



THE CONNECTICUT ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
MINUTES OF THE 504<sup>th</sup> MEETING

The 504<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society took place on May 17, 2013 at the Exley Science Center (Rm. 121) at Wesleyan University. 12 members and 14 guests were in attendance.

The attendees convened at 6:45 PM and enjoyed eight varieties of pizza, cut fresh vegetables and dip, and soft drinks kindly arranged and delivered by Treasurer Mike Montgomery and his wife, Marilia.

At 7:28 PM President Molaei gaveled the business meeting to order. In the absence of the Secretary, no Secretary's report was read. Mike Montgomery gave an abbreviated, estimated Treasurer's report, stating that income for the year was about \$1700, and expenses totaled about \$1900, the latter mostly the result of the purchase of "500<sup>th</sup> meeting" caps @\$10 a piece. He reminded the assembled that regular dues are \$15, and student dues \$7, making the latter membership a great way to acquire a hat at a bargain price!

Announcements:

(1) Mike Montgomery (encouraged by Dave Wagner) made another plea for contributions to the fund to fix Dave Marshall's car that was wrecked just prior to his and Kathy Hill's departure for New Zealand.

(2) Mike also mentioned that there will be a hike to observe insects at Sleeping Giant State Park on June 9, 2013 at 1:30 PM led by Larry Gall, Bill Krinsky, and Leonard Munstermann.

(3) Mike showed a front page of the New Haven Register with an article about the chef at Miya's sushi restaurant in New Haven, who is planning on using the 17-year cicadas in various recipes.

(4) Leonard Munstermann announced that the Nominating Committee was in the process of negotiating to find a nominee for President to fill the slate of officers for 2013-2014, and that an announcement of the full slate would be forthcoming within three weeks.

The presentation for the evening consisted of five short research talks moderated by April Dinwiddie. Abstracts of each of the talks is appended to these minutes. A brief description of each presentation follows:

The first talk was given by Robert Clark, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Ph.D. student in Michael Singer's lab at Wesleyan, who spoke about ant-treehopper mutualisms. His research demonstrated that the presence of treehopper nymphs led to a change in the relative abundance of carpenter ants (*Camponotus* sp.), and consequently, a decrease in plant destruction by herbivory because of increased predation on caterpillars by these ants. The presence of treehoppers did not increase the local abundance of the numerically dominant *Formica neogagates*.

The second talk was presented by Benjamin Olsen, who just received his Master's degree, working in Dave Wagner's lab at UCONN. His research demonstrated predation of overwintering pupae of *Hyalophora cecropia* by three species of birds: blue jay, tufted titmouse, and downy woodpecker. Direct observations and remote-sensing cameras recorded predation on pupae placed in trees. In addition to the bird species, predation was caused by a beaver in one case, as evidenced by the tooth impressions

on a severed trunk upon which pupae had been suspended. Overall, mortality of pupae placed in trees was 66%. By comparison, past studies of mortality of larvae, largely due to parasitism by *Compsilura concinnata*, was 30%.

The third speaker was April Dinwiddie, a 4<sup>th</sup> year Ph.D. student at Yale, whose research demonstrated how filamentous actin (F-actin) is involved in creating the architecture (elongation and longitudinal rib formation) of each cell that becomes a lepidopteran scale. The longitudinal ridges, bearing nanoscale microribs and lamellae, create iridescent colors in lepidopteran wings.

Bethany Wasik, a postdoc in Antonia Monteiro's lab at Yale was the fourth presenter, whose research has been involved in characterizing the nano-morphology responsible for the formation of structural colors in *Bicyclus* spp. butterfly wings and then demonstrating artificial selection for the evolution of blue wing scales over eight generations in the lab. Selective mating of specimens with blue reflectance in specific wing regions led to production of blue reflectance in *B. anynana* (in ground scales), *B. samulos* (in cover scales), and *B. medontias* (in cover and ground scales).

Shannon Stewart, the last speaker, just defended her Ph.D. thesis based on her research in John Carlson's lab at Yale. Her research, using *Drosophila melanogaster*, has demonstrated that chemosensory receptors in taste cells widely-distributed in various sites in the larval flies appear to be involved in monitoring internal environments in sensing changes other than those associated with taste and olfaction.

At 9 PM the meeting adjourned for cookies (some shaped like butterflies) and soft drinks.

Respectfully submitted,  
William L. Krinsky  
Secretary pro tem