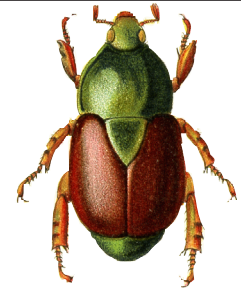


# SCARABS



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## Scarab Beetles at the Montréal Insectarium

by Stéphane Le Tirant and Paul Harrison

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Insectarium  
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Canada H1X 2B2

### Introduction

Since 1990, the Montréal Insectarium has been one of the world's largest museums devoted entirely to insects and other arthropods. Its conservation, education and scientific research missions make it a leader in North America and around the world. Right from the start, the institution has impressed visitors with the quality of its museology and its scientific collection for both research and exhibition purposes.

### The Scientific Collection

The Insectarium has a sizeable scientific collection, in Québec terms, consisting of 350,000 specimens. It places a particular emphasis on beetles, as well as on birdwing butterflies and sphingidae. There is an accent on scarab beetles, since the collection's curator collaborates closely with specialists in the field, and in particular with the members of "Team Scarab" at the

University of Nebraska. The Insectarium's staff have contributed in various ways to papers by these researchers: lending them interesting specimens for review or raising insects to obtain larvae, as well as providing relevant photos, such as the one that graced the cover page of Dr. Ratcliffe's México book *The Dynastinae Scarab Beetles of Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize*.

### BACK ISSUES

Available At These Sites:

Coleopterists Society  
[www.coleopsoc.org/default.asp?Action=Show\\_Resources&ID=Scarabs](http://www.coleopsoc.org/default.asp?Action=Show_Resources&ID=Scarabs)

University of Nebraska  
[www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/Scarabs-Newsletter.htm](http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/Scarabs-Newsletter.htm)

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Andrelica with Dr. Ratcliffe's book showing a *Golofa*.



## The Live Collection

The Insectarium's live collection is remarkable for the wide diversity of species displayed, as well as the experience developed and applied in creating exceptional vivariums and terrariums. Its annual events, like Butterflies Go Free, and its recognized expertise in this field have allowed Insectarium staff to become respected international consultants and to assist many institutions around the world in developing similar projects. Over the years, more than 375 species have been raised at the Insectarium, including many scarab species. Large Dynastinae of genera *Dynastes*, *Golofa*, *Megasoma*, *Xylotrupes*, *Chalcosoma* and *Allomyrina* are presented from time to time, along with many attractive Cetoniinae species from such genera as *Goliathus*, *Eudicella*, *Cetonia*, *Pachnoda*, *Mecynorrhina*, etc. Recently, we have been raising *Strategus* larvae for Dr. Ratcliffe and his next paper. *Propomacrus bimucronatus* (Scarabaeidae: Eudicirinae) are also being raised.



## The Exhibition Collection

Over 5,000 of the world's most beautiful insects are on view on the Insectarium's walls and in its display cases. All the specimens were recently renewed, to enhance the museology. Some are visible from the side, so that visitors can clearly see the horns on *Dynastes* and *Chalcosoma* and other specimens, and some complete life cycles are shown so that visitors can understand the different



stages of development, e.g. for *Megasoma acteon*.

Another characteristic theme of the collections exhibited at the Insectarium is ethnoentomology. Many items and the related insects are displayed and are even the focus of a travelling exhibition seen by hundreds of thousands of people to date.

The Insectarium, along with the Montréal Botanical Garden, Planetarium and Biodôme, form Canada's largest natural science museum complex. Its next innovative plan is to create an immersive space that will present a multitude of live tropical arthropods roaming free, to help visitors better understand and appreciate the natural world around us.

Stéphane Le Tirant is the curator of the Montréal Insectarium collection.

Paul Harrison is an entomology technician at the Montréal Insectarium.

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## Les Scarabées à l'Insectarium de Montréal

Par Stéphane Le Tirant & Paul Harrison

### Introduction

Depuis 1990, l'Insectarium de Montréal est parmi les plus grands musées consacrés entièrement aux insectes et autres arthropo-





des. Ses missions de conservation, d'éducation et de recherche scientifique en font un chef de file en Amérique du Nord et dans le monde. Depuis l'ouverture, cette institution rayonne autant par la qualité de sa muséologie que par la collection scientifique, vivante ou celle en exposition au public.

