically organized rather than one that is confused and disorganized.
- As indicated above, your graphics should be lucid and easy to follow. Are your figures intelligible with the axes clearly labeled? Without you talking or you being present, would it be possible to look at the graphics and interpret the figures? Are the tables broken into intelligible segments? Are your graphics self-explanatory and informative?
- Few biologists are specialists in everything. For those biologists who work outside of your area of specialty, it is helpful if you explain your project with minimal use of specialist jargon or explain the unusual terms in your presentation. Your project should be understood by anyone in the audience, regardless of his or her field of expertise.
- You should project a professional demeanor. While humor may lighten a talk or a poster, humor that misses the mark can be jarring. Groveling excuses about problems with your data or your slides or visuals, inappropriate jabs at members of the audience, or private jokes generally do not go over well in a professional setting.

## SPONSORS NEEDED

We have recently initiated a program whereby AAS members can sponsor members from developing nations by paying their membership fees. You may choose to sponsor at the full or student level. The commitment is only for a single year. It's also tax deductible. Please contact Beth Jakob (ejakob@psych.umass.edu) or Jeff Schultz (jshultz@umd.edu) if you wish to become a sponsor.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## The American Arachnological Society Final Financial Report 2007

31-Dec-07

<b>Total Assets, end of year, 2006</b>	<b>\$75,315.76</b>
<b>Balance in Checking Account, 31 Dec 06 (end of 2006)</b>	
<b>Savings Bank of Walpole, #301097501</b>	<b>\$53,458.39</b>
<b><u>Deposits</u></b>	
<b>Interest</b>	<b>\$125.69</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>\$67,975.94</b>
<i>checks &amp; wires checks &amp; wires</i>	<b>\$43,075.47</b>
<i>paypal</i>	<b>\$24,900.47</b>
<b>Page charges</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>BioOne revenue</b>	<b>\$14,625.00</b>
<b>Direct article access</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>ISA contributions</b>	<b>\$475.00</b>
<b>Sellinsgrove, PA Meeting 2007 revenue</b>	<b>\$237.50</b>
<b>Total deposits</b>	<b>\$84,459.13</b>

### **Expenses**

<b>Allen Press, publishing</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
JOA vol. 34, no. 2	\$16,133.69
JOA vol. 34, no. 3	\$11,585.61
JOA vol. 35, no. 1	\$14,207.55
JOA vol. 35, no. 2	\$13,520.10
<b>Allen Press, electronic publishing</b>	<b>\$1,161.00</b>
<b>Allen Press, services, buyers guide</b>	<b>\$1,245.57</b>
<b>Postage, misc. fees</b>	<b>\$800.03</b>
<b>Honoraria to Editors</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>
<b>Co-collected dues</b>	<b>\$8,336.00</b>
<b>AIBS membership</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>
<b>Editorial assistance (copyeditor)</b>	<b>\$670.00</b>
<b>Student awards (research, travel, paper, poster)</b>	<b>\$6,495.00</b>
<b>Seed money to ISA</b>	<b>\$7,680.00</b>
<b>Brochure printing</b>	<b>\$355.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$88,314.55</b>

<b>Balance in Checking Account at end of year, 2007</b>	<b>\$49,602.97</b>
<b>Certificate of Deposit Account at Savings Bank of Walpole #600401944</b>	
<b>Balance on 31 Dec 06</b>	<b>\$21,857.37</b>
<b>Interest this year (2007)</b>	<b>\$1,024.32</b>
<b>CD Balance on 31 Dec 07</b>	<b>\$22,881.69</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$72,484.66**

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen R. Cangialosi, Treasurer  
American Arachnological Society  
Dept. of Biology, Keene State College, Keene NH 03435

## Student Research Awardees 2008

### Award winners from the AAS Research Fund:

**Timothy Bankroff**—Dept. of Zoology, Miami Univ., Oxford OH: *Microhabitat selection of harvestmen and their potential as agents of biological control in gardens.*

