Hamuli

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY OF HYMENOPTERISTS (ISH)

VOLUME 13 - ISSUE 1, DECEMBER 2022

Contents

Cover illustration: *Baeus seminulum* Haliday, 1833 – drawing by ISH member Dawn Painter (www.dawnpainter.co.uk), a scientific illustrator based in London, UK

Hamuli Editorship

After two years at the helm, Carly Tribull has sadly resigned as editor of Hamuli. Many thanks to Carly for the fantastic job they did as editor, and best wishes for all their future hymenopterological endeavours.

The ISH Executive are currently looking at the best way to re-appoint one or several editors – stay tuned! In the meantime this edition has been put together by Jessica Awad and Natalie Dale-Skey.

EDITORS NEEDED! If you are interested in the position of Hamuli editor-in-chief, or in serving on the editorial board, please email Jessica (jessica.awad@smns-bw.de) or Natalie (n.dale-skey@nhm.ac.uk). Editors receive FREE ISH MEMBERSHIP. This is an especially nice opportunity for students, who can add editorial work to their CV and receive a letter of recommendation from the ISH President.

Hamuli (ISSN 2224-2791) is published by the International Society of Hymenopterists

The Platygastroid “Grand Tour”

Jessica Awad, State Museum of Natural History Stuttgart (jessica.awad@smns-bw.de)

I began my doctoral studies in autumn of 2020. This was not an ideal time to start, especially given my objective, which was to clean up some of the more critical messes in the taxonomy of Palearctic Platygastrinae. Travel restrictions meant that I spent much of my first year researching background literature, including translating old German texts and making lists of type specimens. This would come in handy when I was finally able to travel in autumn 2021.

In November, I went to Columbus, Ohio to see the Triplehorn collection and visit with Norm Johnson and his research group. For this trip, I was joined by my mentor, Elijah Talamas, who also happens to be Norm's former student. The collection was amazing. I had never seen so many drawers of Platygastridae before, or such impressive geographic coverage. This visit was very informative in my studies of generic boundaries within Platygastrinae, which are presently not terribly clear.

In January 2022, I made a short visit to Paris to check out the collection and hunt for clues as to the location of *Platygaster ruficornis* (Latreille), the type specimen of the entire superfamily, which had not been seen in almost 200 years. The Parisians laughed at me because I had not planned any time for sightseeing. Most of the pictures I took there were of Bernardo Santos's three cats. In my defense, they are very beautiful and charming cats (Fig. 1). As for *P. ruficornis*, it was not in Paris, although it did eventually turn up, which is a story for another time.

Figure 1: Bernardo's cats

In February, Elijah and I spent two weeks in Vienna (Fig. 2). The Naturhistorischesmuseum Wien houses the Förster and Mayr collections of Platygastroidea, including numerous generic types and "original exemplars" of species whose types have been lost. This was a very productive visit. We imaged dozens of types and even located some previously undocumented types from Ratzeburg and Kieffer.

Figure 2: The workroom in Vienna

Thanks to Dominique Zimmermann, it was also a very fun visit. I caught the opening of a new cave exhibit, including a 3D tour of world caverns (Fig. 3), and of course we had Wienerschnitzel! Even a minor medical emergency (shingles!) could not stop our progress. In the waiting room, we reviewed the genera of Platygastrinae, their diagnoses, status, and types (Fig. 4a).

Figure 3: The 3D cavern tour

After Vienna, Elijah came to Stuttgart for a week to see the amber collection. He met Cristina Vasilița, and they worked on cutting and polishing amber (Fig. 4b), as well as interpreting the morphology of fossil Platygastroidea. I used this time to begin dealing with the massive amounts of data from Vienna and writing up our findings.

Figure 4: a - Elijah got shingles! b - Cristina and Elijah process amber in Stuttgart.

In May, Elijah and I spent three weeks in London. The Natural History Museum has the most type specimens of Platygastroidea in Europe, more than 100 of which we were able to image. We accidentally planned our visit during the Platinum Jubilee, so the city was packed with tourists, but the work went smoothly, facilitated by Joe Monks and Andy Polaszek. Joe kindly took us collecting in Hampshire to look for topotypes of *Trimorus nanno* (Walker), the type of which is missing. We even got to visit a beautiful ancient wood (Fig. 5).

Figure 5: The ancient wood in Hampshire

While in the UK, we also visited Oxford. The Hope Collection has a small but very important collection of Platygastroidea, including J.O. Westwood's specimens, the remains of Nees von Esenbeck's collection, and a Latreille type. Curator James Hogan helped us find everything we needed. Fun fact: the Hymenoptera are stored in the "Huxley room" (Fig. 6), the site of a famous evolutionary debate in 1860. They will soon be moved to a new and modern collection area, so I am glad I got the chance to visit when I did.

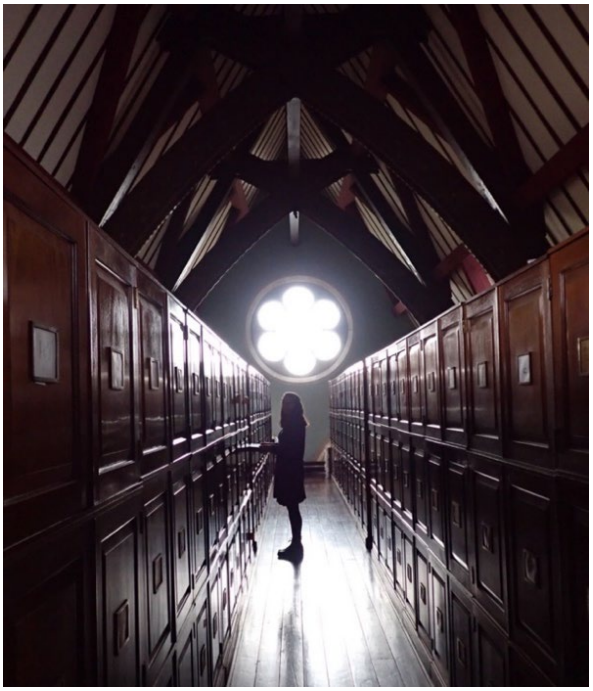


Figure 6: The "Huxley room" in Oxford

The latest stop on my Grand Tour was the Canadian National Collection in Ottawa. There I spent two weeks talking with the great Lubo Masner (Fig. 7) and examining the collection. The holdings are truly incredible, and I managed to see representatives of every genus from every biogeographic region, as well as quite a few species whose concepts remain nebulous. I could easily have spent six months there!

Figure 7: On a hike with Lubo

Thanks very much to the many curators, researchers, students, staff, friends, and family who provided help and interesting conversation along the way. My research is supported by the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, Berlin, project "German Barcode of Life III: Dark Taxa" (FKZ 16LI1901C).

Next stop: Budapest - and then who knows?

News on the 10th Congress of ISH in Romania

Lucian Fusu, Mircea D. Mitroiu and Ovidiu A. Popovici

As you all might remember on 24 November 2021 it was announced that the next ISH Congress - scheduled to be held in Iaşi, Romania on 25-30 July 2022 in the campus of the 'Alexandru Ioan Cuza' University - would be postponed until 2023. It was an unprecedented event in the history of our Society, but so are the times. The decision was taken following an online survey that many of the members of the society took the time to respond to. Two thirds declared that they were in favor of postponing or had no preference. Only one third was for having the Congress in 2022.

With more uncertainties and global challenges at the horizon, we were unable to announce the new dates for the congress, as promised, but the big day is here. The next ISH Congress will be held on July 23 – July 29, 2023 in Iaşi, Romania. We are currently setting up the Congress website, so stay tuned for more news and details. To avoid repeating ourselves, we refer the readers to the issue 1 of volume 11 of Hamuli for information about the congress venue. The details presented there still hold, the only thing that changed is the date.

We are once again enthusiastic to host the Congress and are looking forward to all of you visiting Iaşi and sharing your discoveries in 2023.

