

Vespida vs. Hymenoptera by

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Johann Nepomuk von Laicharting, Professor of natural history at Innsbruck, Austria, published his "Verzeichniss und Beschreibung der Tyroler Insecten" in 1781-84 (2 volumes in one). It was published by Fuesly in Zurich. Vol. 1, dated 1781, contains i-xii + 248 pages. Vol. 2, dated 1784, contains i-xiv + 176 pages. As far as I am aware, this work contains the first classification of arthropodan orders using typified ordinal names (those derived from or based on generic names). I haven't read the book because my German is not good enough, but the ordinal names can be quite easily repeated here; they are from volume 1, p. ii-v:

- I. Scaraboides. Kaferartige Insecten (Coleoptera Linn., Geoff., Eleuterata Fabr.)
- II. Grylloides. Gryllenartige Insecten (Coleoptera Linn., gen. 218, Hemiptera Linn., gen. 219-220, Coleoptera Geoffr., Ulonata Fabr.)
- III. Cimicoides. Wanzenartige Insecten (Hemiptera Linn. gen. 222-230, Apterata Linn. gen. 265, Hemiptera Geoffr., Ryngota Fab.)
- IV. Papilionoides. Schmetterlingartige Insecten (Lepidoptera Linn., Tetraptera alis farinaceis Geoffr., Glossata Fabr.)
- V. Libelluloides. Wasserjungferartige Insecten (Neuroptera Linn. gen. 234-240, Tetraptera alis nudis Geoffr., Synistrata Fab.)
- VI. Vespoides. Wespenartige Insecten (Hymenoptera Linn., Tetraptera alis nudis Geoffr., Synistrata Fabr.)
- VII. Muscoides. Fliegen-artigen Insecten (Diptera Linn., Geoffr., Antliata Fabr.)
- VIII. Cancroides. Krebsartige Insecten.
- IX. Aranoides. Spinnenartigen Insecten.
- X. Oniscoides. Asselartigen Insecten.

The system is repeated in the second volume, though with the names changed: Scarabei, Grylli, Cimices, etc.

Rohdendorf (1977) was the first person to propose adopting Vespida as the ordinal name for what has always been called Hymenoptera. Rohdendorf's paper was reprinted in English in my proposal to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (Rasnitsyn, 1982, Bull. Zool. Nomcl. 39: 200-207) on regulating the names of taxa above family group names.

Basically Rohdendorf's thesis is that since familial and tribal names are based on generic names, it is only logical to extend this typological approach to names above the rank of family. We adopted Laicharting's ordinal names in our book "Development History of the Class Insecta" (Rohdendorf and Rasnitsyn, 1980, Trudy Paleon. Inst. 175). In my opinion the typified (and thus codified) approach to forming ordinal names avoids or reduces the arbitrariness in name formation that the Code expressly promotes for lower taxa. Why shouldn't ordinal names conform to the same regulations as family names?



SCIENTIFIC NOTES

**Mutillid Wasps of Brackenridge
Field Station, Travis Co., Texas**

Compiled by
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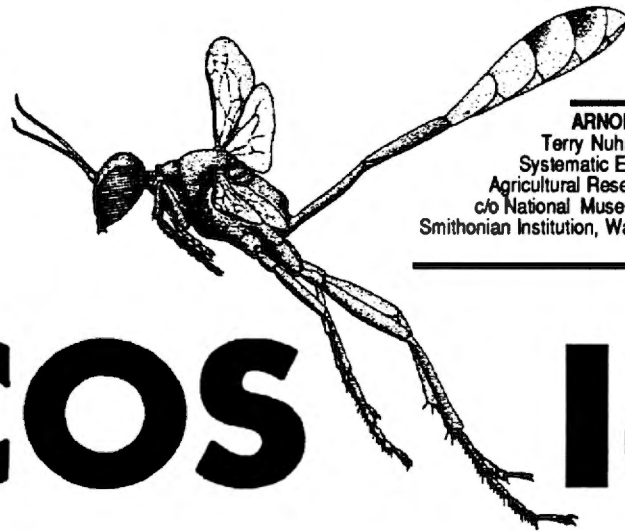
Determinations by
Donald G. Manley
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Brackenridge Field Laboratory (BFL), 5 miles west of downtown Austin, supports a rich mutillid fauna with 28 species recorded thus far. Mutillid

diversity is tied directly to the tremendous diversity of bees and wasps found at BFL. These 28 species are listed below, along with their active periods as obtained from collection dates. Abbreviated active periods are due to a paucity of specimens for several species. This list includes a new Texas state record, *Pseudomethoca nudula* Mickel. Previously it was known only from New Mexico. I have also picked up this species at Pedernales Falls State Park, which is about 30 miles west of Austin.