**Ari Demarco & Melissa Reich**—Dept. Biology, Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR: *A behavioral study of predation mechanisms in the Sabaconidae family.*

**Shira Gordon**—Dept. of Biological Sciences, Univ. of Cincinnati, Cincinnati OH: *The Effects of Background Noise on Wolf Spider Communication.*

**Donna Hamilton**—Box 43131, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX: *Assessing functional response and superfluous killing in response to variability in prey quality and quantity in theraphosid spiders.*

**Lauren Kerzicnik**—C129 Plant Sciences, Dept. of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management, Fort Collins, CO: *Molecular Gut Analysis of Spiders in Eastern Colorado Agroecosystems.*

**Brian Moskalik**—Dept. of Biological Sciences, Univ. of Cincinnati, Cincinnati OH: *Male behavioral responses to female hunger state, sexual cannibalism, and initial mating success in Schizocosa ocreata.*

**Itai Opatovsky**—Mitrani Dept. of Desert Ecology and Dept. of Life Sciences, Ben Gurion Univ. of the Negev, Sede Boqer, Israel: *Spider movement between habitats after harvesting in the semi-arid agro-ecosystem.*

**Matthew Steffenson**—Department of Biology, Box 5063, Tennessee Technological University, 1100 North Dixie, Cookeville, TN: *Comparative Analysis of Major Life History Traits in Geographically Isolated Populations of Vaejovis Scorpions.*

### Award winners from the Vince Roth fund:

**Shahan Derkarabetian**—Dept. of Biology, San Diego State Univ., San Diego CA: *Systematics & Evolution of the Sclerobuninae (Opiliones, Travunioidea).*

**Ryan Fawcett**—Dept. of Biology, San Diego State Univ., San Diego CA: *Species limits, molecular phylogenetics and historical biogeography of the North American Spider genus Rualena (Araneae, Agelenidae).*

**Efrat Gavish**—Mitrani Dept. of Desert Ecology and Dept. of Life Sciences, Ben Gurion Univ. of the Negev, Sede Boqer, Israel: *Systematics and biogeography of sheet web spiders (Araneae: Linyphiidae) from Israel.*

**Eric Knutson**—Department of EPPWS MSC 3 BE, P.O. Box 300003, College of Agriculture and Home Economics New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM: *Hybridization of Neoscona species of West Texas. (Araneae: Araneidae).*

**Maureen McCormack**—Dept. of Biology, San Diego State Univ., San Diego CA: *Systematics and biogeography of the opilionid subfamily Ischyropsalidoidea, with special consideration of the species Sabacon cavicolens.*

**Casey Richart**—Dept. of Biology, San Diego State Univ., San Diego CA: *Molecular systematics, morphology, and biogeographic history of Acuclavella Shear, 1986 (Opiliones, Ischyropsalidoidea, Ceratolasmatidae).*

**Jo-Anne Sewlal**—Department of Life Sciences, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago: *Survey of spiders in Montserrat, West Indies.*

**Severin Tchibozo**—Centre de Recherche pour la Gestion de la Biodiversité et du Terroir (CERGET), 04 B.p. 0385 Cotonou, Benin: *Diversity in pholcid spiders (Araneae: Pholcidae) of the sacred forest of South-Benin.*

**Congratulations to the awardees!** Information on the 2009 round of funding may be found at the AAS Website (see page 16). Deadline for submission is 15 January, 2009.

## Reports from Previous AAS & Roth Research fund awardees

One requirement upon receipt of an AAS or Roth research grant is a short written description of any outcomes from the project. Here are some reports from past awardees.

### **Jo-Anne Sewlal Survey of the Spider Fauna of St. Kitts, W.I.**

From 26th January to 9th February, 2007 I conducted a two-week survey of the island of St. Kitts, which was partially funded by the Vincent Roth Award. The aim of this survey was to collect a substantial portion of the island's spider fauna from a broad variety of habitats.

