

I.N. G.A.

Newsletter of the
International Network of
Gelechioid Aficionados

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Photo by Reza Zahiri

Ronald W. Hodges

Lepidopterists, particularly those interested in Gelechioidea, do not spring *de novo* into being. So, bear with me as I describe my evolution.

My mother was born in Merijärvi, Finland and came to Gwinn, Michigan as a baby. When she entered school, she knew no English but had to learn fast: no remedial classes existed. Her high school class consisted of 12 individuals, Her bother dropped out of school to help support the family and to enable her to complete high school. She went to Chicago to attend business school but was made to return home to help maintain the house—basically a servant. In the same mode after marriage she was able to obtain a job as a secretary, but when my father did get a job, he walked in to her office and insisted that she quit and come home to maintain it. Concurrently, she was a talented artist, poet, and musician [she played piano, organ, and piano accordion].

My father ran away from home before completing high school. He became a hobo, wandering via rail and working in each of the conterminous United States. He joined the army and spent 33 months in Hawaii, becoming a master sergeant. In the early 1930s he became a physical education instructor for the C[ivilian]C[onservation] C[orps] in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where he met my mother. During WW2 he worked 16 hours a day, seven days a week. Subsequently, he always had a least one part-time job in addition to a full-time one. He became a machine repair machinist - he could, and did, make a replacement for any broken part of a machine in the factory.

*Ron Hodges and
Don Lafontaine in 2012*

*Photo by Ronald W.
Hodges*



I was born at home in Lansing, Michigan. Instruments were used to draw me out through a C-section; the nurse reshaped my head, giving it the basis of its present form.

My first lepidopteran remembrance and impression was finding a newly emerged luna moth [*Actias luna*] in our back yard—*circa* age six. I began a butterfly/moth collection in junior high. This expanded considerably. In high school my father built an excellent 12-drawer cabinet to house my ever-growing collection. Later, he supervised my building two 12 drawer cabinets to house my collection of microlepidoptera. My interest in butterflies continued through high school. School went well. I was the judge in our junior high court and junior editor of the high school yearbook [have printing techniques changed!]. A major fault that I had, and still have, is that about 20 minutes is as much time as I can remain awake in a lecture; I literally slept my way through school. I have been accused of falling asleep while leading a Staff meeting. Commencing with the eighth grade and continuing through college, I had a part-time job. It was only in my 4th year of college that the job related to insects. I had an assistantship during my master's program. Because it funded me for a full year, I completed the degree in nine months and spent the summer collecting insects on Isle Royale, a large island in Lake Superior.

In my college junior year at Michigan State University I dropped all the courses I was taking and beca-

Gelechioid Aficionados

Ronald W. Hodges continues

me an entomology/zoology major. The advisor for entomology told me that the likelihood of obtaining a position in insect systematics was very low, but I persisted. There, I came under the influence of Rol Fischer [Prof. Roland L. Fischer], a specialist in solitary bees, who was an extremely knowledgeable field biologist. Field trips to eastern Canada, South Dakota, and Wyoming as well as many locally were very instructive.

I went to Cornell University under full fellowship and there studied under Jack Franclemont [Prof. John G. Franclemont], an incredibly knowledgeable lepidopterist, field biologist, collector, and technician. He set well over 200,000 specimens for his personal collection and made thousands of excellent genital preparations. Often they are used as images in the MONA [*The Moths of North America*] series.

I arrived at Cornell in September 1957. The following December I left to be a field assistant to Jerry Prescott [Prof. Gerald Prescott, a noted algologist, who had an NSF grant to conduct a survey of algae along the equator from the Pacific Coast to the Amazon Basin in Ecuador]. In 1958 the opportunity for a student to conduct field work in South America was extremely limited. During five months I collected widely of aquatic insects and herps. As an aside: during the five months we encountered two other USAnians in Quito. Ecuador was not a tourist destination, and field biologists had not discovered it. Immediately after return from Ecuador I became Jack's assistant on a collecting trip to Highlands, North Carolina in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Collecting meant capturing moths individually at light, handling them very carefully, and setting them as soon as rigor mortis had ceased. Sleep was in very short supply. There, as on subsequent collecting trips, I collected microlepidoptera; he collected macros and pyrales. It was on this trip that I learned to set moths well and efficiently. That fall I decided and began to work on the North American Cosmopterigidae for my thesis.