Iaşi University

Members' Photographs: Dawn Painter

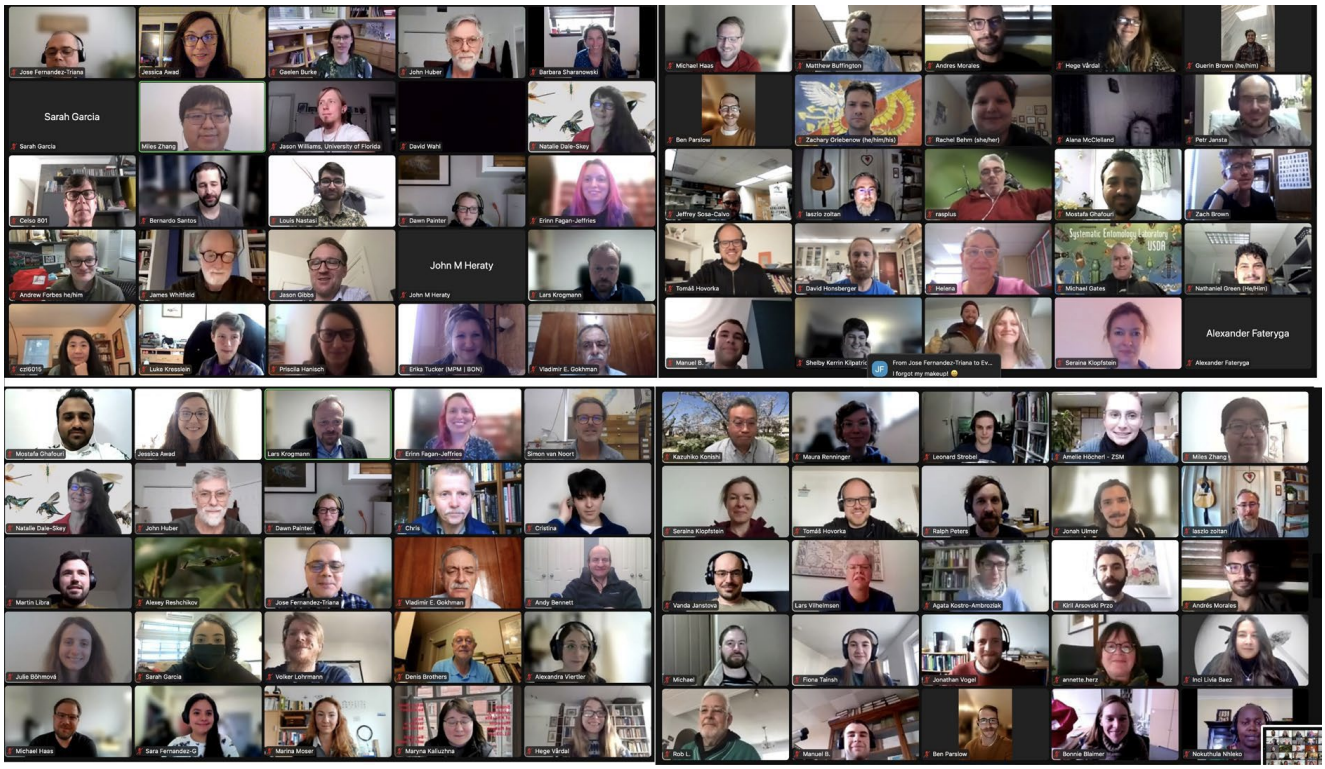
Dawn Painter (London, UK): I would like to present my photographs of *Mymaromma anomalum* (Blood & Kryger, 1922) – one of three specimens found recently in England by Derek Binns and myself. The first was my greatest 'needle in a malaise trap haystack' moment of 2020, location North London, 30.vii–20.viii.2020. A female Mymarommatidae before my very eyes!

The second and third were discovered by Derek in the Great Wood, Battle, East Sussex, also in August, but in 2021 and this time a male and female. And yes, THAT Battle, of the Bayeux Tapestry and the ill-fated Harold.

Mymaromma anomalum (Blood & Kryger, 1922)

#Hymathon2022

Natalie Dale-Skey, Jessica Awad, Erinn Fagan-Jeffries, Miles Zhang, Barb Sharanowski



Screenshots of #Hymathon2022 participants taken at the beginning of the first session (top) and almost 20 hours later at the beginning of the last session (bottom): fresh faces demonstrate that Hymenoptera wonder trumps sleep deprivation!

#Hymathon2022, the Society's 24-hour online symposium, took place on 31 March – 1 April 2022: once again it was a resounding success, with 40 presentations (including 6 keynotes) from 20 countries, and 164 participants from 36 countries. There was a fantastic turn-out from students and early career professionals, who gave almost two thirds of the presentations.

Prizes were awarded to the following talks:

Americas session

1st place: Louis Nastasi: "The WaspID Course: A New Model for Virtual Biodiversity Courses"

2nd place: Zachary Griebenow: "'Iä! Noonilla fhtagn!' Description of bizarre male genital skeletomusculature in the ant subfamily Leptanillinae, Emery (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)"

Australasia and East Asia session

1st place: Juriya Okayasu: "Systematics, morphological phylogeny, and evolution of the male velvet ants of the tribe Smicromyrmini (Mutillidae) of East Asia"

Europe, Middle East and Africa session

1st place: Adrien Mathou: "Sexual dimorphism in Ichneumoninae and the neglected influence of the ecological niche"

2nd place: Amelie Höcherl: "How dark of a taxon is Microgastrinae (Braconidae) really?"

5-minute presentations

1st place: Miglė Lazauskaitė: "*Ancistrocerus* wasps (Vespidae) in the centre of Europe: a common new cryptic species and their confusing phylogeny"

Congratulations to all!

Following feedback and suggestions from members we introduced a photo competition (see below), and more structured socials: a new virtual social bingo game was implemented where members tried to fill a line in a bingo card through interactive stories in breakout rooms. To get a square, participants had to have experienced whatever the square described. Squares included items such as: broke a type specimen, got lost in the field, or pranked an advisor. Stories were told to complete the squares and then participants were sent to a new room to hear or tell new stories. Many funny stories were shared with the small groups and then some with the larger group. While the virtual bingo was a success, the organizers still hope to find ways to engage all our members, from students to the emeritus, and from introverts to social wasps! We welcome all feedback and ideas for future virtual and in person socials.

The story began at the birth of a grain,
Over which pests decided to reign,
But the parasitoid stealthily spread its wing
And unleashed a deadly long 'sting'
And thus a fearsome usurper was slain

Our very first Hymerick! by Shweta Mukundan

Many thanks again to all presenters, to our judges, and to everyone who took part for contributing to making this a very special event!

#Hymathon2022 Photo Competition

Taisuke Kawano

For #Hymathon 2022, we had an addition to the program: a Photo Competition. A total of 24 images were entered in the following three categories.

- Macrophotography (live Hymenoptera)
- Microphotography (Hymenoptera specimens)
- Hymenopterists in action

The photos were assessed by four ISH panelists as well as voted on by ISH members during the symposium. Here I introduce the photos that won the first prize in all three categories, with photographer's comments.

Macrophotography (live Hymenoptera)

Panel and members choice: "Pollen grains cling to the antennae of a perilampid wasp", by Ian Schramm

Pollen grains cling to the antennae of a perilampid wasp (*Euperilampus triangularis*) as it visits an aster flower. Photographed July 4th, 2021, in the Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey, USA. Equipment: Nikon d3500, Laowa 100mm Macro Lens, Venus Optics KX-800 Twin Flash.

Microphotography (Hymenoptera specimens)

Panel choice: *"Aglaotilla submetallescens* (Turner)", by Denis Brothers

Aglaotilla submetallescens (Turner), Mutillidae, from Brisbane, Australia. The photos were taken and processed as follows: Canon Powershot G10 digital camera adapted to Wild M400 microscope using a Clearshot 600 adapter kit (Alexis Scientific) and stacked using CombineZM software (Alan Hadley). Illumination was provided by shining four gooseneck incandescent spots on a translucent white diagonal collar around the microscope objective.