St. Kitts and its sister isle Nevis are located in the northern Leeward Islands in the Eastern Caribbean (17°20'N 62°45'W), separated by a 3 km wide channel called The Narrows. St. Kitts has an area of 168 km<sup>2</sup>. The coastline of St. Kitts can be described as being shaped as a baseball bat. It is 37 km long and is 8 km across at its widest part. It has a central point and the highest elevation on the island of approximately 1156 m. It has a range of habitats including; rainforest, secondary forest, scrubland, dry evergreen forest, palmbrake, elfin woodland, dry woodland, and salt ponds.

During this period, 18 localities covering 17 habitats were sampled, including four that were man-made habitats or heavily influenced by human activities. Sampling involved the use of common methods such as, visual search, both at ground level and above ground including shrubs and trees. Methods used included sweep-netting as well as searching under logs, bark and rock for cryptic species. Nests belonging to the mud-dauber wasp *Sceliphron* sp. were also collected and dissected as a means of collecting spiders that may be in retreats or non-web building species that may escape capture by the methods used. The sampling effort produced a total of 14 families.

Overall, natural habitats had less species than those that were manmade. Roadside vegetation as well as abandoned buildings and stone structures (mostly ruins from abandoned sugar estates) produced the highest number of species with 11 out of 34 species. While the palmbrake yielded only one species.

Almost half of the species found belonged to the orb-weaving families Araneidae and Tetragnathidae.

Therefore it came as no surprise that the most ecologically diverse species found also belong to these families. This included *Leucauge regnyi* and *Metepeira compsa* which were recorded from 12 and 9 habitats respectively.

Voucher specimens were deposited in the Land Arthropod Collection of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.

I also took the opportunity to explain the importance of spiders in ecosystems through an interview in the "Heritage Matters" segment at WINN FM, and a lecture to the general public and high school environmental science class at Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College.

**Acknowledgments:** Thanks goes out to the Ministry of Environment for all of their assistance. The following persons and organisations assisted in facilitation, transport, and assistance in the field; the staff at St. Christopher Heritage Society and Brimstone Hill Fortress Society for use of their office; Maurice Widdowson (Caribelle Batik), Toni Frederick (WINN FM), Greg Pereira, Amber Greening, Diedre Stubbs-Liburd, Kenji and Kayako Saotome, and The Orchards. I would also like to thank Christopher Starr and Bruce Cutler for their helpful comments and encouragement.

### **Survey of the Spider Fauna of Antigua, W.I.**

I conducted a two-week survey of the island of Antigua, from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2008, which was partially funded by the Vincent Roth Award. This survey aimed to collect a substantial portion of the island's spider fauna from a broad variety of habitats.

The twin islands of Antigua and Barbuda are located in the middle of the northeast Leeward Islands in the Eastern Caribbean (17°03'N 62°48'W). They are separated from each other by approximately 52 km of water. Antigua is approximately 23 km long and its widest part is 18 km across and has an area of 280 km<sup>2</sup>. The topography of the island consists of gently undulating slopes, with a maximum elevation of approximately 402 m. It is volcanic in origin and has a range of habitats including, evergreen and xerophytic woodlands, scrublands, grasslands, and salt ponds.

During this period, 21 localities covering 10 habitats were sampled, half of which were man-made or heavily influenced by human activities. Due to intense monocultural practises particularly sugar cane cultivation for the past 300 years remnants of semi-natural habitats remain. Multiple localities for each habitat were sampled where time permitted. Sampling involved the use of common methods such as, visual search, both at ground level and above ground including shrubs and trees. Methods including sweep-netting as well as searching under logs, bark and rock for cryptic species were also used.

The sampling effort produced approximately a total of 19 families. Riparian vegetation produced the highest number of species with 14 out of 35 species.