### La Collection Scientifique

Cette collection importante pour le Québec est composée de 350,000 spécimens, avec une orientation particulière vers les coléoptères mais aussi vers les ornithoptères et les sphingidés. La collection de scarabées est importante car le conservateur de la collection travaille en étroite collaboration avec des spécialistes dans ce domaine et en particulier ceux du « Team Scarab » de l'Université du Nebraska. En effet, le personnel a participé de près ou de loin aux monographies de ces chercheurs en prêtant des spécimens intéressants pour des révisions ou en élevant des insectes pour obtenir des stades larvaires, mais aussi en fournissant des photographies pertinentes comme celle de la page couverture de la plus récente monographie du Dr Ratcliffe *The Dynastinae Scarab Beetles of Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize*.

### La Collection Vivante

La collection vivante de l'Insectarium est remarquable par la grande diversité des espèces en exposition tout comme l'expérience développée et mise en avant pour recréer des vivariums



et terrariums hors du commun. Ses événements annuels comme “Papillons en liberté” et son expertise reconnue dans ce domaine ont permis aux membres du personnel de devenir des consultants internationaux et d’aider de nombreuses institutions dans le monde à réaliser et développer des projets similaires. Au fil des ans, plus de 375 espèces ont été élevées à l’Insectarium et parmi celles-ci, de nombreuses espèces de scarabées. Les grands Dynastinae des genres *Dynastes*, *Golofa*, *Megasoma*, *Xylotrupes*, *Chalcosoma*, *Allomyrina* sont présentés sporadiquement au même titre que plusieurs belles espèces de Cetoniinae comme les *Goliathus*, *Eudicella*, *Cetonia*, *Pachnoda*, *Mecynorhina*, etc. Récemment, nous élevions des larves de *Strategus* pour le Dr Ratcliffe et sa prochaine monographie. Un élevage de *Propomacrus bimucronatus* (Scarabaeidae: Euchirinae) est aussi en cours.

### La Collection en Exposition

Plus de 5,000 des plus beaux insectes du monde sont en exposition sur les murs et dans les modules dans ce musée. Le renouvellement de la totalité des spécimens a permis d’améliorer la muséologie. Des spécimens sont montrés latéralement afin que l’on puisse bien voir les cornes comme chez les *Dynastes* et *Chalcosoma* mais des cycles complets permettent aussi de comprendre les différents stades de développement chez *Megasoma acteon*, par exemple.



*Dynastes hercules*.



*Goliathus goliatus*.





*Eudicella smithii.*



*Megasoma elephas.*

Un autre thème caractéristique des collections mis en avant à l'insectarium est celui de l'ethnoentomologie. En effet, de nombreux objets ainsi que les insectes s'y rattachant ont fait l'objet d'expositions et même d'une exposition itinérante qui a été vue par des centaines de milliers de personnes à ce jour.

L'Insectarium avec le Jardin botanique, le Planétarium et le Biodôme de Montréal forment le plus important complexe muséal scientifique au Canada. Son prochain projet innovateur est de recréer un espace immersif qui permettra aux visiteurs de découvrir sans restrictions une multitude d'arthropodes tropicaux vivants et libres, tout cela afin de mieux comprendre et apprécier la nature qui nous entoure.

Stéphane Le Tirant est le conservateur de la collection de l'Insectarium de Montréal.

Paul Harrison est technicien en entomologie à l'Insectarium de Montréal.



*Propomacrus bimucronatus* larva.





*Chelorrhina polyphemus.*



*Dicranorrhina derbyana.*



Stéphane Le Tirant.



Paul Harrison.