The following June, Jack and I left for Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains of southern Arizona. We collected though October, amassing many thousand well-set specimens. Then we travelled to California where I met Lloyd Martin, John Comstock, Chris Henne, Jerry Powell, Don MacNeill Hartford Keifer, and Bill Bower.



Ronald Hodges with his orchids around 2008
Photo by Ronald W. Hodges

The following January, through June 1961 were spent at Cornell. I was awarded the Ph.D. in June 1961 for my work on Cosmopterigidae. Immediately afterward Jack and I left for a field season around Flagstaff in northern Arizona. That fall I received an NSF post-doctoral fellowship to work on the genera of North American Gelechiidae.

In late 1961, I accepted a position as research entomologist with the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, located at the US Natural History Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. [SEL began in the late 1800s, and its entomologists were the entomologists at the museum until WWII. One of its staff members became the honorary curator of entomology for the Museum.] For the first few months I shared Jack Clarke's large office with Jack and Don Davis. Subsequently, entomology was in temporary quarters for seven years while new space was developed for entomology in the Museum. The riots during the late 1960's forced us to flee the building on Lamont Street and hastily return to the Natural History Museum. My first "job" was to identify micros for APHIS [Animal, Plant Inspection Service] that had accumulated during the past several years. They were stored in boxes along a wall 7' × 12'. This was to take precedence before research according to Hahn Capps, my immediate supervisor. This aspect of our positions provided[s] a major justification for our positions. Research to make known our fauna increases our ability to make identifications.

Ronald W. Hodges continues

In 1964 I participated in a survey of insects of Egypt from January through May. On the return I visited the MNHN in Paris [Pierre Viette], the Rijksmuseum of Natural History in Leiden [Alexander Diakonoff], and the BMNH, London [John Bradley, Paul Whalley, Alan Watson, Berry [IWB] Nye, Steve Fletcher] and visitors Klaus Sattler, Stan Blesynski, and Joseph Razowski.

The gelechioid fauna of America north of Mexico is extremely poorly known; so, the emphasis of my research and collecting has been directed to collecting material and producing comprehensive studies on this fauna. An example of the prior level of knowledge relates to the cosmopterigids: of the 180 current species, $\frac{3}{4}$ have been described by me. On each extended field trip at least one new genus and species has been found.

The field season of 1966 was spent in the Boston Mountains in NW Arkansas. Richard Brown, then an undergraduate at the University of Arkansas, was my field assistant. A subsequent season was in the Black Hills, South Dakota and neighboring Wyoming. Doug Ferguson and I collected extensively in west Texas [with André Blanchard], Utah [mountains east of Ephraim], Colorado [Great Sand Dunes National Monument and mountains immediately south; Buena Vista—40 mile radius, and Nebraska [Sand Hill Prairie in north-central Nebraska]. The latter represents the first significant sample of gelechioids for the entire prairie ecosystem. Minor collecting trips were to New Jersey, Virginia, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, and Michigan.