A little over a half of the species found belonged to the orb-weaving families Araneidae and Tetragnathidae. Therefore it came as no surprise that the most ecologically diverse species found also belong to these families. This included *Argiope argentata* and *Leucauge argyra* which were recorded from 12 and 9 habitats respectively.

I was also able to carry out some sampling on Green Island which is one of the numerous offshore islands surrounding Antigua, which yielded four species in three families.

Voucher specimens were deposited in the Land Arthropod Collection of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.

I also took the opportunity to explain the importance of spiders in to ecosystems and humans as well as answer some basic questions on spider biology through two radio interviews in the "Our House" and "The Morning Show" on Observer Radio.

**Acknowledgments:** This project was also made possible through additional funding from the Offshore Island Conservation Project. Thanks go out to Junior Prosper, Andrea Sheres and Victor Joseph of the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) for all of their assistance in facilitation, transport and assistance in the field. Thanks also to EAG for use of their office, Kim Derrick (Observer Radio) and family, Mike and Imogen Hunt, Mitzi Allen (Observer Radio) and to the Cooper family. I would also like to thank Christopher Starr and Bruce Cutler for their encouragement and assistance.

May 26, 2007

**Local Arachnologist scores a Hat-trick**

Jo-Anne Nina Sewlal, a Ph.D. student at the Department of Life Sciences at the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine, recently received the Vincent Roth Award from the American Arachnological Society. This award supports research work by young arachnologists from around the world in the area of systematics. Funding from this award would assist in conducting a survey of the spider fauna of the island of Antigua. This is the second time Sewlal has won this award, funding from the first Vincent Roth Award was given last year to conduct a similar survey of the island of St. Kitts. She has already collected spiders from Nevis, Anguilla and St. Maarten. However, she hopes to survey all of the islands in the Eastern Caribbean.

Sewlal obtained an Upper Second Class Honours Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology and her M.Phil degree in Zoology where she focused on the behaviour and autecology of web-building spiders. Currently for her Ph.D. for which she was also awarded a U.W.I. Postgraduate Scholarship, she continues to study web-building spiders but focuses on three families that build orb-webs in Trinidad. This may not sound monumental but Trinidad has a recorded 46 families some containing over a hundred species and it is estimated that the island may have an overall total of 1,000 species! Although her project is based in Trinidad, little is known about the spider fauna of the islands of the Eastern Caribbean, and she hopes that with the help of this award, the data gathered would add much needed information to the literature.

### **Lauren Kerzicnik Spiders in Diverse and Conventional Agroecosystems**

The purpose of this project is to determine if intensive cropping systems increase densities of spiders in eastern Colorado. Intensive cropping systems for this study refer to three-year crop rotations, such as wheat-corn-fallow, wheat-millet-fallow, or wheat-sorghum-fallow, in comparison to a typical two-year rotation of wheat-fallow. From this study, I have collected over 10,000 spiders, both mature and immature. The research began in 2002 and will continue through the summer of 2007. The collection methods include pitfall, vacuum, and nighttime lockdown sampling.

I requested funds from AAS to help with the purchase of several vials to preserve the spiders and to archive a portion of the spider specimens at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in Colorado. The mature voucher specimens will be placed at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science at the conclusion of my study. These spiders will serve as a reference collection for spiders in agroecosystems in several areas of eastern Colorado. I expect this research to play an integral part in developing more sustainable methods to increase populations of spiders and other generalist predators in agroecosystems within eastern Colorado.

### **Jacquelyn Zevenbergen Does Plasticity in The Web Building Behavior of the Western Black Widow Spider, *Latrodectus hesperus*, Affect Foraging and Defense?**

Support for my Master's research project from the AAS Research Fund allowed me to increase my sample size and the results were significant for the foraging portion of my experiments. I was able to present my results with a poster presentation at The University of Akron Conference on Undergraduate and Graduate Research and an oral presentation at the Midwest and Evolution Conference. I have completed my Master's Thesis and a journal article is being prepared.