# Fill in the Missing Species in Your Collection with . . . What? Tiny Pictures?

by Brett C. Ratcliffe

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It was customary in pre-unit tray times to insert in a collection drawer a header tag with the scientific name of a species that one did not yet have as well as space for specimens of that species in the hopes of eventually obtaining specimens. Leaving such a space would eliminate the need to rearrange the entire drawer when new specimens were obtained. The arrangement would usually follow the sequence in a published catalog. I have seen this more in European collections than in North American collections.

During my first visit to the Field Museum in Chicago in 1969, I was struck by the presence of small, hand-colored pictures of missing species in place of actual specimens in the Cetoniinae. The images reflect the particular modus operandi of a collector by filling in “gaps” in the collection. In this case, the collection was that of Dr. Karl Brancsik, who was an energetic naturalist and an advisor to Emperor Franz Josef of Austria in the early 20th century. Brancsik accumulated large collections of mollusks and insects and especially beetles. His beetle collection consisted of about 150,000 specimens

representing 35,000 species (Wenzel 1956). When Brancsik died in 1915, Eduard Knirsch purchased the collection.

Knirsch was a dentist from Vienna, Austria and an amateur coleopterist. He sold his collection of about 119,000 beetles, including those of Brancsik, to the Field Museum in Chicago in 1955 (Fig. 1). Knirsch’s own collection consisted of about 53,000 specimens mostly from the Palearctic Region, while the Brancsik collection was rich in material from Africa, Australia, and the New World tropics. By the time the Field Museum acquired the combined collections, there were about 67,000 specimens representing 20,000 species. Of those, 9,000 specimens were Scarabaeoidea representing 2,487 species (data from the “official count of the Brancsik collection of Coleoptera”).

I have on loan from the Field Museum about three dozen small (1.5 × 2.0 inch approximately), water color drawings/paintings on stiff paper of Neotropical Gymnetini (Cetoniinae) that I thought might be useful to consult for my ongoing revisions of genera in this



tribe. These hand-colored pictures originated from the Brancsik collection, but it remains unknown who actually made them. Brancsik could have done so himself or had them done by an illustrator. Each small picture has a scientific name in pencil on the back. Many of these exquisite little drawings were scattered throughout the cetoniine collection at the Field Museum. They remind one of the illustrations in the scarab volume of the *Biologia Centrali-America*.

A selection of those images is provided here (Fig. 2) to show the innovative ways of arranging a collection by placing an image instead of a specimen when groups of specimens could not be easily and efficiently moved in a drawer to make space for new additions... and to provide some idea of what those missing species looked like. Of course, to know what the missing species looked like (when you did not have any in order to make an illustration) is another collections management conundrum.

Reference Cited

Wenzel, R. L. 1956. Collection of beetles arrives from Vienna. *Chicago Natural History Bulletin*, February 1956: 6-7.



Fig. 1. Cetoniines from the Knirsch Collection being unpacked by Rupert Wenzel at the Field Museum, about 1956. © The Field Museum, Z86994. Image used by permission.