In 1968 Doug Ferguson stopped at our home in Maryland [suburban Washington, DC] returning from collecting at the Wedge Plantation [named for the shape of the property] to discuss a potential project to do an update to Holland's *Moth Book* to be sponsored by Dick [Dr. Richard B.] Dominick. Additionally, Doug intended to invite Jack Franclemont, Gene [Dr Eugene] Munroe, and Fred [Dr. Frederick H.] Rindge, who declined, to be the major lepidopterist participants. Together with Basil Harley [printing], Eric Classey [publishing/distribution], and my wife, Elaine Hodges [scientific illustration] the project started. I volunteered to produce a fascicle on the Sphingidae [my earlier treatment of them was to snap them away from a light sheet because they disturbed the small moths.] The manuscript was completed in nine months. Dick and Charles Edwards [the manager of the Wedge Plantation] produced the color transparencies. Dick and I went to

London so that I could oversee the color accuracy of the plates. So the MONA began. After Dick's death, Gene Munroe became managing Director and editor. Dick's estate forgave the foundation \$20,000.00 that had been incurred to produce fascicles. The foundation currently is a public, non-profit [501.c3] under IRS regulations. This imposes the need to show public support of the foundation in the form of sale of fascicles and/or contributions. My role in the project for many years was managing director, president, and editor-in-chief. Now, there is an active board of directors, and the day-to-day handling of business falls on the assistant managing director.

Several years ago I became the entomologist on the team to develop the Interagency Taxonomic Information System ITIS [currently Integrated Taxonomic Information System]. Many hours were spent developing this very important project.

For four years I was chief of the SEL, which had 26 scientists plus support staff. I stepped back to resume my role as a scientist to complete the *Chionodes* revision. This research was interrupted by my agreeing to produce the chapter on the Gelechioidea for the *Handbook of Zoology*.

My wife, Elaine, and I each enjoyed cooking and entertaining guests. We hosted several lepidopterist visitors to the museum over the years. During the two years while she wrote and edited *The Guild Handbook of Scientific illustration*, I did all the cooking.

Were I more unidirectional, more research might have been accomplished, but I am deeply interested in gardening and plant diversity. My garden in Maryland had about 1,000 kinds of plants on less than $\frac{1}{6}$ acre. Currently, my garden is a bit less than two acres. I have planted more than 1,500 kinds of plants, including 200+ conifers [three *Sequoiadendron giganteum*]—not everything survives, but it is interesting to learn what will grow in our reduced Mediterranean climate. Orchids, particularly the Pleurothallidinae intrigue me. I built an 8' × 21' lean-to greenhouse in Maryland and maintain a 15' × 20' greenhouse here in Oregon. Until my stroke, I had several hundred kinds of orchids.

Kyu-Tek Park

After serving 25 years as a professor in Entomology at Kangwon National University, Korea, I finally retired in 2007 and, since then, have worked at the McGuire Center, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, USA, as a visiting scholar. At the center, I usually curate and conduct research on microlepidoptera for six months a year, and I spend the rest of the time in Korea for another “scientific” life, also with my research for the Lepidoptera-fauna in SE Asia.

Since I have started my taxonomical career for Lepidoptera in the early 1970’s, I have been actively involved in taxonomic research on microlepidoptera for the last 40 years. Specifically, I participated in a one year training course for the micro-lepidoptera taxonomy in the British Museum (Natural History) in 1974, which was financially supported by FAO/UNDP for the Plant Protection Strengthening Project in Korea. My taxonomic research was started with various families of Microlepidoptera, including Tortricidae, in the beginning stage, but I gradually changed to focus on Gelechioidea. After I met Dr. A. Gozmany in my first visit to the Hungarian National Museum of Natural History, Budapest in 1991, my interest has concentrated on the family Lecithoceridae. The family was one of the most poorly known groups of microlepidoptera with less than 900 described species at that time, due to lack of specialist and its low economic importance. However, it may be exceeded by more than 2,000 species at minimum in the near future.