MUTILLID (ACTIVE PERIOD)

1. *Timulla leona* (Blake)
(May-August)
2. *Timulla oajaca* (Blake)
(February-June)
3. *Ephuta sudatrix* (Melandar)
(July)
4. *Ephuta* sp. (August)
5. *Sphaerophthalma a. auripilis* (Blake)
(April-October)
6. *Sphaerophthalminae* (August)
7. *Pseudomethoca brazoria* (Blake)
(May-October)
8. *Pseudomethoca frigida* (Smith)
(June-July)
9. *Pseudomethoca gila* (Blake)
(May)
10. *Pseudomethoca ilione* (Fox)
(May-October)
11. *Pseudomethoca nudula* Mickel
New Texas Record
12. *Pseudomethoca ocella* (Blake)
(April-November)
13. *Pseudomethoca propinqua*
(Cresson) (July)
14. *Pseudomethoca simillima* (Smith)
(March-September)
15. *Myrmilloides grandiceps* (Blake)
(April-November)
16. *Dasymutilla arcana* (Mickel)
(July-August)
17. *Dasymutilla birkmani* (Melandar)
(April-August)
18. *Dasymutilla bollii* (Fox)
(May-October)
19. *Dasymutilla creon* (Blake)
(June)
20. *Dasymutilla electra* (Blake)
(May-June)
21. *Dasymutilla klugii* (Gray)
(January-October)
22. *Dasymutilla meracula* Mickel
(May)



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A FORUM FOR ACULEATE WASP RESEARCHERS

SPHECOS 18

EDITORIAL FRASS

Not to be outdone by the spiffy looks of our sister newsletter **Melissa** edited by Ron McGinley and Charles Michener, we have accepted the challenge and entered the world of Macintosh with this issue of **Sphecos**. Could this be the beginning of Newsletter Wars? Using a Macintosh II, Ready Set Go! (a desktop publishing program) and a scanning system, we have embarked on an entirely new look for **Sphecos**.

The scanning system, for those of you who may be unfamiliar with this technology, involves a machine that scans (or reads) typed copy, or drawings, into the computer system, allowing them to be inserted directly into the document being produced. Previously we retyped your ms. into the computer, which was quite time consuming. By scanning your material, much typing time is saved, although the system isn't perfect and many errors must be corrected. Figures scanned into the computer can be cleaned up or modified on screen. The scanning system only works well on text material submitted in type written form. So if you would like your future articles scanned into **Sphecos**, please use a typewriter for the copy, or if computer generated, printed in *letter quality* mode with words spaced well apart. Some draft mode printing cannot be scanned.

Terry Nuhn is rapidly becoming an expert on the Macintosh and he is responsible for putting this entire issue in the computer. We must

acknowledge the help of Britt Griswold. He gave us initial training in the Macintosh and helped get us started with **Sphecos** 18.

Esthetics aside, there are two serious reasons for adopting the new three column format. The mailing list for **Sphecos** is becoming gargantuan (572 people - larger than some journals!), and mailing costs for an issue of nearly 50 pages in the old format were becoming horrendous. For example it cost nearly 4 dollars to airmail a single copy of the last issue overseas! If you multiply that by 250, the approximate number of foreign recipients, the mailing cost is staggering without including all of the North American mailings that cost in the neighborhood of 1 dollar each. Because of the ever tightening US government budgets, the Systematic Entomology Laboratory simply cannot afford this kind of expense any longer. By using a 3 column format and a smaller type font, **Sphecos** can be reduced in size considerably. The considerable weight saving due to fewer pages will reduce mailing costs. And an issue of fewer pages means that it will be possible to have sufficient copies reproduced to cover our mailing needs.

Even so the cost of airmailing **Sphecos** overseas may be deemed prohibitive by the leadership of SEL and the day may come when the newsletter will have to be sent surface mail. That may result in a delay of 6 or even 8 weeks between mailing and receiving **Sphecos** by some readers. I hope that that day never comes.

Back Issues of Sphecos

We have stockpiles of most of the past issues of **Sphecos**, and we would like to reduce the quantities. Several issues are completely gone (3, 7, 13) and several others are in short supply (1, 2, 11, 12, 14, 17), but we have plenty of the remainder. If you lack any back issues send us a letter listing those you would like to have and we'll mail them off to you.



RESEARCH NEWS

Kalle Remm (Institute of Zoology and Botany, Vanemuise 21, Tartu, Estonia, 202400 USSR) is interested in the faunistics of Estonian wasps, and is currently working on Sphecoidea.

Lloyd Eighme (Pacific Union College, Angwin, Calif. 94508-9797) reports: "The *Diodontus* revision is finally published. This has been a fascinating and frustrating experience. Something, like writing a book. As one author so aptly stated, 'Writing a book is like having a baby, easy to start but difficult to finish.' The same could be said about doing a generic revision. One of the great frustrations has been that of not having sufficient time to devote to research. My life as a teaching professor in a small college