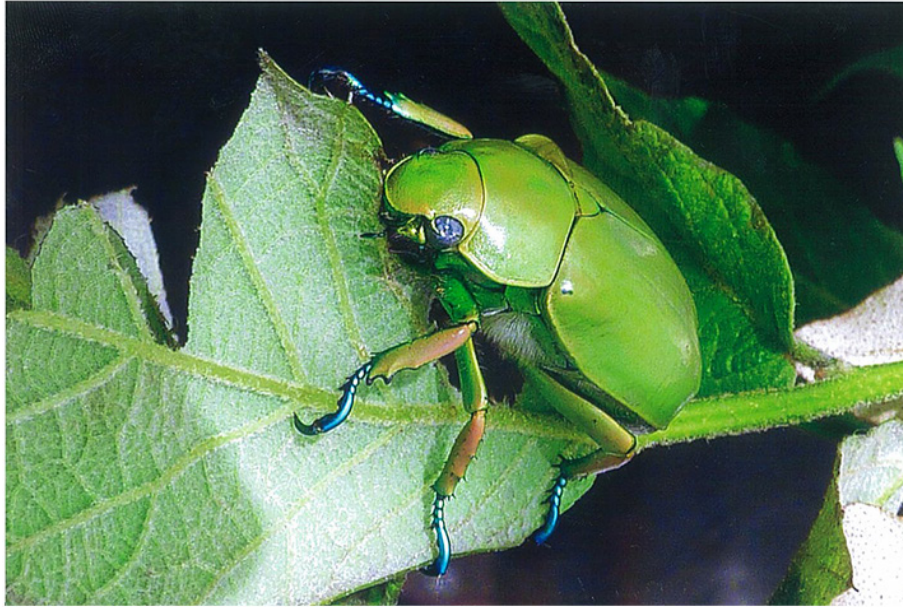


Fig. 2. Examples of the small, hand-colored gymnetine images meant to be pinned in a collection box in lieu of missing species. The not-necessarily-correct scientific name was written in pencil on the back of each image.

## *A Chrysina and Pelidnota from México*

by Daniel Curoe

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*Chrysina aenigmatica* (Morón) from Valle de Bravo, state of México (1,800 meters elevation) feeding on oak leaves.



*Pelidnota tecuitlamayatli* Delgado, Deloya & Morón. Only a few have been found in dry tropical forests near the Rio Balsas in the state of Guerrero.



## **New Book Notice: *The Dynastine Scarab Beetles of the West Indies* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae)**

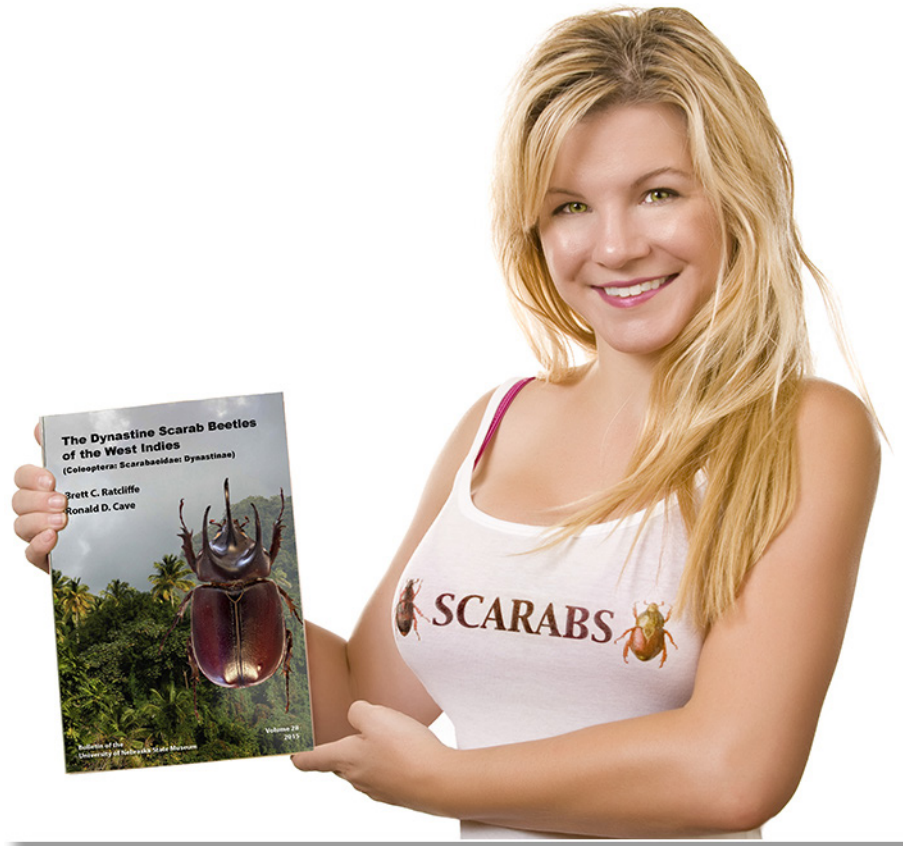
Ratcliffe, B. C. and R. D. Cave. 2015. *The Dynastine Scarab Beetles of the West Indies* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae). Bulletin of the University of Nebraska State Museum 28:1–346. Hard-bound, 7 x 10 inches, 468 numbered images plus others, most in color. Price \$40 plus shipping.

