



NEWSLETTER
International Society of
Hymenopterists
May 2000

Letter from the President

Looking through an old file recently I realised that the Society has been running for almost 18 years, and that our twentieth anniversary will coincide with the next international conference in Beijing in 2002. The Society was formed at a meeting held during a joint conference of the Entomological Society of Canada and the American Entomological Society in Toronto at the end of 1982. Since then it has gone from a small Society with an mostly North American focus to one that is truly international and of expanding scientific influence.

The journal and the quadrennial international conferences are the major scientific activities of the Society and these have grown substantially during the last few years. In 1997 the journal went from one to two issues a year and is publishing about 12 papers per issue. In many respects the journal is our flagship, and its success is a direct reflection on the healthy state of the Society and the efforts of our editor, Eric Grissell, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude.

The last conference was held in Canberra in January 1999 during a typical Australian summer heat wave. It was attended by over 150 delegates from 15 countries and was to all accounts a great success, both scientifically and socially. The quality and scope of the 80 papers and 40 posters presented in Canberra were extremely high. For the first time, student prizes were awarded at the ISH conference, an event that it is hoped will become a permanent part of future meetings. Congratulations to Marcus Beck, Sean Brady, Karen Sime and Nick Stevens who won the inaugural prizes for the best student presentations. Also, for the first time, the proceedings of the scientific program of our conference are being published. They will appear as a multi-authored book and are being published by CSIRO (see notice below). Finally, to cap off a very successful 1999, the Society organised an afternoon symposium in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America in December.

Reflecting on these recent successes, brings me to the main purpose of this letter - how we might strengthen the Society and take on a number of new initiatives. One aspect that limits the extent of Society activities is our financial situation. Largely the Society exists financially from year to year on income generated from annual membership fees. After expenditure on major items such as the journal and business costs, there is little surplus. Hence, the Society does not have significant reserves that earn interest and can be used for special initiatives. The current Executive is keen to change this situation, and is proposing to develop an investment fund which will be kick-started from the profits of the Canberra conference. Obviously, this will be a long-term project, but one that will hopefully provide a solid financial base for the Society. We see this as a seven to ten year project in the first instance, and something that we can proudly hand on to the next generation of hymenopterists!

There are two other initiatives that the Executive is currently pursuing. One is the further development of the ISH Home Page, and the other is a proposal for the Society to introduce two special awards:

- one for distinguished scientific contributions to the study of Hymenoptera,
- the other for distinguished service to the Society.

ISH Home Page - As we move into the next century, effective and informative electronic communication will be paramount. The ISH Home Page will undoubtedly need to be expanded and professionalised if it is to keep pace with the needs of members and the entomological community in general. The Executive is currently discussing with Norman Johnson, our website manager, ways in which we can improve and expand the Society's home page in the next couple of years so that it will meet these demands.

Finally, most scientific Societies have a **system of awards** that recognise exceptional contributions to their discipline, and also identify people who have made a contribution to the running of the Society over-and-above what might be considered as normal service to ones professional organisation. During the next few months, I will develop a set of draft guidelines that can be used to identify nominees, assess their suitability, and make recommendations for such awards. These will be circulated to members later this year for discussion before being formally approved and included in the constitution. If any members would like to make suggestions about these awards and/or ways in which the website might be improved, please contact me at the *email* address below.

I hope the rest of this year is a scientifically productive one for you.

Andy Austin
President, ISH
(andrew.austin@adelaide.edu.au)

Report from the Editor, Journal of Hymenoptera Research

Volume 8 of the Journal of Hymenoptera Research consisted of two issues: No. 1 was mailed on 3 May; No. 2 on 27 October. Volume 8 totaled 269 pages and included 21 articles, 1 scientific note, a book review, and one announcement.

From 1 January to 5 November 1999 a total of 34 manuscripts were received. Of these, 2 were rejected; 3 were rejected as written, but their authors were given an option to rewrite, resubmit, and be rereviewed; 15 were accepted pending the completion of minor or major revisions; and 14 are still under various stages of review. In most cases each paper was read by two reviewers, a subject editor, and the editor; in a few cases a subject editor acted as one of the two reviewers.

The Editor and Subject Editors are extremely grateful to the numerous reviewers who have contributed much time and effort to writing constructive reviews and in attempting to help authors communicate more effectively. Without the guidance of these individuals the editorial progress would be much diminished.

I extend my gratitude for the excellent and expedient manuscript handling rendered by our four Subject Editors: Sydney Cameron, Don Quicke, Wojciech Pulawski, and Mark Shaw. At almost no time have they complained, and the few times they have, I found the strength to ignore them.

Eric Grissell, Editor
Journal of Hymenoptera Research

Procedures for Publication in the Journal of Hymenoptera Research

I would like to reiterate (or restate) a few points that are covered in the instruction to authors on the inside back cover of the Journal.

