

Boletín de la Asociación Mexicana de Sistemática de Artrópodos

AMXSA



PRESENTACIÓN

Por **ALEJANDRO ZALDÍVAR RIVERÓN**

Presidente de la AMXSA
azaldivar@ib.unam.mx

Estimados compañeros,
en esta presentación del primer número del año 2020 de nuestro Boletín de la AMXSA quiero hacerles saber nuestro deseo por que todos ustedes y sus seres queridos se encuentren bien de salud. Han sido meses difíciles por la pandemia del COVID-19 que azota al mundo, en los que nuestras labores y vida diaria se han visto afectadas. Los estudiantes de licenciatura y posgrado de algunas universidades han podido concluir el semestre en línea, mientras que desafortunadamente en otras instituciones esto no ha sido posible llevar a cabo. Las salidas al campo, las estancias de alumnos tanto nacionales como en el extranjero, así como cualquier otro tipo de simposios, talleres y reuniones científicas también han tenido que suspenderse o cancelarse definitivamente.

En particular, nuestro congreso bianual de la AMXSA, que iba a llevarse a cabo en marzo del presente año, tuvo que ser postergado a una fecha aún por definir en el 2021. Lamentamos mucho esta situación. Esperamos que existan en los próximos meses las condiciones necesarias para que las actividades en docencia e investigación se vayan normalizando en toda la República Mexicana. Les haremos saber en su momento la definición de



una nueva fecha para el segundo congreso de la AMXSA, así como todas las situaciones relacionadas con la presentación de trabajos y las conferencias magistrales que se realizarían. También les comunico que debido a la pandemia no ha sido posible aún realizar el cambio de mesa directiva, incluyendo la presidencia. Esto también será atendido cuando lo permitan las condiciones de salud pública del país.

En el presente número del Boletín de la AMXSA contamos con temas variados, incluyendo la descripción de una trampa de luz novedosa para recolectar lepidópteros nocturnos, la emocionante reseña de una expedición a Baja California para recolectar arácnidos, detalles sobre un curso de ilustración científica en una institución de educación superior en la Ciudad de México, información actual sobre las luciérnagas de México, así como datos importantes sobre la biología y dis-

CONTENIDO

(da clic para ir a la página deseada)

[1] PRESENTACIÓN

[2] OBITUARIOS

[2] Dr. Norman I. Platnick (1951–2020) por L. PRENDINI

[4] Farewell to a good old friend!
¡Adiós a un gran viejo amigo!
por O. F. FRANCKE

[7] ARTÍCULOS

[7] Modificación de una trampa de luz UV para recolectar lepidópteros nocturnos por A. MERCADO-MARTÍNEZ, W. A. AGUILAR-GOYTIA Y M. M. LUNA-REYES

[11] En medio del desierto... Expedición aracnológica LATLAX 2019 Baja California: buscando a las arañas violinistas por A. VALDEZ-MONDRAGÓN

[17] Las avispas *Vespa Linnaeus* (Vespidae: Vespinae) y su *Goliath* la *Vespa mandarinia Smith* por M. L. ZURITA- GARCÍA ET AL

[20] Proyecto "Luciérnagas de México" por S. ZARAGOZA-CABALLERO ET AL

[23] Importancia de la Ilustración Científica en la enseñanza y la investigación por A. MERCADO-MARTÍNEZ

[27] EDITORIAL

tribución de la avispa asiática *Vespa mandarinia* (Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Vespinae), una especie exótica que ha sido objeto de noticias debido al registro reciente de ejemplares de la especie en el noroeste de EEUU y en la Columbia Británica en Canadá. Esperamos que disfruten estos trabajos, y

los invitamos a seguir colaborando con trabajos en los próximos números del Boletín de la AMXSA. En especial, queremos hacer un llamado a estudiantes de licenciatura y posgrado, interesados en el estudio de la sistemática de artrópodos para que se animen a presentar los avances de sus trabajos

de investigación, así como reseñas de expediciones o de grupos taxonómicos en este Boletín.

Les enviamos un cordial saludo, reiterando nuestro deseo de que se encuentren bien de salud tanto ustedes como sus familiares y personas cercanas.

Dr. Norman I. Platnick (1951–2020)

Por **LORENZO PRENDINI**

Curator of Arachnida and Myriapoda

Division of Invertebrate Zoology, American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192, U.S.A.

lorenzo@amnh.org

Dr. Norman Ira Platnick, Curator Emeritus at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), New York, passed on April 8, 2020, in Philadelphia, PA, after a tragic accident. He married the late Nancy Stewart Price in 1970 and is survived by his son, William Durin Platnick, and daughter-in-law, Rebecca Ehrlich.