The 85 species of dynastine scarab beetles that occur in the West Indies are comprehensively reviewed. Discussions of paleobiogeography, historical collecting, climate, vegetation and habitats (with images), and islands in the West Indies are presented as well as keys to all tribes, genera, and species in the study area. Descriptions, recorded geographic localities and temporal distributions, diagnoses, notes on natural history, illustrations and distribution maps are provided for all species. Also included are synopses of the subfamily's higher-level taxa in the region, a glossary, a species checklist, and extensive references cited. New species are described and new synonyms established.

Available from BioQuip (catalog #9490) and The University of Nebraska State Museum:

Gail Littrell  
Publications Secretary  
W436 Nebraska Hall  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0514  
U.S.A.  
FAX: (402) 472-8949

Jennifer with the latest masterpiece from Brett and Ron.



## Curatorial Gleanings from Team Scarab

by Paul Kaufman

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The relaxing chamber.

I had a great visit with members of Team Scarab at the University of Nebraska in the summer of 2014 as part of our family vacation. In addition to taking a peek at the extensive collection, and getting a few undetermined scarabs identified, I picked up some curatorial tips and tricks that many readers will find useful.

I typically kill specimens, as well as store them, in vials with ethyl acetate. This usually keeps them free from decomposition and flexible - which is the way I want them! But occasionally something happens and I end up with a stiff beetle. I have been using a relaxing chamber with sand and ethyl acetate for this, and for softening beetles acquired in those cardboard and plastic wrap monstrosities. Careful as I have been, I did find one batch with mold growing on it. Yikes!

Team Scarab informed me that Listerine® mouthwash works extremely well in relaxing chambers! They have one chamber that has been running for years with the same bottle of mouthwash. I tried it and have been very happy. The specimens relax with no mold problems, and they smell minty fresh!



The relaxing chamber pictured is a standard laboratory dessicator purchased from Ebay. I like the classic look on my credenza! If you use one, you need to put Vaseline® on the ground glass seal where the lid meets the body to make it airtight. In the laboratory, silica gel would be placed in the bottom and your material that needs to be kept dry would be put in above the ceramic divider (shows white in the photo). For my use, I put Listerine® in the bottom and place my specimens on a piece of paper on top of the ceramic divider. You can use Listerine® in any of the other relaxing chamber designs such as Tupperware® or Rubbermaid® containers with or without silica sand.

Another great tool that M. J. Paulsen introduced me to is the Haan handheld steamer. These are great for softening a leg or antenna for repositioning. I also use the steamer to help relax specimens that may be stubbornly set in the wrong position due to being killed in a trap full of preservative. Be careful, the steam can burn you! I like to pin the specimen first and use the pin as a skewer/handle to hold it in the plume of steam. This method seems to work better for me than dunking in boiling water.

The steamer can also be used to clean stubborn material off of specimens like *Trox* and *Omorgus* so they can be more easily identified. Give it a try!

Happy curating!



**The Haan handheld steamer.**

# A Brief Synopsis of the 2014 Meeting of the Sacred Order of the Lamellate Antennae (SOLA)

by Richard Cunningham, Chino, CA  
Paul Skelley, Gainesville, FL  
Bill Warner, Chandler, AZ

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Andrew Smith was unable to moderate, so Paul Skelley (a shaved variety of Dr. Smith sporting his “patented” sweater vest, also known as Dr. Smith del Sur) stood in.



Mary Liz shaming the participants into performing the secret handshake and salute of SOLA.

Paul Skelley, sitting in for Andrew Smith who couldn't be here, brought the 20th meeting of The Sacred Order of the Lamellate Antennae, also known as SOLA, to order at the 2014 Entomological Society of America meeting in Portland, Oregon, USA. Mary Liz Jameson then had every attendee participate in the secret handshake or salute of SOLA. Mike Ivie suggested a new salute modeled after a passalid larva but it is tough enough to get our highly intellectual members to stand up and do the original without a beer or two - much less mimicking a passalid, and a larva at that. Sorry Mike, but it was a nice try.