Members choice: *"Sclerogibba crassifemorata"*, by Mostafa Ghafouri

Sclerogibba crassifemorata Riggio & De Stefani-Perez, 1888 (Chrysidoidea,Sclerogibbidae) Male, collected in June 2018 in Kerman Province, Iran. A photo of the specimen was taken by a Leica® M205C multifocal equipment in Tropical Entomology Research Center, Viterbo, Italy. Sclerogibbidae are ectoparasitoids of nymphs or adults of webspinners (Insecta: Embiidina), and mostly occur in the tropical areas of the world.

Hymenopterists in action

Panel choice: "Collecting Darwin wasps in stream", by Kazuhiko Konishi

Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan in August, 2013. Konishi is searching for caddis cases parasitized by *Agriotypus gracilis.*

Members choice: "That's Commitment", by Jessica Awad

During a collecting trip in Bavaria, Marina Moser's attempt at a cookie break is interrupted. Cristina Vasiliţa has hit the jackpot – dozens of *Lagynodes* (Ceraphronoidea: Megaspilidae) swept from nearby vegetation! Marina jumps in to collect the specimens, still holding the cookie in her mouth.

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Herbert Hohmann (*12.01.1940 †26.12.2021): A museum biologist of the rubber boot fraction

Volker Lohrmann, Übersee-Museum, Bremen, Germany

It is with sadness that I announce the death of Dr. Herbert Hohmann (Figs 1, 3-9) on the second day of Christmas last year at the age of 81.

Figure 1: Herbert Hohmann (Tenerife, 2005), photo: Barbara Hohmann

Born in 1940, Herbert grew up in the countryside of Hessen (Germany) at a time when the biodiversity crisis was still to come. Driven by the overwhelming beauty of nature and his fascination for all living things, young Herbert, anticipating his future career as a biologist, started to identify and observe plants and animals – aquatic insects in particular. Having studied biology, psychology, and German philology, he earned his PhD in 1968 in Marburg with his studies on the effect of pollen extracts and scented oils on the foraging and recruiting activities of the honeybees (Hohmann 1967; see also Hohmann 1970). On 2 January 1969 he started as curator of the entomological collection of the Übersee-Museum Bremen (UMB), then became the head of the department of biology in 1978, and later on head of the department of natural history in 1994. Additionally, he founded the entomological working group of the natural history association in Bremen (NWV Bremen) in 1970.

His legacy for the Übersee-Museum is enormous even though, by his own account, he was no publication machine by any means, nor did he have the opportunity to intensify his research due to the many other tasks he had to fulfill – most particularly the administration of the department and the development of exhibitions. It was for this latter activity that I first stumbled over Herbert's name in a catalogue published upon the occasion of a touring exhibition on the diversity of bees and wasps, developed by him and Fritz Gusenleitner (see OÖ. Landesmuseum & Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum 1991).

Herbert was involved in the re-design of the entire exhibitions of the Übersee-Museum in the seventies – a process that lasted until the mid-nineties. Ecology, conservation, and contextualization – paired with a good sense for didactics, were Herbert's main guiding ideas for his exhibition concepts. These guiding ideas are still prevalent today even though none of the exhibitions Herbert designed remain. The only exhibition of that time that I got to see focused on evolution (see Hohmann & Kuster-Wendenburg 1996) and was dismantled in 2014. However, other exhibition modules built during Herbert's time in the Übersee-Museum, such as the magnificent Africa-dioramas, have again become an essential part of the new permanent exhibition.

Even though none of the exhibitions he was involved in are still on display, Herbert's impact at the Übersee-Museum is still and will always be evident due to all the efforts he put into the growth of the entomological collection and its digitization. In this respect, Herbert was certainly a pioneer – beginning with punch cards, Herbert built up a very valuable information system on the entomological collection of the Übersee-Museum,

including a taxon-based inventory of the collection and a "database" of all sampling sites - even the collection of reprints was searchable through this system. Later on, he transferred all this information into a computerised system (dBase) and enriched the database with a specimen-based inventory of the collection, which was at the time far from being standard in German museums.

Obviously, one of Herbert's focuses was to provide the best possible access to the scientific collections and thus to enable his colleagues to pursue their research. As mentioned, these tasks left only little time for his own research and he kept reminding me that I should continue my own research despite all the other tasks that might occur in the museum. Whereas his research focused on the behavior and ecology of bees at the beginning of his career (Hohmann 1970, 1978, 2003; the latter publication is actually the result of research carried out in 1972/73), he later shifted towards bio-inventory projects (Hohmann 1984, Hohmann et al. 1993, Riemann & Hohmann 2005).

His own scientific publications, in particular his fundamental work on the aculeate Hymenoptera of the Canary Islands, are still highly praised by his peers. "With his stimulating and pioneering work on the bees, wasps and ants he was the person who has had the greatest impact on the entomological research of the Canary Islands. […] He was one of the first researchers who elucidated networks of insect-flower interactions. His comprehensive studies were a milestone for many following researchers and a model study of how to present really exact data of insects, visited plant species and data concerning the localities where they were detected. […] I know of no other work with such detailed locality data. […] He also involved the most esteemed taxonomists at that time […]." – referring to the "Bees, wasps and ants of the Canary Islands" (Hohmann et al. 1993; Fig 2), these were the words a colleague sent to me after receiving the sad news of Herbert's death.

Figure 2: Cover of Bees, wasps, and ants of the Canary Islands, Volume 1, Hohmann et al. (1993)

If I had to choose the three most important publications Herbert authored or edited, I would name "Bees, wasps and ants of the Canary Islands" (Hohmann et al. 1993), "The bees, wasps and ants (Hymenoptera: Aculeata) of Bremen and the adjacent Lower Saxony area" (Riemann and Hohmann 2005), and his account on the "History of entomology in Bremen" (Hohmann 1980).

Unfortunately, Herbert had to give up his work on Hymenoptera and choose a new taxonomic group due to the loss of his three-dimensional vision ability. His choice fell on the Lepidoptera – a group of insects Herbert had always fancied. His drawings of tropical butterflies published in Hohmann (2011) very well reflect the admiration and passion he felt for these beautiful critters.

Figures 3-5: Costa Rica, 1971. 3: Barbara Hohmann, Rogelio, Herbert Hohmann, Alvaro Wille (from left to right), photo: Barbara and Herbert Hohmann, first published in Hohmann & Hohmann (2018). 4: Preparation for the ascent of the Chirripo (Carlos and Rodrigo Elizondo, Herbert and Barbara Hohmann, from left to right), photo: Heinrich Kuhbier, first published in Kuhbier & Steinhof (2006). 5. Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, Eberhard Focke and Herbert Hohmann on their lancha, photo: Barbara and Herbert Hohmann, first published in Hohmann & Hohmann (2018)

Among many other places (Tab. 1), Herbert and his wife Barbara Hohmann (Fig. 3) travelled to Costa Rica (1971, Figs 3-5), Papua New Guinea (1972-1973, Figs 6-8), Ibiza (multiple times in the 1970s), and the Canary Islands (multiple times in the 1980s including a three year term from 1981-1984, Fig 9). Herbert's collecting efforts in these regions resulted in an enormous growth of the collection of the Übersee-Museum and subsequently led to the discovery of several new taxa, some of which have been named in Herbert's honour (Tab. 2, Fig. 10). Half of the voucher material from the Canary Islands, including the holotypes of the new species, has been deposited in the Museo de Ciencias Naturales in Santa Cruz de Tenerife (see Ortega Muñoz 2018).

Figures 6-8: 6: Wagu, Herbert Hohmann, marking meliponine bees. Papua New Guinea, 1973. 7: Near Sol, collecting insects, curiously observed by kids. 8: Near Mendi, in front of a round house. Photos: Barbara Hohmann, first published in Hohmann & Hohmann (2005)

Figure 9: The "Tenerife-connection": Jacinto Barquin, Gloria Ortega, Herbert Hohmann, Paco (Francisco) La Roche (from left to right), Tenerife, 2011, photo: Barbara Hohmann

Herbert departed from the Übersee-Museum in 1997 in order to settle with his wife in Tenerife – eight years before his retirement – because of the lack of perspectives for his department. Despite all his efforts, the museum did not fill the vacant position of curator for the ornithological collection. An even worse blow for his department was the transfer of the geological collection (incl. the position of its curator) to the University Bremen (Anonymous 1997). With a beautiful view over the Atlantic, "La finca Hohmann" in the north of Tenerife became a vibrant place which never ran out of visitors (Barbara Hohmann 2022, personal communication).