## **World Spider Catalog Version 8.5**

This work by Norm Platnick and edited by Peter Merrett and H. Don Cameron may be accessed at the following URL...

14 <http://research.amnh.org/entomology/spiders/catalog/>

**Shahan Derkarabetian**  
**Systematics and Evolution of the Sclerobuninae**  
**(Opiliones, Travunioidea)**

The Vincent Roth Fund for Systematic Research supported the cost of DNA sequencing. This award allowed me to sequence 25 samples for the CO1 region of the mitochondrial genome for the two focal genera of my project, which include the surface-dwelling *Sclerobunus* and the cave-restricted *Cyptobunus*. The sequences added to my existing data set show several compelling results. First, the genus *Sclerobunus* is recovered as paraphyletic with *Cyptobunus* sequences nested within. This suggests that the cave-dependent *Cyptobunus* is a highly modified form of the surface *Sclerobunus*. Second, of the two subspecies of *Sclerobunus robustus* sampled, only *Sclerobunus r. robustus* was recovered as monophyletic. *Sclerobunus r. glorietus* is paraphyletic with respect to a clade of *Cyptobunus* sequences. These particular *Cyptobunus* specimens are especially important because they were found in a rock-pile, syntopic with a population of *Sclerobunus r. glorietus*, which are found on the surface. This suggests a much more recent transition to a troglomorphic morphology and may imply that this transition may occur at a much more local scale. Third, specimens morphologically identified as the cave-restricted *Cyptobunus* are found to be polyphyletic with at least three independent origins within this data set indicating a highly convergent, possibly adaptive evolution of a cave-dependent morphology. Further data collection and sampling will help to increase the understanding and diversity of this interesting group of opilionids.

**Itai Opatovsky**  
**Spiders in natural habitats of a semi-arid agroecosystem: The effect of landscape composition and local site characteristics**

Arable land may change biodiversity in nearby natural areas in various ways. For example, arable fields can harbor large populations of arthropods, which may spill over into adjoining natural areas, or they may be sink habitats that draw individuals from local populations. These processes may be particularly important in semi-arid agroecosystems, where habitat conditions in irrigated fields contrast strongly with the semi-arid natural habitat resulting in markedly different arthropod communities. We tested the influence of landscape composition at different scales on spider assemblages in semi-desert areas with variable percentages of crops and planted trees in the surrounding landscape. We found that the spider assemblage was affected significantly by site-specific characteristics such as geographic location and the amount of precipitation. The composition of the landscape did not significantly affect the spider assemblage at any of the scales tested. However, there was a positive effect of the relative area of planted trees in the landscape on some of the common spider families and species. Planted trees habitats may influence the desert species of the agroecosystem directly by providing refuge in the harsh summer season, or indirectly by influencing intermediate factors such as increasing the abundance of the spider prey.

**THE VALUE OF AN A.A.S. MEMBERSHIP**

Arachnologists ask, "What do I receive from being a dues-paying member of the American Arachnological Society?". This inquiry addresses an immediate and popular concern among arachnophiles... What does one "get" from being a member of the A.A.S.? ...

- Online access to the latest issue of the JOA.
- No page charges when publishing in the JOA.
- Access to the A.A.S. and Roth Research grants.
- Lower registration fees for the annual AAS meeting.

Not to mention all the other benefits available to anyone: the Newsletter, all the features and information on the Website, etc.