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Did the Missoula floods of the Pleistocene affect speciation and distribution of Pacific Northwest *Stenothorax*, a genus of flightless winter-active aphodiine beetles?

Ron McPeak, Vancouver, WA; Guy Hanley, Minot State University.

Ron McPeak was the first speaker of the day explaining how the Missoula floods of the Pleistocene affected the speciation and distribution of Pacific Northwest *Stenothorax*, a genus of flightless winter-active aphodiine scarab. Ron showed how and where he



was successful in collecting these “little tanks” using pit-fall traps with propylene glycol as a preservative. He has had great success using his method of sampling and has collected all of the known *Stenothorax* species in the Pacific Northwest as well as some new ones. His images of were outstanding and enhanced his talk. He also introduced his new poster showing the Scarabs of San Diego County, California. Ron gave credit for the images of *Stenothorax* and the poster to Guy Hanley of Minot State University, who has developed very good techniques for capturing sharp images of scarabs as well as other insects.

---

When it rains it pours beetles! An overview of Oregon Scarabaeoidea with a focus on *Pleocomma*.

Dan Clark, Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Dan Clark of the Oregon Department of Agriculture was to give a talk on Oregon Scarabaeoidea with a focus on *Pleocomma* but could not be there due to an emergency. Mary Liz Jameson, Wichita State University, stepped in for Dan, her student, and gave a great talk albeit very unscheduled. She stated that the Scarabaeoidea of Oregon is somewhat diverse with 8 families, 50 genera and 1,300 species. She went on to discuss how the *Pleocomma* is very restricted in its range and has very localized population distributions. She mentioned that *Pleocomma* is in need of revision.



Mike Ivie making his case for a change in the salute in honor of a Passalid and an immature at that!



Ron delivering a talk that got all of us Aphodiine collectors “fired up”



Mary Liz standing in for Dan Clark.



Mary Liz explaining the effects of the coconut rhino beetle or of mixing scarabs and piña coladas.

Developing scarab beetle identification tools for Hawaii and Guam.

Mary Liz Jameson, Wichita State University.

The next talk was Mary Liz again, with something about Hawaii scarabs and piña coladas. This project finds Mary Liz in the land of tropical sunny vacations, surfing, fun, piña coladas, hula skirts and a few scarabs. Actually, there are 73 recorded scarab species but only 6 native. About 10 of those species pose a probable threat to Hawaiian agriculture. Mary Liz discussed how *Oryctes rhinoceros* or the coconut rhinoceros beetle, introduced from Sri Lanka, is posing a threat to the coconut and palm trees in the region. Mary Liz discussed the project and that she and her team are developing scarab beetle identification tools for the scarabs of Hawaii and Guam. This interactive website will have identification keys and tools to make determination of Hawaii's scarabs easy. There will be a mobile app that will also contain a key for the island's Lucanids. A mobile phone app is also in development that will aid in the collaboration and tracking of Hawaii's scarabs and lucanids. This should be completed in about a year and a half.



We're not in Kansas anymore;  
we're in Lyon: Rutelinae curation  
and revision across the pond.

Beulah Garner, Natural His-  
tory Museum, London; Matthew  
Moore, University of Florida.

Beulah Garner, The Natural His-  
tory Museum, London, must be  
commended for her ability to  
maintain composure while the  
moderator (Paul Skelley) stepped  
on the power cord, crashing the  
presentation, and needed to reboot  
the computer system in the middle  
of her talk. Beulah finally was able  
to give an update on the ongoing  
effort to “tidy up” the Rutelinae  
holdings of Marc Soula (deceased,  
2012). Her statement, “one week  
in Lyon, France was not enough”  
summed up her and her colleague’s  
feelings and made it clear that  
she was not talking about Lyon’s  
history or beauty. During the talk,  
she discussed the many positive  
contributions that Marc Soula gave  
to science during his lifetime then  
delved into the many problems  
that his curatorial and taxonomic  
efforts left behind. Repatriation of  
borrowed specimens was a daunt-  
ing task. Then there were some  
specimens that could not be found  
(see *Scarabs* #78). It will take much  
more time and effort to complete  
the curation of Soula’s important  
Rutelinae holdings and then work  
on the many taxonomic issues sur-  
rounding Marc Soula’s taxonomic  
endeavours. The importance of  
publishing in peer-reviewed jour-  
nals was made quite evident when  
working with Soula’s material and  
publications.