Norm was born on December 30, 1951, in Bluefield, WV, where he grew up. Getting what he called a 'precocious start', Norm became a college freshman at the tender age of 12, receiving a BS degree at 16, MS at 18, and PhD at 21. He has remarked

that he lacked 'a high school diploma, having made it only through grade 7'! The world authority on spiders, Norm's lifelong interest began serendipitously while a teenager, majoring in Biology at Concord College, Athens, WV, as a direct consequence of meeting his future wife, Nancy, 'at Concord on October 12, 1967.' Their son, Will, maintains that his father's passion for spiders started because he 'tried to impress a girl.' Nancy, also pursuing a BS in Biology, had taken a course on arthropods and become fascinated with millipedes. According to Will, 'my mom was an excellent collector and, when she went out, my dad would tag along to spend time with her.' Norm was less successful at find-

ing millipedes but collected spiders in abundance and tried to identify them back at college. The rest is history.

After graduating from Concord in 1968, Norm moved to Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, where he was advised by Richard Sauer and graduated with a MS in Zoology in 1970, and finally to Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, where he was advised by Herbert Levi, and graduated with a PhD in Biology in 1973. He was appointed Assistant Curator in the AMNH Department of Entomology the same year, received tenure and promotion to Associate Curator in 1977, and promotion to Curator in 1982. He was awarded an endowed chair as Peter J. Solomon Family Curator of Spiders in 1998 and served in that capacity until retiring, whereupon he became Senior Scientist in Residence at the AMNH Division of Invertebrate Zoology (2010–2013). As an AMNH Curator, Norm took over stewardship of the Collections of Arachnida and Myriapoda from John Cooke, building on the legacy of Willis J. Gertsch to continue developing the spider collection into the world's largest and most taxonomically comprehensive, a global resource with over a million specimens and 4,000 types. Norm's arachnological expeditions to Chile, as well as Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Cuba, Ecua-



dor, New Caledonia, New Zealand, and Panama, were supported by \$4.3 million in research grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Geographic Society, and other foundations. As Chairman of the Department of Entomology (1987–1994), Norm secured two NSF grants that enhanced ongoing curation of the terrestrial arthropod collections, partially supporting construction of the insect compactor, followed by an instrumentation grant to acquire a scanning electron microscope for the AMNH. He also served as Chair of the Scientific Senate (2006–2008). In addition to his position as Curator at the AMNH, Norm served as adjunct professor at City College, City University of New York (1978–2014), and Cornell University (1988–2014), and as adjunct senior research scientist for the Center of Environmental Research and Conservation at Columbia University (1999–2014).

Norm was a prolific scientist, publishing almost 12,000 pages in 338 printed publications, including 42 monographs, eight books and two edited volumes over the course of his four-decade career. This exceptional body of work fundamentally affected several fields. His early works, including the influential book ‘Systematics and biogeography: Cladistics and vicariance,’ coauthored with Gareth Nelson, and seminal papers on areas of endemism, species concepts, cladistic analysis of linguistic sequences, and the history and philosophy of systematics, among others, were instrumental in disseminating Hennigian tree-thinking and phylogenetic classification, profoundly influencing systematic biology, historical biogeography, and evolutionary biology more generally.

In arachnology, the study of spiders and their kin, Norm laid the framework of spider classification and the Tree of Life early on, along with introducing new techniques, such as

scanning electron microscopy, and character systems, such as spinneret morphology, which forever changed the course of spider systematics. His prodigious monographic revisions and many smaller papers, on most of which he was sole or lead author, added 158 new genera and 2,023 new species of spiders (including many novelties such as *Neato*, *Oreo*, *Queenvic*, *Notnops*, *Nyetnops*, *Taintnops*, *Tisentnops*, *Paradysderina righty*, and *Paradysderina lefty*), vastly increasing knowledge of spider diversity on a global scale, and especially the poorly known fauna of the Southern Hemisphere, to currently more than 48,000 species. An authority on at least ten spider families, Norm described taxa in some 50 of the 120 families currently recognized, spanning all three suborders, as well as the arachnid order Ricinulei (hooded tick-spiders), in which he described a new genus and 12 new species. His contributions, together with the World Spider Catalog, which he created as a unified nomenclatural and taxonomic resource, and updated biannually over the course of two decades, elevated spiders to a unique position. Unlike most other non-vertebrate taxa of comparable diversity, spiders now enjoy a completely up-to-date, online, species-level taxonomic database extending from Linnaeus to the present. In recognition of his contributions, Norm was made Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2003 and received the Pierre Bonnet Award for Devoted Service to the Advancement of Arachnology in 2007, among other honors. Four spider genera, *Normplatnicka*, *Platnickia*, *Platnickina* and *Platnicknia* (= *Modisimus*) and 48 species of spiders, other arachnids, and a millipede are named after him.