I have served as president of various societies: the Korean Society of Systematic Zoology, the Korean Society of Applied Entomology, the Korean Biodi-

***Pacificulla esdiparki* Park**
described from New Guinea
by Park (2013)
(above)

K. T. Park at Tam Dao
National Park, Vietnam in 2006
(below)

Photos by KT Park

versity of Council, and the founder, editor-in-chief of the journal “Insecta Koreana”, and a newsletter, *Asia-Leps*, for the systematists on moths in Asia. I also organized various international symposia on the Entomology and Biodiversity in Korea. I have authored or co-authored more than 30 books and monographs on the subjects of entomology, publishing the series of “Insects of Korea” from 1997, including the Illustrated Catalogue of Tortricidae in Korea (1998) and Gelechiidae of the Korean Peninsula and Adjacent Territories (2007). In 2012, I published the “Insects of Korea” with co-authors of all other orders. It includes about 3,600 species of the known insects in Korea (598 pages in color). I also have authored more than 280 scientific journal articles, describing more than 320 species and 20 genera in Lecithoceridae, and more than 180 species of other microlepidoptera from SE Asia and New Guinea.



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Kyu-Tek Park continues

My field work experience has been extensive, including N. China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines, and New Guinea during last 40 years. As of March, 2013, I also was appointed as the executive vice-president of the Korean Academy of Science and Technology (KAST) and I would like to share my experience for the exchange of a broader base of knowledge through a wide range of scientific programs. Although this is a full-time job, I am and will still work on Lepidoptera systematics, so please contact me when you need co-working or a help on Lecithoceridae or Korean Gelechioidea.



***Torodora karismata* Park, 2010**

Photo by K.T. Park



Photo by Mahboobe Hadadian

Mahboobe Hadadian

I am an Iranian Ph.D. student of entomology, and I am conducting research on taxonomy of Gelechiidae (Gnomoroschemini) as Ph.D. thesis. I have previously worked on a phylogeny of the tribe Cnephasiini (Tortricidae: Tortricinae) using morphological characteristics. However, I am interested in all aspects of Lepidoptera systematics, but my special focus is on evolution of Tortricidae and Gelechiidae.

I will try to discriminate the ecotypes of some species of Gnomoroschemini using morphometric characteristics and molecular techniques.

Also, regarding this group and its attractive members, I will do my best to clear their complicated relationships.

*Stunning landscape
of Iran (Sardarreh
village in Paveh,
Kermanshah). Photo
by Reza Zahiri*



Gelechioid Art from "Down Under"

Deborah Klein is an Australian born artist whose works many lepidopterists may have stopped to admire when searching for images of moths and butterflies on google. Her captivating works include Myth-entomology paintings, drawings and prints in which Lepidoptera, especially Australian moth species, have a central place.



Photo by Stacey Merlin

To see more of her wonderful works, and learn about her interest in using moths and butterflies in them, please, visit the artist's web pages and portfolio www.deborahklein.net and read the interview of Deborah Klein by Melissa Hart: http://www.deborahklein.net/Melissa_Hart.pdf

Ethmia clytodoxa Moth Mask 2009 (oil, pastel and chinagraph pencil, 112x76 cm) by Deborah Klein.

Courtesy of Deborah Klein.

Not Undersized

John Acorn

*Microleps, not undersized,
I realized some time back,
while trying to put my scymnines
into whack.*

Towards a comprehensive DNA barcode library of the North American Gelechiidae

Vazrick Nazari

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Over the past decade, the DNA barcoding initiative has continued to accumulate barcode sequences for all living organisms from across the world, and make them publicly available on the Barcode of Life Database website (BOLD, boldsystems.org). Since the very beginning of the initiative, the Canadian National Collection (CNC) has been a partner with the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario (BIO, the primary center for DNA barcoding). So far our main focus here at the CNC has been to use DNA barcoding technique as a sorting tool for freshly collected Lepidoptera. This helps minimize the number of dissections required for proper identification of microlepidoptera specimens. Once the barcodes become available, identification is achieved either by blasting the sequences against a pre-existing global DNA barcode library, or if no match is found, by selective dissections of specimens from each target barcode cluster.