**Beulah discussing the Rutelinae holdings with a smile.**



Jennifer, attempting to explain the “armed buttocks” of *Hoplopyga*.

A review of the genus *Hoplopyga* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Cetoniinae).

Jennifer Shaughney, University of Nebraska.

Jennifer Shaughney, University of Nebraska, gave a review of the Cetoniinae genus *Hoplopyga*. After giving the etymology of *Hoplopyga* which means “armed buttocks” in Greek all while keeping it straight-faced and professional, she discussed the taxonomy, life history and species of the genus. Her talk was a very well done revisionary treatment of the genus *Hoplopyga* and accompanied by very nice and interesting pictures.



Max giving “the colonies” an update on the London Scarab Symposium.

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Summary of the London Scarab Symposium.

Maxwell Barclay, Natural History Museum; Beulah Garner, Natural History Museum.

Maxwell Barclay, Natural History Museum, London, had a computer crash one hour before his talk, “A Summary of the London Scarab Symposium,” and had to recreate his talk from scratch. It was truly a herculean task to not only create but to also give the presentation in under 1 ½ hours. Great job Max. Although Brett Ratcliffe wrote a beautiful article about the symposium in *Scarabs* #76, it was very entertaining and educational to hear from the actual organizer and moderator of this international symposium. To hear and see images and stories of the past and



present European scarab workers, who many of us have only heard about or read their work, was truly memorable.

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The Hawaiian stag beetle genus *Apterocyclus* Waterhouse (Coleoptera: Lucanidae).

M. J. Paulsen, University of Nebraska; David Hawks, University of California.

M. J. Paulsen, University of Nebraska, discussed his work with the Hawaiian Lucanidae stag beetles of the genus *Apterocyclus*. These flightless stag beetles have 5 known species in the genus but more may be found in higher elevations. The taxonomic relationships may change with a good deal of DNA work. Dave Hawks, University of California at Riverside is helping with the DNA efforts. M. J. mentioned that some lowland species may have gone extinct when man arrived. Evidence of this comes from caves where mandibles have been found. Surveys and DNA work are needed to assess the species, their numbers and how to protect them in the future.

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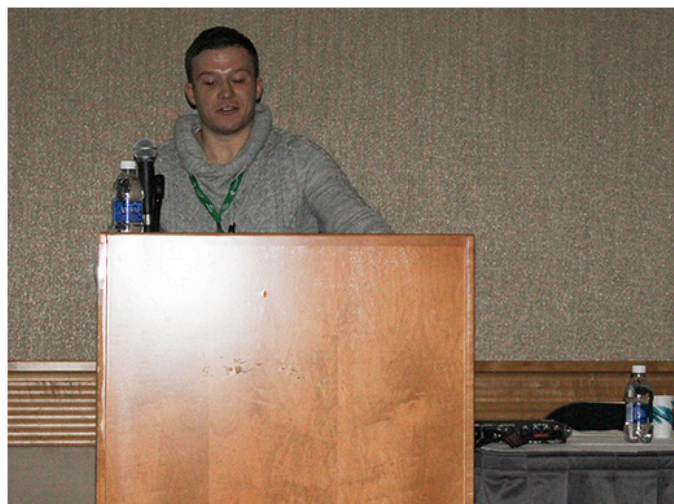
Reconstructing phylogeny of dung beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae) based on multigene data.

Sergei Tarasov, University of Oslo.