Despite his grief about the development of "his" department, Herbert continued his work in the entomological collection of the Übersee-Museum as an honorary appointee once he and his wife ultimately returned to Bremen in 2011. Herbert visited the entomological collection at least every Monday, not only to work on the collection and the database but also to meet with his former colleagues and friends, i.e., Helmut Riemann and Heinrich Kuhbier.

Figure 10: Drawing of Thyreus hohmanni Schwarz, 1993, © Helmut Riemann

It was during these weekly occasions that I got to know Herbert as a modest and calm colleague (though he told me that he certainly was quite different in his younger years) who, following my employment as the new curator for the entomological collection, was always willing to help, and eager to answer all my questions related to the museum in general and the insect collection in particular. During our conversations, he used to remind me that I should give him a hint should he be repeating the same stories over and over: self-mockery was apparently not an unknown concept to Herbert. He had a dry but great sense of humor and loved to quote Loriot.

There were so many stories to be told, so much knowledge to be transferred from one generation to the next. Only four years ago I was able to convince Herbert and Barbara to publish a summary of their personal travel report of the Costa Rica expedition (Hohmann & Hohmann 2018) and to co-author a catalogue of the orchid bees in the collections of the Übersee-Museum (Lohrmann et al. 2018).

It makes me sad to acknowledge the fact that Herbert neither had the chance to pass on all the knowledge he had nor to see his database transferred into a new system.

He will be missed!

Acknowledgements

I sincerely thank Barbara Hohmann (Bremen) for candidly sharing anecdotes and information on Herbert's life and work, for the permission to use the photographs, and for approving this obituary. Furthermore, I thank Angelika Schwabe-Kratochwil and Anselm Kratochwil (both Bickenbach), Hans Konrad "Hakon" Nettmann (Bremen), and Michael Stiller (Bremen) for sharing their memories and thoughts as well for their comments on an earlier draft of this text. Finally, I thank Heinrich Kuhbier (Bremen) for his permission to use his photograph of the preparations for the ascent of the Chirripo (Fig. 4) and Helmut Riemann (Bremen) for allowing the reproduction of the drawing of *Thyreus hohmanni* (Fig. 10).

Country	**Region/Island**	**Year**
Australia		1972
Bosnia and Herzegovina*		1967
Costa Rica		1971, 2000
Croatia*		1967
Denmark		1972, 1975, 1978, 1980
France	Mainland	1970, 1987
Germany		1964-1994
Greece	Mainland	1964, 1967, 1969
	Crete	1964, 1967, 1973, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1987, 1991
	Corfu	1979
Italy		1969
Kenya		1974
Kosovo*		1967
Morocco		1985, 1986
Nepal		1980
Papua New Guinea		1972-1973
Serbia*		1967
Slovenia*		1967
Spain	Mainland	1970
	Gran Canaria (Canary Islands)	1981-1984
	Tenerife (Canary Islands)	1981-1986
	La Palma (Canary Islands)	1983
	La Gomera (Canary Islands)	1982, 1983
	Lanzarote (Canary Islands)	1981-1984, 1990
	Fuerteventura (Canary Islands)	1981-1984, 1987, 1990
	El Hierro (Canary Islands)	1981, 1982, 1985,
	Ibiza (Balearic Islands)	1969, 1970, 1975, 1976, 1979
	Mallorca (Balearic Islands)	1979
	Formentera (Balearic Islands)	1976
Sri Lanka		1979
Tunisia		1989

Table 1. Herbert Hohmann collected insects in the following countries/regions of the world (based on an analysis of his database). The asterisk (*) indicates countries which at that time (1967) were still part of Yugoslavia. Herbert Hohmann also visited other countries, e.g., Peru (1983), Iceland (1988), Belize (1996), USA (2006), Namibia (2007), and India (2008) but no entries for these countries are found in the database of the museum. Therefore, it is not clear whether he also collected insects during these travels or whether these trips were of a private nature only. From 1981 to 1984 and again from 1997 to 2011 the family temporarily lived on Tenerife

Family	Species	Reference
Chrysididae	*Chrysis hohmanni*	Linsenmaier (1993)
Pompilidae	*Amblyellus hohmanni*	Wolf (1993)
Apidae	*Hylaeus hohmanni*	Dathe (1993)
	Megachile hohmanni	Tkalcu (1993)
	Osmia hohmanni	Tkalcu (1993)
	Tetralonia hohmanni	Tkalcu (1993)
	Thyreus hohmanni	Schwarz (1993)

Table 2: Species named in honor of Herbert Hohmann.

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Members' Photographs: Shweta Mukundan

Shweta Mukundan (Kerala, India): Potter wasps find amazing places to build nests, like this one seen on the sculpture of an Indian danseuse in Jalakandeswarar temple, Vellore, India photographed on 12 March 2022 by myself.

An Australian 'jewel-box' bulk samples collection now online

Nicole Fisher & Juanita Rodriguez

In this era of rapid global change, it is increasingly important to detect and report change at the time of collecting, rather than delaying until specimen data can be digitised or later used for research. Biological outliers such as phenology, distribution, morphology/anatomy, etc. may indicate the beginning of significant, transformative change that merits immediate attention. Hence the great potential in linking and exposing specimens held as bulk samples from within our collections.

As in many entomological collections, not all specimen material in the 12 million size Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC) is registered, sorted or identified to species level, and many specimens are sitting in a Hymenoptera bulk collection known as the 'jewel-box' samples. Many years ago, malaise trap samples of micro-Hymenoptera were critical-point dried and each sample was placed in a 'jewel box'. Each box is now photographed, along with the label information for each sample.

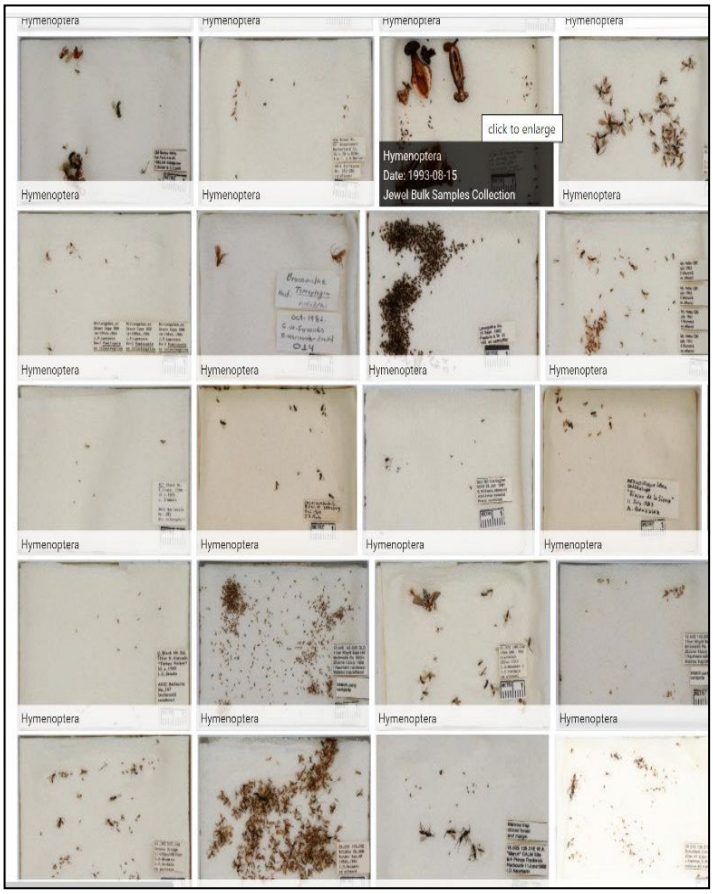

Figure 1: ANIC's jewel box collection on the Atlas of Living Australia

Increased access to bulk collection samples will offer opportunities for greatly improved statistical analysis and will serve as a key building block for species distribution and population abundance. Encouraging the sharing of these collection samples and managing them well is critical if collections are to support land-use and conservation activities and to understand changes in species. The key shared quality is that these bulk collections represent a potential goldmine of already collected micro-Hymenoptera material to study. We encourage you to explore the range of we have made available here, and to contact us for further details including how to access any that are of particular interest.