The success of DNA barcoding as an identification tool is thus strongly dependent on the strength of a DNA barcode library assembled using reliably identified material. Although this has also been the focus of various barcoding campaigns for a long time, a major drawback with respect to microlepidoptera has been the lack of fresh material suitable for DNA work. The majority of the type material of microlepidoptera preserved in CNC (but also in USNM and elsewhere) are older than normally considered suitable for DNA analysis. However, with recent developments in ancient DNA techniques, it

is now possible to obtain full-length DNA barcodes from specimens collected as far back as a century ago.

Taking this into account, a new concerted effort has begun since early this year focusing on completing the DNA barcode library for all described North American Lepidoptera species using any available specimens regardless of their age. As for Gelechiidae, a recently updated checklist (Lee *et al.* 2009) provides a reliable basis for further work. A summary of the current status of the Gelechiidae barcode library is presented in Table 1. So far, only about 35% of the known North American Gelechiidae species have been barcoded (at least one 658-bp barcode available). But on top of this, many unnamed barcode clusters exist on BOLD awaiting expert identification, or in many cases, description as new species.

This year CNC will provide BIO with additional material that if successfully barcoded, will increase the barcode coverage of the North American Gelechiidae library to about 60%. Additional material will also be sought by BIO from USNM and various other entomological institutions. Please contact the author for more details or if you are interested to contribute to the barcode library!

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Table 1. Summary of DNA barcode species coverage on BOLD for North American Gelechiidae (April 2013).

Subfamily	Tribe	# of genera	Barcoded	# of species	Barcoded	# unnaed	% completed
Dichomeridinae		3	2	84	45	13	53.6
Gelechiinae	Anacampsini	11	9	46	17	43	37.0
Gelechiinae	Anomologini	16	12	95	26	92	27.4
Gelechiinae	Chelarini	4	2	4	2	3	50.0
Gelechiinae	Gelechiini	21	16	367	101	164	27.5
Gelechiinae	Gnorimoschemini	19	14	178	77	101	43.3
Gelechiinae	Litini	17	13	105	39	69	37.1
Pexicopiinae		4	3	4	3	0	75.0
Total		95	71	883	310	485	35.1

A Gelechiid Recording Scheme for the British Isles

Stephen Palmer

Preston, Lancashire, England

Interest in the Gelechiidae is not usually a feature that appears early in a lepidopterist's life cycle. The challenge of a difficult group, with limited text books in the early days, plus that extra bit of effort required to find the moths or larvae was a bit like the production of a fine wine – when it finally matured after many years it made the wait worthwhile! My fascination with the family started in the 1980s but has only recently led to the idea of establishing a recording scheme covering the Gelechiidae found in the British Isles.

An earlier attempt to start such a scheme during 2001 had unfortunately fallen at the first hurdle. Despite a strong start, the gentleman running the scheme found he was unable to continue and it folded in 2002. The relentless increase in the use of the internet, digital photography and a wider awareness of microlepidoptera generally in the British Isles over the following ten years meant many more people were becoming aware of, and wanted to find out more about, this diverse but under-recorded family.



Figure 1. Stephen and Carolyn Palmer with display on the Gelechiid Recording Scheme during December, 2012. Photo by Stephen Palmer

A Gelechiid Recording Scheme for the British Isles continues

Publication of *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland Vol. 4 (Part 2)*, (Emmet & Langmaid, 2002), covering the Gelechiidae, was a major step forward in the study of this family. However it was not until a decade later, when the *Field Guide to the Micro Moths of Great Britain and Ireland* (Sterling, Parsons & Lewington, 2012) was published, that the family came to the attention of a much wider audience. Anticipating the upsurge in interest in micro-moths which would follow the publication of this book, my wife, Carolyn, and I started planning the new Gelechiid Recording Scheme early in 2011. Phil Sterling and Mark Parsons, the authors of the above field-guide, kindly agreed to an increase in the number of Gelechiidae covered within their book and in late 2011 the GRS was launched.