Please DO NOT send original artwork with the initial manuscript submission. Original illustrations should be sent when the editor asks for them, usually at the time of resubmission of the final manuscript.

Please DO NOT send an electronic disc with the first submission of a manuscript; revisions are always needed and essentially no one gets it right the first time, anyway. The disc should come with the illustrations when the editor asks for them.

The fine art of constructing finished plates for publication apparently is disappearing as swiftly as are taxonomists. At the risk of sounding boorish, I would like to suggest some simple rules for making final plates. Generally those of you who produce composited electronic files are doing a swell job, so keep it up. It's some of the cut and pasters I'm going to address here.

Individual figures should be mounted and arranged onto a backing board, not submitted as pieces that need to be fitted together and mounted by the editor. These figures (whether photos or line art) should be arranged neatly, without leaving large white spaces. In the case of photos the printer will insert vertical and horizontal white lines between them. Because of this, the numbers need to be situated accordingly or they will be cut off. SEMs should not have writing and extraneous numbers, lines, or dates on them. When attaching anything to a photo (e.g., a number), do not use tape because it will appear on the printed page.

Please attempt to make these composited plates something that is reasonable to handle: 8.5 by 11 inches or 8.5 X 14 inches. Not 2 feet by 3 or some such size. If you can't actually make your drawings small, then reduce scanned images of them in something like Photoshop and compose them electronically or print off the smaller images and assemble those figures on a smaller plate.

Authors should arrange individual figures into plates (partial or full page) that are proportional to the printed portion of the journal page (14 by 20.5 cm). Even partial-page figures should be proportional. Additionally, it is easier and cheaper to handle a single, full page plate that is proportional to the page, than to fit four or five irregular shaped quarter-page figures into a finished paper. Of course individual figures cannot always be arranged as full-page plates. Sometimes an author wants subsets of figures to appear in special places or with particular species. But please make some effort to think about the finished product and how it will appear in print.

Plates created and/or composited on the computer can be submitted as discs, but each file must be in the form in which it will be published (i.e., a finished plate). Neither the press nor I will take discs with miscellaneous figures (in files) and try to arrange them for you. In essence a computer file must be camera-ready and proportional to the page, and there should be a block of space at the bottom in which the legend will be set by the press.

It is perfectly acceptable to submit computer printed copies of graphs, charts, and even halftones (on photo quality paper), but even these prints should be mounted to a firm backing. (In the interest of saving our overseas members money on mailing, I am willing to mount full-page computer prints on boards, providing it doesn't become overwhelming.)

Finally, it would really help if a blank sheet of paper is taped at the top (as a hinge) over the face of each plate. This acts as a cover and prevents rubbing and soiling of the artwork itself. These plates are treated fairly briskly and some protection is useful. I also write on this sheet. As always, the name of the author(s) should be on the back of the plate.

By following a few, simple procedures authors can cut down a great deal of my work, as well as making their own papers appear more professional. Thanks for everyone's cooperation in this area.

Eric Grissell, Editor, Journal of Hymenoptera Research

Scientific Forum and Annual Business Meeting to be held in conjunction with Annual Meeting of Entomological Society of America, Montreal, Canada, December 2000

The program for the symposium is now final and it will appear in the ESA program as an "Informal Conference". We have requested 15 minutes for each of the following presentations (except the Introductory Remarks) and an hour for the Annual Business Meeting. Moderators will be John LaSalle and Jim Woolley.

"Introductory remarks", John LaSalle, Imperial College at Silwood Park, UK

"Parasitoids of bark beetles in eastern Canada: recent insights", Krista Lee Ryall and Sandy Smith, University of Toronto

"Diversity and Abundance of Ichneumonidae and Braconidae in various habitats of Peninsular Malaysia", Idris, A. B., Hasnah, T. and Nor Zaneedarwati, N., Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia

"Advances in the knowledge of Ichneumonidae (Hymenoptera) from México", Enrique Ruíz-Cancino, Dmitri Rafaelovich Kasparyan and Juana María Coronado-Blanco. Univ. Autonoma de Tamaulipas, México and Zoological Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia.

"Rooting the ichneumonoids: problems and pleasures", by D Quicke & R Belshaw, Imperial College at Silwood Park, UK

"A Gondwanan origin for aphid parasitoids?" Robert Belshaw, Mark Dowton, Donald L. J. Quicke, Andrew D. Austin, Imperial College at Silwood Park, U.K. and various other institutions

"Diversity of *Diplolepis* (Cynipidae) and their galls on the wild roses of Canada", Joseph D. Shorthouse, Laurentian University, Ontario, CANADA

"Systematics of the Monomachidae (Proctotrupeoidea).", Luciana Musetti & Norman F. Johnson, Ohio State University

"The morphology of molecular data: case studies from Eulophidae", John LaSalle, Imperial College, UK

"Molecular variation across Chalcidoidea - a problem of whole group reconstruction?", J. Heraty, C. Babcock and B. Campbell, Univ. California Riverside and USDA/ARS, Albany, California.