This collection is now available to view on the Atlas of Living Australia at:

https://data.csiro.au/collection/csiro:56193

and can now be searched online here:

https://biocache.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?q=data_resource_uid%3Adr19819

Figure 2: Each sample can be searched for taxa of interest

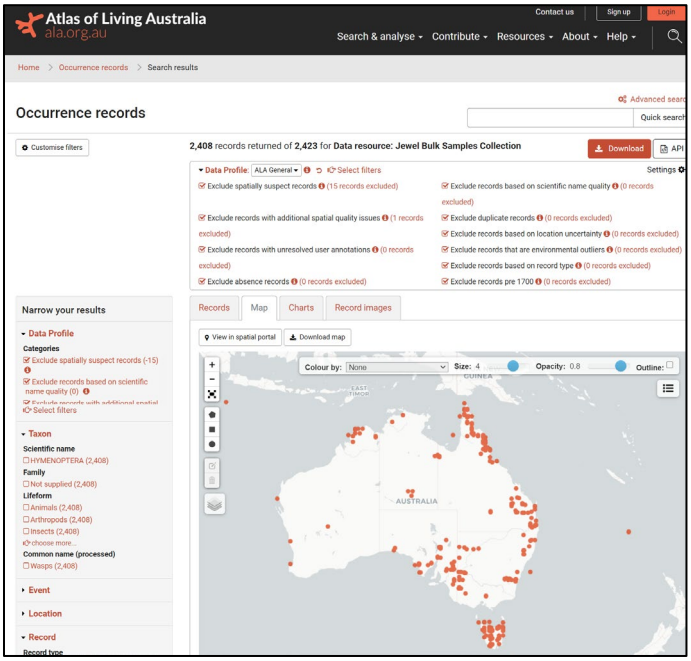

Figure 3: By mobilising these bulk collection samples, event sampling location information is exposed and searchable. This allows users access to collection recourses, making more Australian collection material available for research and study.

The ins and outs of the triangular sweep net and comments on efficient sorting of samples

Cristina Vasilița, State Museum of Natural History Stuttgart - with much help and inspiration provided by Jim Woolley, John Noyes, John Huber, John Heraty and Gary Gibson

As we are driving our efforts towards an integrative approach, targeting the acquisition of ecological data as well as specimens, collecting methods such as the Malaise trap or yellow pan traps, that allow quantification and repetitiveness, are gaining more ground. Nonetheless, the sweep net still remains the preferred tool of most entomologists: a must-have and must-use technique.

Being in the first year of my PhD with a background in molecular biology, I am not exactly versed in the craft of field work. So, I turned for help and guidance to established taxonomists whose expertise and experience in the field surpass any available textbooks. What started as a straightforward question on the right kind of fabric morphed into an extended chain of emails involving the biggest names in Chalcidoidea and myself, a girl who had, up until then, set hands on a proper net twice in her life.

How stiff should the silk be? How fine a mesh is fine enough? What is the most suitable metal frame? Is an extendable net handle really worth it? And when do you call it quits with the sweeps? These are all very good questions to which I got answers, answers we thought might be of use to other young hymenopterists out there, hence this publication.

I here provide insights into the modifications accumulated over the years on the design of the triangular sweep net (Fig. 1a), accompanied by explanatory comments from the taxonomists who contributed to its development. A comprehensive description of this tool, which was developed based on a design by Zdenek Bouček, is presented in Noyes (1982). But in essence, this article is a synthesis of the journey I embarked on when I wrote that first email inquiring about the brand of silk used for the net bags. This is written, as Gary Gibson suggested, from the perspective of what can happen when a student asks a simple, straightforward question.

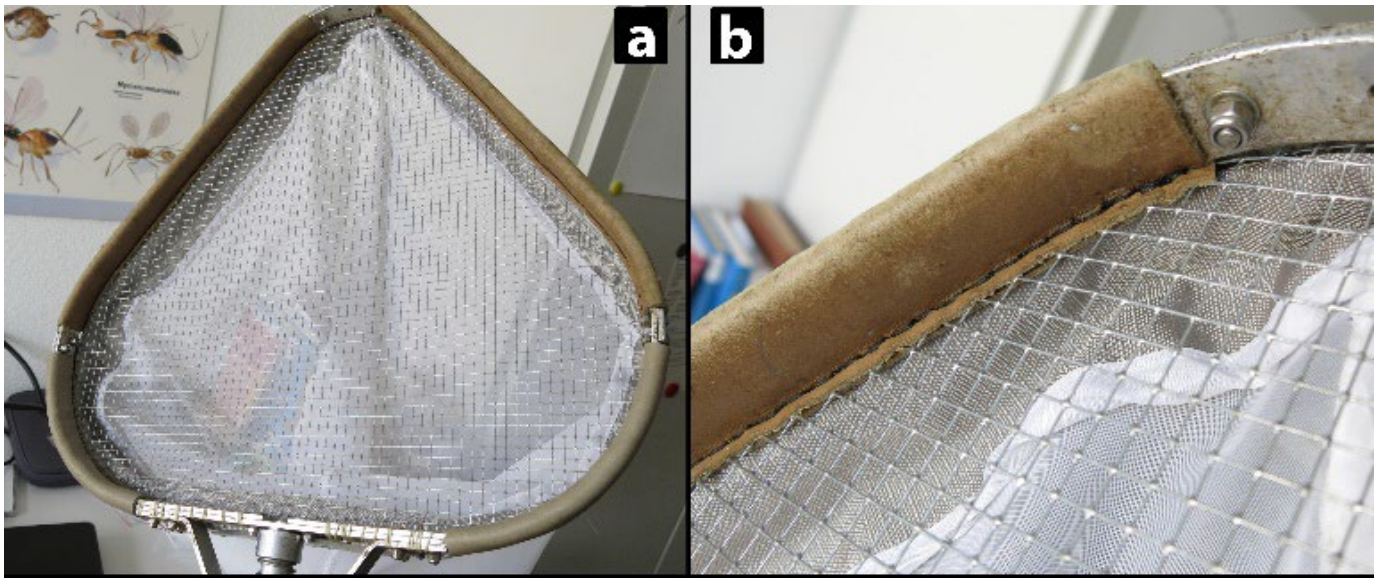

Figure 1: a - triangular sweep net with a mesh over its opening; b - leather rim protector

I learnt that when it comes to the metal mesh, the size is what really matters. A 1/4" (6.35 mm) metal screen is used by Lubomír Masner and John Heraty (Fig. 1a). A 4 mm metal screen which "screens out more debris and is better for smaller micros" might be preferred in some cases, as "it is superb for mymarids. It really depends upon what you are after." - John Noyes. Basically, the perfect mesh should be very tough, perfectly flexible, made of good-quality strong steel and hold up well in the field. "This is a good reason for using the larger mesh that Lubo uses because it can be made of slightly heavier, stronger wire. In the 4 mm mesh that I use the wire is slightly lighter than in Lubo's mesh otherwise it would be too heavy." - John Noyes.

I also found out there are several ways to attach the mesh to the metal frame. To do so, one can either use stainless steel wire that "is easily attached and works very well, although it does break eventually, but can be replaced very cheaply and easily" - John Noyes, or choose zip-ties instead - a quick and easy fix, but not recommended by James Woolley, as they "do not hold up well in the field". At the same time, John Noyes thinks maybe the success of zip-ties depends on the quality: "I moved from steel wire to plastic cable (=zip) ties and found that the cable ties are fantastic and have completely converted to them. They are really cheap and much, much easier to put on the net than steel wire. I have used them for 4 years and only had two break. They are very easy to replace and I always carry about 10 spares in the field with me anyway just in case." Another option is the leather rim protector that is used by Hannes Baur (Fig. 1b). Apart from holding the mesh and frame together, this solution comes with a bonus protective feature and apparently "is necessary if you are trying to sweep with a net that has gotten wet. The bottom part generally dries out quickly, but the top part does not, and this can be damaged/worn through fairly quickly if used when wet." - James Woolley. He also suggests denim fabric from used jeans as an alternative to leather, a rather creative and sustainable approach, might I add? Unfortunately, the leather rim protector is only worth it if you do not have to change the mesh very often, "but if you change the mesh every year or so I think the rim protector is probably troublesome" - John Noyes.