Furthermore, dues for the A.A.S. are just about the lowest anywhere! **What a bargain!**

# Arachno-Auction!

(OR—"One Man's Trash Is Another Man's Treasure")

As you thrash around your office, home, trailer, RV, tent, hammock, or spider-hole, please be thinking of what things might go to this year's Vince Roth Memorial Auction at the 32nd annual AAS meeting and conclave. A suspense-filled silent auction is held before the AAS Annual Banquet, then an action-packed live auction starts after the Feast where sated participants vie for obscure, sometimes priceless, but always unique treasures from the world of arachnology. Most anything is fair-game for both auctions (books, reprints, artwork, t-shirts, undergarments, curios, hats, jewelry, movies, toys, etc.). Please contact one of the meeting's hosts, Rosie Gillespie, about possibly shipping your mountains of auction materials ahead of time. (If you do intend to contribute, please let Rosie know so she may begin deciding what she will keep.) All proceeds go to support the AAS Student Research Fund.

## Zoology Internship

The Lloyd David and Carlye Cannon Wattis Foundation Internship Program for Zoology at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science is intended to support projects involving use of DMNS Zoology Department collections. Zoology collections include Ornithology, Mammalogy, Entomology, Arachnology, and Conchology. More information about department holdings can be found at <http://www.dmns.org/main/en/General/Science/Researchers/Zoology/>.

Awards are for 1 - 7 months and range between \$500 - \$1,000. A final report summarizing the results of the project will be due upon completion of the funded activities.

Application Deadline is May 15, 2008.

Please contact Paula.Cushing@dmns.org for information.

## Student Travel Award

The American Arachnological Society announces a student travel award to aid students attending this year's AAS Annual Meeting in Berkeley, California. This award is intended to provide partial support of up to \$350 to undergraduate or graduate students who are presenting authors on a poster or presentation at the AAS meeting. Applicants must be members of AAS and have a demonstrated financial need that cannot be met by other sources (e.g. advisor, department, or university).

To apply, please send an electronic version of the completed application form to **Dr. Greta Binford**: [BINFORD@LCLARK.EDU](mailto:BINFORD@LCLARK.EDU).

The application form is posted on the AAS website at [http://www.americanarachnology.org/AAS\\_Student\\_Travel/studentTravel.html](http://www.americanarachnology.org/AAS_Student_Travel/studentTravel.html)

# American Arachnology

The Newsletter of the American Arachnological Society  
Number 77  
May 2008

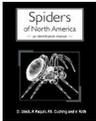
## AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE

[HTTP://WWW.AMERICANARACHNOLOGY.ORG](http://www.americanarachnology.org)

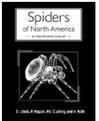
**Ken Prestwich** has developed our website where one may find membership information, **Annual Meeting Information & Registration**, announcements & Bulletin Board, officers, meeting minutes, instructions to JOA authors, an electronic JOA index, graduate study opportunities, a photo gallery, links to other arachnological sites, and **JOA OnLine** (electronic versions of the Journal of Arachnology; available to A.A.S. Members). Many, many thanks and kudos to Ken for applying his time and skill to the Website!! Thanks too to Holy Cross for sponsoring the site.

## ARACHNOLOGY IN CYBERSPACE

**International Society of Arachnology**- [WWW.ARACHNOLOGY.ORG](http://www.arachnology.org); **The Arachnology Homepage** - [WWW.ARACHNOLOGY.BE](http://www.arachnology.be)  
**European Society of Arachnology**—[WWW.EUROPEAN-ARACHNOLOGY.ORG/](http://www.european-arachnology.org/)  
**British Arachnological Society** - [WWW.BRITISHSPIDERS.ORG.UK/](http://www.britishspiders.org.uk/)  
**Australasian Arachnological Society**— [WWW.AUSTRALASIAN-ARACHNOLOGY.ORG/](http://www.australasian-arachnology.org/)



## *Spiders of North America — An Identification Guide*



ORDER AT: [HTTP://WWW.AMERICANARACHNOLOGY.ORG/SPIDER\\_GUIDE.HTML](http://www.americanarachnology.org/spider_guide.html)

## AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

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### AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

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<http://WWW.AMERICANARACHNOLOGY.ORG>.

Members of the Society also receive the JOURNAL OF ARACHNOLOGY (published triannually) and have access to electronic resources (JOA OnLine).