



Phaëton

The Official Newsletter of the
Maryland Entomological Society

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EDITOR: Aditi Dubey – aditid26@gmail.com

FACULTY SPONSOR: **Frank E. Hanson**
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250

WEBSITE: <http://www.mdentsoc.org/>

MARYLAND ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OCTOBER 2020 MEETING

On some insects associated with our local
Apocynaceae, with side trips to the Caribbean
and Horn of Africa



Warren E. Steiner, Jr.
Research Collaborator
Department of Entomology, NHB-187,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, DC 20560
steinerw@si.edu

When: October 16th, 7:00 PM

Where: The meeting will be conducted through Zoom, the link will be sent out in a separate email and also included in the October Phaeton

HONORING MEMBER DONORS

MES wishes to honor the following members who made charitable donations along with their recent membership renewals. These donations help with the printing and mailing of *The Maryland Entomologist*.

**Benjamin L. Apt
M. Alma Solis & Jason P.W. Hall
Warren E. Steiner & Jill M. Swearingen**

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

MES welcomes the following new members to the Society:

**Gene Kritsky - Cincinnati, Ohio
Hugh McGuinness – Washington, DC
Allen F. Sanborn – Miami Shores, Florida
Chris Simon – Storrs, Connecticut**



NHSM SEPTEMBER 2020 RAFFLE

Win a guided fossil trip on a private Chesapeake Bay Beach!

Purchase to win a day on a beach with NHSM Fossil Curator Adrien Malick and naturalist, Nick Spero looking for fossils.

PLUS an added bonus of a lifetime membership to the Natural History Society of Maryland (\$750 value).



Tickets are \$5 and buying more than one ticket increases your chances of winning. Only 1000 tickets will be sold to benefit the Natural History Society of Maryland.

The raffle drawing will take place September 30th.

Get more information and purchase your tickets [here](#),

PHILADELPHIA CBP DISCOVERS MANTIS EGGS CONCEALED IN COMPUTER GAMING MOUSE

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists in Philadelphia have seen many insects, mostly as hitchhikers stowing away on a produce shipment or burrowed into wood packaging material, but finding mantis eggs inside a computer gaming mouse is a first.



CBP discovered mantis egg masses concealed inside a PC gaming mouse.

CBP officers initially x-rayed a parcel on August 7 that was manifested as a wireless computer gaming mouse from Spain and detected anomalies inside the computer mouse. Officers examined the mouse and discovered three brown sacks and a live insect concealed inside the mouse. Officers preserved the sacks and insect inside a sealed evidence bag and turned it over to CBP agriculture specialists.

On August 11, CBP agriculture specialists, working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service inspectors, determined that the sacks were mantis egg masses and the live insect was a mantis. The egg masses soon hatched while inside the sealed evidence bag.

Mantis are present in the United States and are not an endangered species. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulates the importation of live insects into the United States. Importers are required to attain permits and meet requirements for importing live insects.

CBP turned the live mantis and egg masses over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on August 13. USFWS are working to place the live mantis with the Academy of Natural Sciences museum in Philadelphia.

The parcel was destined to an address in Hillsborough County, N.H.



The mantis egg masses hatched and may be placed at the Academy of Natural Sciences.



CBP agriculture specialist scraping free an AGM egg mass.

“This seizure illustrates the exceptional inspection capabilities of Customs and Border Protection officers to detect unusual and creative concealment methods to intercept illicit smuggling attempts at our nation’s borders,” said Casey Durst, CBP’s Director of Field Operations in Baltimore. “CBP officers and agriculture specialists serve with extraordinary commitment and vigilance every day to protect our nation, our economic security and our citizens against all potential threats.”

BALTIMORE CBP DETECTS NINE ASIAN GYPSY MOTH EGG MASSES ON FOUR VEHICLE CARRIER VESSELS

Being one of the nation’s busiest vehicle import ports provides regional economic vitality, but it also presents unique agricultural threats for Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists in Baltimore to mitigate.

Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists recently intercepted nine egg masses of the highly invasive and destructive Asian Gypsy Moth on four vehicle carrier vessels in the Port of Baltimore.

CBP agriculture specialists recently had their hands full mitigating nine egg masses of the highly invasive Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) that they discovered aboard four vehicle carrier vessels. Agriculture specialists also intercepted a live Khapra beetle larvae, one of the world’s most destructive insect pests.

These interceptions included:

- Four suspected AGM egg masses discovered aboard the vehicle carrier M/V Graceful Leader on September 4. The vessel arrived after a July port call in Japan. On September 9, the USDA verified the egg masses as *Lymantria dispar asiatica/japonica* (AGM).

- One suspected AGM egg mass discovered aboard the vehicle carrier M/V Hoegh Africa on August 29. The vessel arrived after making June port calls to South Korea and China. On September 3, the USDA verified the egg mass as *Lymantria dispar asiatica/japonica* (AGM).
- One suspected live Khapra beetle larva and one cast skin on a container that arrived from Nigeria aboard the M/V Grande Sierra Leone on August 27. The container was shipped from Nigeria. On August 28, the USDA verified the specimen as *Trogoderma granarium* Everts (Khapra beetle).
- Two suspected AGM egg masses discovered aboard the vehicle carrier M/V Hoegh Jacksonville on August 27. The vessel arrived after a June port call to Japan. On September 1, the USDA verified the egg masses as *Lymantria dispar asiatica/japonica* (AGM).
- Two suspected AGM egg masses discovered aboard the vehicle carrier M/V Figaro on August 21. The vessel arrived after a June port call to Japan. On August 25, the USDA verified the egg masses as *Lymantria dispar asiatica/japonica* (AGM).

Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists recently intercepted nine egg masses of the highly invasive and destructive Asian Gypsy Moth on four vehicle carrier vessels in the Port of Baltimore. CBP agriculture specialists discovered the egg masses affixed to various parts of the four ships, scraped them clean and treated the areas with a pesticide spray.

“Vehicle carriers are large ships, so inspecting them is a tremendous task for Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists, but a very necessary mission to protect our regional agricultural industries from destructive, invasive pests,” said Casey Durst, Director of Field Operations for CBP’s Baltimore Field Office.



Egg mass of the highly invasive and destructive Asian Gypsy Moth.

“Vehicle carriers are large ships, so inspecting them is a tremendous task for Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists, but a very necessary mission to protect our regional agricultural industries from destructive, invasive pests,” said Casey Durst, Director of Field Operations for CBP’s Baltimore Field Office. “CBP remains steadfast in our commitment to vigilantly protect our nation’s agriculture every day against the extraordinary threat posed by invasive insects and highly pathogenic animal and plant diseases that threaten our economic security.”

Asian Gypsy Moth and Khapra beetle are two of the most destructive insect pests in the world. Neither are known to occur in the United States.

According to the USDA, AGM poses a significant threat to our nation’s forests and urban landscapes. AGM are known to be extremely mobile -- females can travel up to 25 miles per day -- are attracted to lights, can lay egg masses that could yield hundreds of hungry caterpillars, and is itself a voracious eater that attacks more than 500 species of trees and plants.

According to the USDA, Khapra beetle is a destroyer of stored grains, cereals and seeds, and it presents a potentially damaging economic impact to United States grain and cereal exports if Khapra beetle was to establish in the U.S. It remains the only insect in which CBP takes regulatory action, even when the insect is in a dead state.

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY COLLOQUIA**

Fri, 25 September 2020, 12:00 p.m.
“TBA”

Dr. Marcia Shofner (Senior Lecturer, Department of Entomology, University of Maryland, College Park)

Fri, 2 October 2020, 12:00 p.m.
“TBA”

Dr. Michael Roswell (Espindola Lab, Department of Entomology, University of Maryland College Park)

Fri, 9 October 2020, 12:00 p.m.

“Sweet corn sentinel monitoring for Lepidopteran resistance to Bt toxins”

Dr. Galen Dively (Professor Emeritus, Department of Entomology, University of Maryland College Park)

Fri, 16 October 2020, 12:00 p.m.

“TBA”

Dr. Sean Brady (National Museum of Natural History)

Fri, 23 October 2020, 12:00 p.m.

“Morphological character evolution in Dryophthorinae (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)”

Dr. Lourdes Chamorro (Research Entomologist, USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory/Smithsonian Institute)

Entomology colloquia can be accessed through this zoom link: <https://umd.zoom.us/j/92018210735?pwd=L3VWcXZDUXBzNzIzWEVXbjd4RkdLdz09>.

For additional information, go to:

<http://entomology.umd.edu/seminar-schedule.html>

**ANNOUNCING RAINFOREST XPRIZE
COMPETITION**

Rainforest XPRIZE is a five-year \$10 Million competition aimed at innovating and revolutionizing autonomous technologies that rapidly survey tropical rainforest biodiversity to inform conservation. I recently started working as the Technical Lead of this endeavor, and I wanted to share introductory materials with you while we are in the early phases.

XPRIZE is a non-profit based in Los Angeles, California that specializes in multi-million-dollar global prize competitions to solve the world’s biggest challenges. To date, XPRIZE has awarded over \$75 Million in prizes across the domains of Exploration, Environment, and Equity.

Attached is a brief overview of the Rainforest XPRIZE. This is also available in Spanish, Portuguese, and French upon request. General competition guidelines can be found [here](#), which will be updated in more detail later this year in the release of our Rules and Regulations. Lastly, here you can watch a promotional [video](#). Team recruitment will be open until March 2021, with periods of international field testing in the years to come.

2019/2020 PROPOSED MES EVENT SCHEDULE

Regular MES lecture/meetings are held at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) on the 3rd Friday of each of 6 months coinciding with UMBC’s academic year. Proposed events for the upcoming MES membership year are:

Oct 18: The Love Bugs screening

Nov 15: James Butler (US Army) – Entomology in the

US Military
Feb 21: Dr. Ken Belt (UMBC) – Aquatic Insects
Mar 20: CANCELLED
Apr 17: CANCELLED
May 15: CANCELLED
Sep: Member's Picnic CANCELLED

And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft,
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

**OCT 2019-SEP 2020 MES MEMBERSHIP YEAR
OFFICERS**

President	Frederick Paras
Vice President	Philip J. Kean
Secretary	Janet A. Lydon
Treasurer	Edgar A. Cohen, Jr.
Historian	(vacant)
Faculty Sponsors	Frank E. Hanson
Journal Editor	Eugene J. Scarpulla
E-newsletter Editors	Aditi Dubey

SUBMITTAL DEADLINES

October 2020 issue of the *Phaëton*:

Please send member news items by 9th October 2020.
Send e-newsletter drafts to Addie at aditid26@gmail.com.

September 2021 issue of *The Maryland Entomologist*:

Please send first drafts of articles and notes by 1 April 2021.
Send drafts to Gene Scarpulla at ejscarp@comcast.net.

**TO AUTUMN
By John Keats**

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings, hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,--
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,