For the net bag a fused monofilament polyester material is needed (to my utmost disappointment, no brands were named). However, in the course of the discussion it became clear that the most important specifics are the fiber diameter and mesh opening size (Heraty et al., 1991), and any good silk-screen supply store should have high quality material with the required characteristics in stock. John Heraty suggested 140T fused polyester monofilament to prevent tearing. "140T refers to the combination of filament diameter (65 microns) and opening size (117 microns) (very important to get that right)". For the tiniest micros, James Woolley proposed I might want to use "one with a very small opening like 40-50 microns", while John Huber says that even 100 microns should be enough. The fabric should be stiff and tough, as John Noyes said: "It is a matter of toughness versus stiffness and getting a good compromise". However, John Heraty says their material "is a bit stiffer than what is used by John Noyes. I think Bouček used to use flag material (...) manufactured in Czechoslovakia. It was quite tough but tore very easily and was not as strong or robust as

silkscreen". If you ask me, I find this to be an intriguing bit of trivia! The way the fabric is sewn together to form the bag is equally important: it appears everyone agrees on the French seam, and for good reason: "[a French seam] has both sides of the fabric doubled under each other so that there is no exposed edge of material" - James Woolley; "Without it you will find that a split in the seam will soon appear and all the smaller insects will escape" - John Noyes. The color of the fabric is another factor that should be accounted for: "white would be preferred for insect nets" - James Woolley.

To personalise and get the most out of your sweep net, you might want to get an upgraded version of the net handle - the extendable/telescopic handle design (Fig. 2a-b) developed by Hannes Baur which is "great for travel and perhaps reaching those bits of vegetation that are just out of reach" - John Noyes. I find this to be a say no more kind of deal.

As part of this conversation, I was let in on some tips on sweep netting and what comes afterwards: the infamous time-consuming sorting process. John Noyes says that "A gentle sweep through the vegetation, taking the insects by surprise, is much more effective than thrashing wildly. The different types of vegetation require a different style of sweeping: bushes require dragging the net smoothly through the leafy part for about 1-2 m or so (to be noted that in the interest of not causing damage to the fragile insects, sweeping bushes should not exceed 5 minutes before the net is emptied), whereas grass should be swept in a large semi-circular arc from the ground on one side of your body to other taking great care to keep the net as close to the ground as possible – 80 "arc" sweeps.". Fractionation of the collected samples is strongly advised, especially if the retrieval of all hymenopterans is sought, as the number of insects, especially hymenopterans, collected by sweep netting might exceed one's expectations (Noyes, 2012). For a detailed overview on the concept of fractionation, sorting cages, ridged sorting trays and more, one can refer to Huber (2017). The sorting cages (Fig. 3a) were also specifically designed for the groups of interest in specific laboratories. For example, John Huber tells us they only use cages of two mesh sizes most of the time: the coarse and medium mesh cages (5 mm and 2mm zinc mesh respectively). "If we want to find all the smallest mymarids, mymarommatids and trichogrammatids we also use the fine mesh (*Trichogramma*) cage (1 mm mesh)". In Iași, Ovidiu Popovici opted for 5 mm and 3 mm mesh for two cages used on every sample which subsequently gets divided into three fractions. As for the sorting trays, so far I have been using the ones produced by Rose Entomology, which James Woolley thinks are "excellent sorting dishes". John Huber thinks that a 6-channel tray (Fig. 3b) with 1.5 cm between ridges is easier to use than anything bigger. John Noyes is not a fan of the ridged sorting trays, mainly because it can be quite difficult to move the material around, and he proposes a different method: "I sort with a plastic (cellulose acetate) petri dish with lines, about 1 cm apart, scratched on the underside so that it is easy to "scan" in lines. I draw along each scratched groove with an Indian ink pen to make it easier to see. Also, I sort against a white background. (...) To me the simpler you can keep the sorting, the better.".

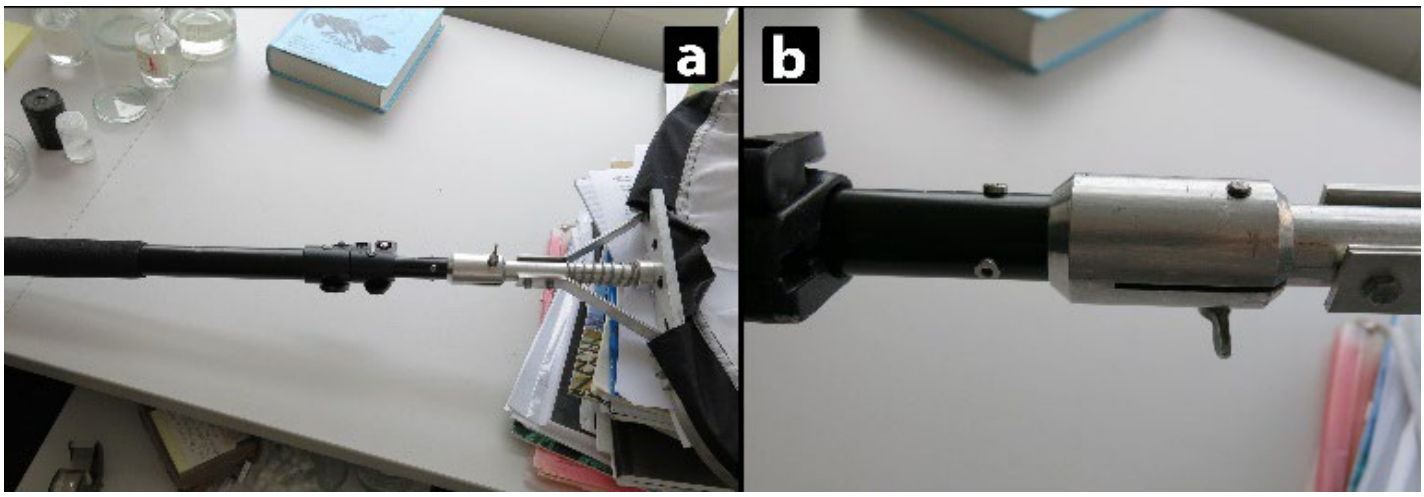

Figure 2: a - telescopic sweep net handle; b- telescopic sweep net handle, detachable. Photos: courtesy of John Heraty