From the start, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) in Wallingford, England, were very keen to be involved and offered to host and develop the scheme website, www.gelechiid.co.uk. Carolyn and I set about collecting and collating data from County Moth Recorders across the British Isles. We delved through published material in journals etc. and arranged visits to several of the many and varied Lepidoptera collections within the UK's museums. After just twelve months we amassed more than 70,000 records within the scheme database (using *MapMate* software). With the assistance of CEH, a dot distribution map for each species now appears on the website, with the maps being refreshed on an annual basis each January.

The Gelechiid Recording Scheme benefits immensely from the help, advice and assistance of many people. Several amateur photographers were approached to obtain permission to use their photographs of the various life stages – all were more than happy to help. Butterfly Conservation staff provided plenty of advice in the planning stages of the scheme and also store a full back-up set of the scheme data. The websites *UK Moths* (<http://ukmoths.org.uk/>) and the *Dissection Group* (<http://www.dissectiongroup.co.uk/>) by Ian Kimber and Brian Goodey respectively, have generously allowed us to link directly to their sites. Additionally the National Biodiversity Network (<http://data.nbn.org.uk/>) provides distribution maps for many of the larval food-plants. It's a real team effort and we've been thrilled with the amount of support and help on offer.

The main aims of the Scheme are to increase interest in this group of moths, find out more about their distribution and life histories within the British Isles, monitor their changing flight periods, provide a detailed list of references and, most importantly, establish how they are faring in this rapidly changing world. The scheme has already proved its worth in highlighting some regional changes in phenology and distribution since the last major publication covering this family in the British Isles in 2002. An unexpected bonus is that it has generated plenty of additional specimens for identification and dissection. This has been particularly the case in my home area of Lancashire, NW England, where members of the Lancashire Moth Group have been very supportive in looking out for this family both in the county and when travelling elsewhere in the UK. More widely, the scheme has already generated discussion amongst fellow County Micro-moth Recorders relating to identification criteria and when dissection may or may not be required.

Future developments will include the addition of an eye-catching homepage design for the website and work will continue on the text accompanying each species. Over the coming year Carolyn and I have visits planned to extract data from more museum collections and will be attending various events to promote the scheme. With the amount of data becoming available, it will soon be possible to start re-assessing the status of many of the Gelechiid species in the British Isles. This information will be vital when deciding which species could benefit from targeted research - it's an exciting time to be involved in recording this family in the UK.

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Compiled by Maria Heikkilä

2012

Please, see I.N.G.A. (2012) issue n. 1 for other articles published in 2012:

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Future Meetings

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society

The Lepidopterists' Society announced the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society which will be held at the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity on the University of Florida campus, Gainesville, Florida, USA, from June 27 through June 30. It will be a joint meeting with The Southern Lepidopterists' Society and the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera. For more information about the meeting, go to the following website: http://www.lepsoc.org/2013_meeting.php



The 2013 European Congress of Lepidopterology

The Council of the Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica (SEL) and the National Museum of Natural History Sofia announced the 18th European Congress of Lepidopterology which will be held at the American University in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, from July 29 through August 4. For more information, go to the following website: <http://www.ecl18.eu>

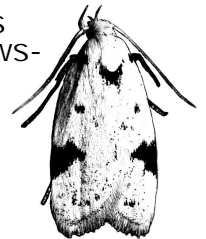


XVIII EUROPEAN CONGRESS
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JULY 29. - AUGUST 04. 2013,
BLAGOEVGRAD, BULGARIA

I.N.G.A. Newsletter

I.N.G.A. is a biannually distributed electronic newsletter with its main focus on different aspects of the superfamily Gelechioidea. Subscription and all contributions are free of charge. All opinions presented here are authors' own and do not represent an official opinion of the newsletter. Guidelines for submission and previous issues of I.N.G.A. can be found from the newsletter's website:

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