"Population genetics of the social wasp *Mischocyttarus collarellus* (Vespidae: Polistinae)", Elizabeth F. Smith, University of Kansas

"Phylogeny of the halictid bees based on single copy nuclear gene sequences.", Bryan Danforth, Cornell University

Annual Business Meeting, International Society of Hymenopterists, John LaSalle and James B. Woolley, presiding

First Announcement
5th Quadrennial Conference of the International Society of Hymenopterists
Beijing, China, July 2002

Our 5th Quadrennial Conference will be held in Beijing in July, 2002. Specific details are being organized, and will be announced in due time. We will soon be soliciting ideas for symposia and plenary speakers. Further information will be available soon (in the next newsletter, through the ISH website, and on a separate website which is currently being created).

Treasurer's Report

The Society continues to prosper financially. The 4th International Conference of Hymenopterists in Canberra made a substantial profit, estimated at \$5000-\$7000 US. We have sold almost 50 copies of the Manual for Identification of New World Braconidae and about 15 copies of the CD ROM library of A.A. Girault's publications, both produced at no cost to ISH. Thanks to Bob Wharton and Mike Schauff, respectively, these publications have returned almost \$1600 to ISH coffers. The cost of publishing and mailing volumes 8(1) and 8(2) of JHR was considerably less than expected because the 400 page maximum limit was not reached. Finally, and perhaps best of all, institutional subscribers have increased due to our special subscription offers. At least 10 new institutional subscribers were added in 1999.

We must point out, however, that members can save ISH considerable funds and work for the Officers by paying membership dues promptly each year by the February 1 deadline. This will allow us to get a complete mailing list to Allen Press in time for sending the first issue of JHR, will reduce the number of back issues that must be mailed, and will result in fewer reminders sent to members, at ISH expense.

John Huber, Treasurer

Secretary's Report

At the present time we have 232 paid members. **137 members paid for 1999 but have not yet paid for 2000. Please do so promptly!** Delaying dues payments costs ISH money in mailing costs for dues reminders and extra mailing costs for copies of JHR which must then be sent at ISH expense.

The good news is that membership continues to increase. Because of the healthy financial position of the Society we continue to increase the number of sponsorships for students and international members. If you know of a person worthy of sponsorship for ISH membership, please contact me with the details.

Our web pages continue to maintain access to an on-line database of ISH members. Please see <http://chalcidoids.tamu.edu> or links from our ISH web pages at <http://iris.biosci.ohio-state.edu/ish/ishhome.html>.

Jim Woolley, Secretary

Minutes from Annual Business Meeting 15 December 1999, Atlanta, Georgian

The meeting was convened at 4:40 pm, Andy Austin, President, John LaSalle, President-Elect, Jim Woolley, Secretary presiding. About 30 members were present.

1. Minutes of previous Business Meeting in Canberra were read and approved by voice vote.
2. Reports were presented by the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor of JHR, which are largely abstracted above.
3. Andy Austin reported on the 4th International Conference in Canberra, Australia, and on plans for publications of the proceedings.
4. John LaSalle reported on plans for the 5th International Conference in Beijing, to be held 2002.
5. Considerable discussion ensued regarding aims of the Society and our financial position. It was a consensus of members present that the Society should use some of the surplus resources received in the past year or so to develop a more secure and solid financial base. Additional possibilities for revenue enhancement were discussed including promoting advertisements in JHR (interested members should contact the Executive Committee), investment of a portion of the ISH nest egg, and sponsorships and donations.
6. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm. More complete minutes are available on ISH web pages.

Elections for New Officers

The terms of the Secretary, Treasurer and Editor all expire in 2000. A Nominating Committee has been formed, to be chaired by Andy Austin. The Nominating Committee is now soliciting nominations for President-Elect, as well as the other three offices (although each of these people has agreed to run again).

Please contact Andy Austin directly if you wish to nominate an ISH member for one of these offices.

Advanced Notice - NEW BOOK

"The Hymenoptera: Evolution, Biodiversity and Biological Control" edited by A. D. Austin & M. Dowton (CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne), will appear in the latter part of 2000. Comprising 50 review and research papers that were presented at the 4th ISH Conference in Canberra in January 1999, this book represents a comprehensive overview of current research on all aspects of the Hymenoptera. The book is divided into eight sections: development and physiology, molecular phylogenetics, systematics, biology, ecology and behaviour, biodiversity, biological control, Hymenoptera in education, and medical effects of Hymenoptera. The exact date of publication and price will be announced soon - The book will be free to registrants at the Canberra conference, and there will be a pre-publication discount offer available to other Society members.