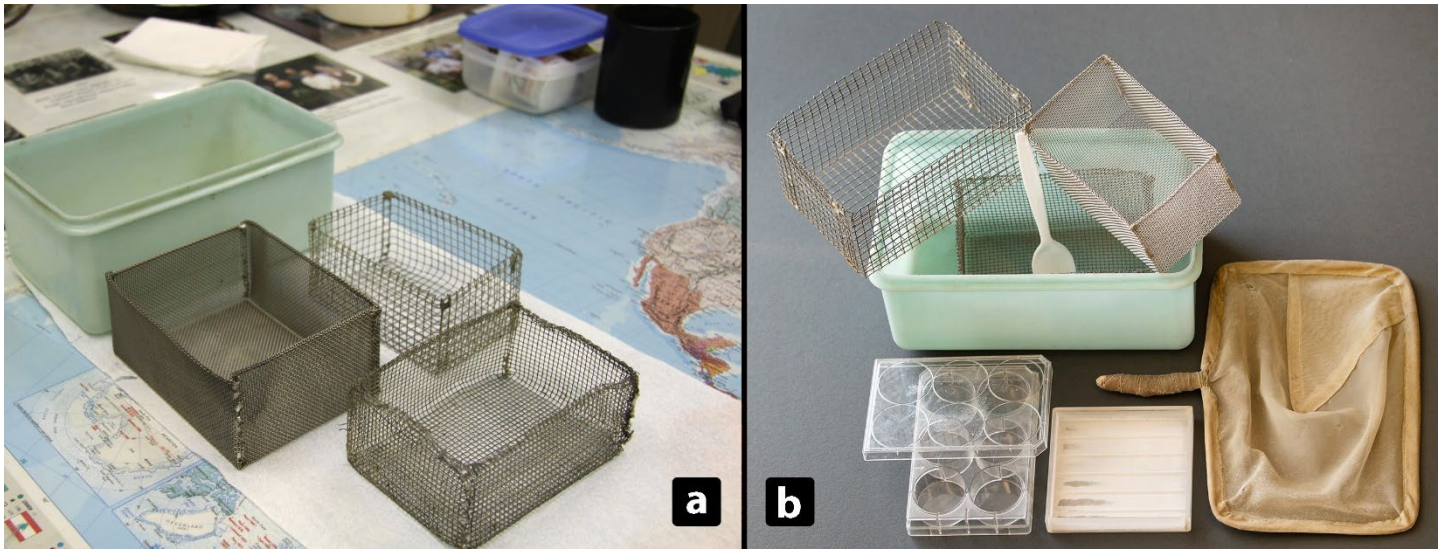

Figure 3: a - sorting cages of different mesh size for sample fractioning; b – sorting equipment used at CNC. Photos: courtesy of John Huber and Jennifer Read

I got some insight into what I now call the CNC sorting approach: "The best and most pleasant way is to do group sorting with 4 or so people around a table and each taking a teaspoonful at a time of a previously prepared fine fraction (or mid fraction) to sort using a dissecting microscope. The group can share information and each person, if already knowledgeable about a taxon, can teach the others how to recognize it during a sorting session. It can be a very profitable and enjoyable experience, in contrast to doing an entire sample alone over many more hours." - John Huber. This way of handling sorting of microhyms from rich sweep netted samples is considered by John Heraty to be a "great *sorting center method". I definitely agree. It's a great way for students to learn the families of Hymenoptera, and the experience is further enriched by playing music from the region where the samples were collected.

From silk screen fabric to sorting cages, to group sorting sessions accompanied by regional music - this was a learning experience as much as it was delightful reading. This here is the textbook definition of how a concept evolves driven by the curiosity and ingenuity of the human mind, each of the derived models representing the consequences of adaptation for particular groups of insects, certain habitats, and, of course, the entomologist's personal handling force. From this I have learnt there is no such thing as the right fabric brand or the perfect sweep net design, you just borrow ideas and adapt to create a version that is most suitable for your group and what works best for you.

As we were wrapping up the conversation, it became very soon clear that there is room for much more, therefore this should be treated as a "to be continued…" kind of discussion, rather than one with a definite ending.

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Don't forget to renew your ISH membership for 2023: https://www.hymenopterists.org/membership-account/
And if you are able to do so, please also consider sponsoring a student or regular membership – sponsored memberships can be bought on the ISH store https://www.hymenopterists.org/store/

Notes of the International Society of Hymenopterists (ISH) Business meeting

Natalie Dale-Skey

Held online on 2 December 2022

Chair: Lars Krogmann (ISH President 2020–2022); 57 members attending

President's report – Lars Krogmann

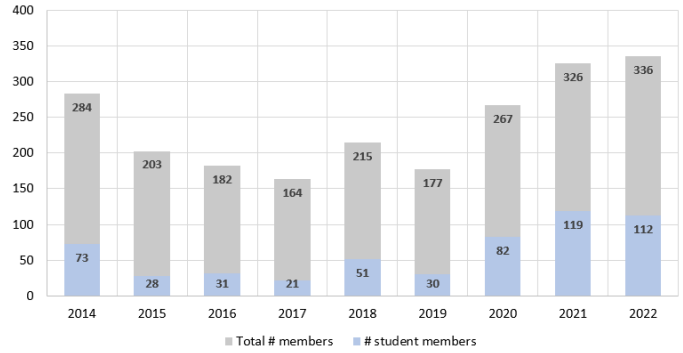
2022 REVIEW:

- Sponsorships: The Society has put in place a formal system to process applications for sponsored membership.
  Applications are made on the ISH website (https://www.hymenopterists.org/apply-for-sponsored-membership-to-the-society/) and assessed by a committee consisting of the President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary and Student Representative.
  In 2022 8 applications were received, 6 of which were successful. A call for 2023 sponsorships will be sent out soon.
- Symposia: The Society held its third online symposium - #Hymathon2022[1] in April, and an in-person symposium during the Entomological Society of America in Vancouver. The latter included 4 talks, with Jessica Awad winning the best Student presentation, and was attended by around 40 people.
- Elections: Juanita Rodriguez is our new President-Elect, and Jessica Awad has been elected Student Representative. Congratulations to both!
  Barbara Sharanowski is now leaving the Executive after six years; many thanks to Barb for all the work she did!
- Carly has resigned from their position as Hamuli Editor and the position is now vacant.

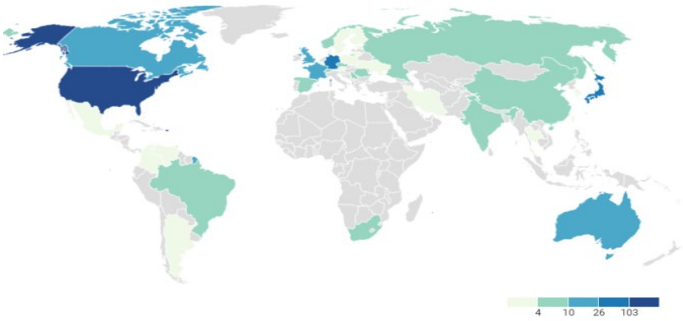
2023 OUTLOOK:

- #Hymathon2023
- ISH Congress in Iasi, Romania
- ISH Symposium at ESA
- Review of alternative offers for Journal Publisher

Secretary's report – Natalie Dale-Skey



- Membership has still been increasing and now stands at 336, with a third of members being students (this is the highest proportion of student members in the history of the Society).

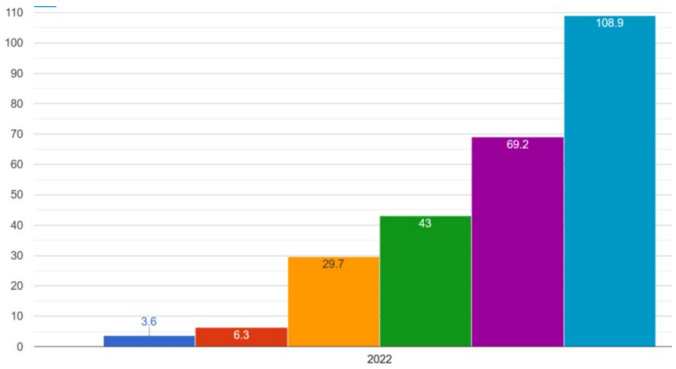


- Locations of members (based on email addresses, available for about ¾ of members) shows a strong bias towards the USA (almost a third of members).

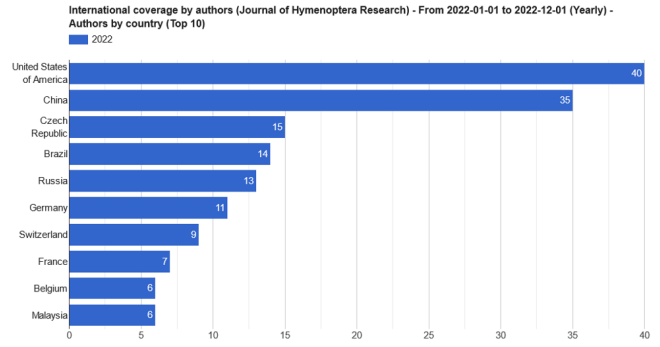
[1] see #Hymathon2022 in this issue for a recap

Editor's report – Michael Ohl

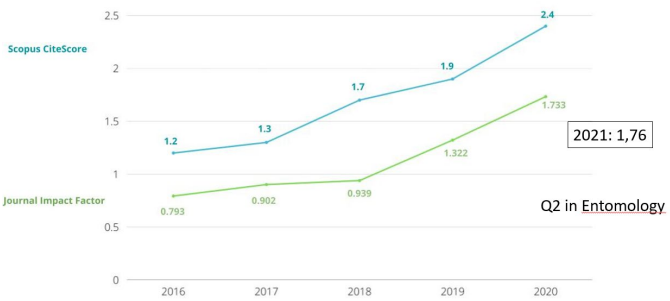
- Manuscript flow: 104 manuscripts were submitted in 2022 and 69 articles have been published so far (another issue of the Journal will be published at some point in December) for a total of 1439 pages. 19 manuscripts were rejected.