Sergei Tarasov, University of Oslo, gave the most technical talk of the



**A confident M. J. enlightening the group on the diversity of the Lucanidae of Hawaii.**



**A very intelligent Sergei discussing dung beetle phylogeny via multigene data.**



**Brett going over his second to last volume of his huge Dynastinae biotic survey. The book is now published and is fantastic. Great job Brett.**



**Charissa wants to draw your attention to the notice for this fabulous new book on page 11.**

day, "Reconstructing phylogeny of dung beetles based on multigene data." Of the approximate 6,000 species (estimated 30%-50% undescribed) and around 267 genera of dung beetles, there are 13 major works in 30 years of research dealing with the higher-level relationships of dung beetles. There are still many unresolved conflicts in understanding the phylogeny of dung beetles. Sergei discussed that along with parsimony, traditionally used in morphological data, he also applied the Bayesian method with a new approach that uses anatomy ontology for matrix portioning. This methodology gave results to provide a solid base for a new classification of dung beetles in which the taxonomic limits of the tribes Dichotomiini, Deltochilini and Coprini are restricted and many new tribes must be described. A new starting point? Editor's note: This shows that Sergei is very smart and even though the talk was way above one editor's head, he can still take a few notes. Which is pretty good considering that all this editor wants to do is "kill them all, stick them in a freezer (or two), then pin, label and identify a few if he is lucky."

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The Dynastine Scarab Beetles of the West Indies (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae).

Brett C. Ratcliffe, University of Nebraska; Ronald D. Cave, University of Florida.

Brett Ratcliffe, University of Nebraska (aka Scarab Central), gave



an update on the major work and book, *The Dynastinae of the West Indies* by Brett Ratcliffe and Ron Cave (see page 11 of this issue). This is the fourth of the five-phase project, “A Biotic Survey and Inventory of the Dynastine Scarab Beetles of Meso-America and the West Indies.” This is the most interesting, useful and comprehensive diagnostic tool for any group of Coleoptera. Every book in this project is excellent reading with a historical overview of the Subfamily Dynastinae, both taxonomic and collecting, materials and methods, paleobiogeography, habitats and biotic zones, vegetation types, climate and conservation. Keys to the tribes, genera and species make these books the most complete and up to date taxonomic treatment of the Dynastines. Brett called for help with good data for the next phase of the project, in which the Dynastines of North America are covered.

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Beyond the lights: Little-used techniques for collecting rare and not-so-rare scarabs.

William B. Warner, Esquire.

William B. Warner, Chandler, Arizona, founder of SOLA, presented “Beyond the lights: Little-used techniques for collecting rare and not-so-rare scarabs. Bill discussed many interesting collecting methods and techniques and how productive they are especially in odd times of the year and in areas that most collectors would not even think of stopping, much less collecting. This was a very good and



What Editor Rich failed to mention is that Bill has his very own line of designer shirts, as seen here with Tiffany.



Bill giving a fun talk while presenting us with very good collecting tips such as black-cup barrier pitfall traps.



Paul showing the inside of the coveted SOLA award.



Bill receiving the much sought after SOLA award for the best talk of the symposium. Congratulations Bill but beware of the curse!

an extremely useful talk, and one that deserves an article in which all of the techniques, methods, habitats, microhabitats, associations, and temporal (winter collecting) concerns that Bill employs needs and hopefully will be discussed in a future article.

As always, this year's meeting allowed catching up with friends and colleagues and was full of relevant, informative talks. There are some talks that will be remembered forever because of some accidental (?) public confessions: M. J. Paulsen, University of Nebraska State Museum, stated the best way to bribe him for a patronym in the Lucanidae was with lots of good sushi. It must be a Nebraskan thing because if memory serves, there is a story about carrying a generator for a long distance and a patronym! Then there was our petite colleague from England, Beulah Garner who actually stated while repatriating specimens that she "would not handle moldy genitalia". The timing was perfect for laughter and we at *Scarabs* don't blame you.

The SOLA Award (See Skelley, 2008, *Scarabs* 28: 8-10) was difficult to give. We had many interesting talks and events, but it was felt the most outstanding presentation this year should go to the most educational talk by William B. Warner, the founder of SOLA, who besides discussing many interesting and useful collecting methods, showed us that it was indeed possible to write 'Scarabs' in the snow.