- Average turnaround between receipt of manuscript and publication was just under 110 days in 2022 (with manuscript acceptance after 69 days)



- This is the first time that most authors are based in the US – usually there are more from China and Brazil.



- The Journal Impact Factor has been increasing and JHR is now in the second quartile for entomology journals.

- There are currently 15 subject editors: all subject editors are men. It is possible to self-nominate to be a subject editor (see form available on JHR site) but applications received are never from women – a call could be sent out to encourage women to apply.

Treasurer's report – Craig Brabant

Income	2022 (20 Nov.)	2021 (10 Nov.)
Member dues	$9,710.00	$9,115.00
Page charges	$23,358.39	$36,361.60
Other income*	$183.98	$37.53
Totals:	**$33,352.37**	**$45,514.13**

*Braconid manual, dividends paid, etc.

Expenses	2022 (20 Nov.)	2021 (10 Nov.)
Pensoft (JHR)	$40,220.96	$27,845.69
Annual Meeting	$885.68	$426.97
Student Awards*	$614.30	$0.00
Other expenses**	$3,535.83	$2,592.69
Totals:	**$45,256.77**	**$30,865.35**

* Hymathon student awards; student award in Vancouver

** **Non-profit filing charges; 2023 ISH Congress advance payment**; CC fees; PayPal fees; wire transfer fees; donation to ECN

Current balances: working accounts	2022 (20 Nov.)	2021 (10 Nov.)
UWCU–checking	$11,673.39	$15,568.98
UWCU–MM checking	$40,075.89	$36,011.75
UWCU–savings	$122.17	$75.21
PayPal	$157.17	$159.25
Totals:	**$52,028.62**	**$51,815.19**

- Members' dues haven't gone up in a decade – we should discuss whether we want to raise them (maybe raise the fees for regular members only and leave student the same); more funds would allow us to fund more activities.

Student Representative Report – Jessica Awad

- The traditional Student and Early Career Professionals lunch took place on November 15th during the ESA/ESC Conference in Vancouver. New student members joined following this.
- There were very few student talks in the symposium. Several students have mentioned a clash with Entomology Games; it might be better to hold the symposium on another day/time.
- In light of possible issues with Twitter, several people have already opened accounts with other platforms e.g. Mastodon. For now, the ISH Students account remains on Twitter.

Endowment report – Jim Woolley

- The Endowment Committee consists of Jim Wooley (Chair), Andy Austin and Norm Johnson.
- Income to the Endowment comes mainly from direct donations and life memberships.
- After a major reinvestment of funds in 2017 a conservative low risk approach (risk level 35 on a scale of 1 to 100) was adopted, with Exchange Traded Funds (potential for growth, low cost) and Bond Funds (relatively low volatility).
- In October 2020, due to very low interest rates, the Endowment began switching from corporate bonds to "market neutral income funds".

Status as of November 18, 2022

Fund	Amount	Change since Nov. 2021
Market funds and bonds	$86,956	-12.7%
Checking account	$5,891.80 (+$1,107.34) $6,999.14	16%
Total	**$93,955.14**	**-10.9%**

- 2022 has been particularly bad; this was partially offset by some donations and one life membership (total USD 1,107.34) but overall the Endowment is down 11%.
- Two Student Travel Awards for ICE (originally due to take place in 2020, rescheduled in July 2022) had been funded: one of these has been used, and it is hoped the other one can be used for the Congress in Romania.

Women of ISH update - Elizabeth Murray

- WISH aims to provide a network in ISH for all women and allies at all career stages and promote a vibrant and inclusive society.
- A career panel discussion is planned for 2023, and the WISH Committee (Krissy Dominguez, Elizabeth Murray, Juanita Rodriguez) is looking for Panelists (not restricted to women) offering a diverse perspective from early to mid/late career stages (preferably 3-4 panelists). ISH membership will be contacted in spring 2023 for volunteers.

General Discussion

- Membership fees: the Society has effectively lost spending power through inflation - there could be a modest increase every two years (maybe 5% or 10%).
  The Society should make an effort to be more geographically inclusive and include people who cannot currently access membership. Though the sponsorship scheme and online symposia are contributing to inclusiveness, it is not easy to reach people we do not know yet.
- Journal: the fate of topical collections should be taken into account in discussions regarding the Journal and alternatives to Pensoft.
- Gender imbalance: the Society could focus on the Journal first – invite authors and women editors (men are more likely to self-nominate) and aim for 50% women editors.
  It is unclear whether the bias reflects an imbalance in ISH membership as we do not collect gender data.
- Hamuli: a call will be sent out soon to look for a new Editor; maybe it would be better to have an editorial team rather than just one Editor. There have been suggestions to have a blog rather than a newsletter, but it is felt that a newsletter provides a permanent record and can be referred to.
  It might be possible to combine the newsletter with another medium more appropriate for announcements and news.
  A Zoom meeting could be set up for interested parties to discuss the matter further.

Greetings Students & ECPs!

Jessica Awad, State Museum of Natural History Stuttgart (jessica.awad@smns-bw.de)

Well, I have not been Student/ECP representative for very long, so I don't have that much to say. I am really honored to have been elected and I hope to do a good job representing your interests to the ISH Executive and to the Society at large. I also hope to keep growing the student membership, especially from geographically, demographically, and scientifically underrepresented areas.

I'm always interested in your feedback - please don't hesitate to send me an email or find me on Twitter or Mastodon. Speaking of which, it would be great to get some student/ECP perspectives on social media. What platform should we use? What kind of content would be most helpful? The current focus is on promoting student/ECP members' content and interesting job postings, funding sources, and educational opportunities. Let us know what you think.

40th Anniversary Update

2022 marked the 40th anniversary of the International Society of Hymenopterists. To celebrate this special occasion, we hosted two virtual talks before the business meeting on 2 December. Andy Austin (ISH President 1998–2000) gave a presentation on "A brief history of [ISH] time" followed by Erinn Fagan-Jeffries (ISH webmaster 2016–present), who presented on "ISH now and into the future".

Lubo Masner, the first President of ISH, had to reschedule his anniversary talk, titled "ISH: The early days". We plan to host Lubo's presentation in 2023, and the next issue of Hamuli will also have a more detailed article on the significance of our Society and its 40th birthday.

Position update and upcoming hymenopterist position

Bernardo F. Santos (bernardofsantos@gmail.com)

I am writing this short note to let the community know that I am leaving my post of researcher and curator of Hymenoptera at the Musėum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN) in Paris to join the recently developed "Center for Integrative Biodiversity Discovery" at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin. Unfortunately this will mean a temporary pause to visits, loans and other requests to the Hymenoptera collection in Paris (except for vespids and ants which will continue to be handled by my colleague Quentin Rome), but the good news is that arrangements are already being made to reopen a position to replace me. While the exact date of the job opening is unclear, I'm writing to let all hymenopterists who are currently on the job market know that this position will eventually be available. Applying for academic positions in France, however, can be a bit tricky, as you essentially need to go through a pre-screening process before the position is even open (I know, I know). If you think you might be interested in this future position, feel free to contact me and ask for details about this screening process (or anything else related to the job) and I will be happy to help.

Visit https://www.hymenopterists.org/membership-benefits/ to find out more about the benefits of ISH membership

And do not forget to keep your membership information up to date: https://www.hymenopterists.org/membership-account/