Keenly aware of the threats facing biodiversity, Norm was actively involved in initiatives to address the ‘taxonomic impediment’ by accelerating the pace of species discovery



and description, including programs such as Systematics Agenda 2000: Charting the Biosphere, and received major grants implementing automated methods of species identification and description, and training the next generation of taxon specialists (e.g., the NSF Partnerships for Enhancing Expertise in Taxonomy). This vision culminated in the Planetary Biodiversity Inventories (PBI) and Revisionary Syntheses in Systematics programs which he co-developed during his tenure as Program Director for Biodiversity Surveys and Inventories in the NSF Division of Environmental Biology (2002–2003). In 2006, Norm put these approaches into practice on a global scale with his PBI grant on the megadiverse, microdistributed goblin spider family Oonopidae, involving more than 45 collaborating scientists in 12 countries worldwide. Over the course of eight years, using custom-built cyberinfrastructure, 1056 new spider species were described in 88 papers, increasing global spider diversity by 2.5% and moving Oonopidae from the 21st to the 8th most speciose family of spiders.

In addition to his role as fellow, president or councilor of numerous scientific societies, several of which he was instrumental in founding, and his service on copious editorial boards and scientific panels, Norm leaves a rich legacy in education. He advised or served on the committees of over 20 students and postdoctoral fellows,

many of whom went on to illustrious careers in arachnology and systematics, around the world, and delivered about 100 scientific lectures in the US and abroad. The original spider man, Norm promoted the old adage ‘if you wish to live and thrive, let a spider run alive’ via diverse media, including the highly successful *Spiders Alive!* exhibition (2012–2013, and again in 2015), two children’s books on spiders, several popular magazine articles, and online videos, such as ‘Seeking Spiders – Biodiversity on a Different Scale’, where he notes: ‘if we wish to conserve as much biodiversity as possible, then we need to pay attention not just to the things that are easy to see, but also to the ones that are not so easy to see and tell us much more about the planet.’

In his spare time, Norm enjoyed ‘another life’ as an art aficionado, the origins of which, like his obsession with spiders, were ‘entirely Nancy’s fault!’ While frequenting antique

shops with Nancy, who collected vintage eggbeaters, mixers and other mechanical kitchen devices, Norm became interested in the art of magazine covers, advertisements, and articles from America’s ‘Golden Age of Illustration’ (1905–1920), ultimately amassing a collection of over 6,500 pieces. Between 1998 and 2020, Norm wrote 27 full-color books and three articles on the work of various artists from this period, a labor of love, demanding considerable time and energy to self-publish, and was planning ‘at least as many more.’

Norm’s generous personality, fierce intellect, and indomitable can-do approach won friends and admirers across the globe. His motto, ‘The best is none too good,’ long hanging on his office wall and still seen on his Facebook page, speaks volumes about his attitude to his pursuits. When Norm first moved to New York, he and Nancy rented a ground floor apartment, on what was then a seedy West

80th Street, a block from his office at the AMNH. His friend and colleague, Toby Schuh, recalls ‘many a day when Norm would come to the AMNH at 2 or 3 am, do several hours work, and return home to have breakfast with his beloved wife before she left for work, returning to complete what for most would be a whole day’s effort.’

Acknowledgements

I gratefully acknowledge contributions and assistance from Will Platnick, Toby Schuh, Gustavo Hormiga, Martín Ramírez, Ricardo Botero-Trujillo, Lou Sorkin, Dave Grimaldi, Tim Crowe, Theo Blick, Daniel Gloor and Peter Jäger. An earlier draft was posted at: <https://www.amnh.org/research/staff-directory/norman-i.-platnick/in-memoriam> and formed the basis for an obituary published by the New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/17/science/earth/norman-platnick-the-real-spider-man-is-dead-at-68.html>

Farewell to a good old friend! ¡Adiós a un gran viejo amigo!

Por **OSCAR F. FRANCKE**

Colección Nacional de Aracnidos, Departamento de Zoología
Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, CdMx, México
offb@ib.unam.mx

Como ya muchos han leído en el Obituario arriba, el Dr. Norman I. Platnick, prominente aracnólogo, biogeógrafo y cladista falleció hace algunas semanas. Fue un gran compañero, colega y amigo durante muchísimos años, y su pérdida en nuestro pequeño mundo es irreparable.

Como antecedentes, yo inicié el Doctorado en Zoología en Arizona State University en febrero de 1971, con el Dr. Mont A. Cazier como tutor principal. El Dr. Cazier (=Doc!) fue Curador de Coleópteros en el American Museum of Natural History, Nue-

va York, durante muchos años. El Doc estudió el Doctorado en la Universidad de California, Berkeley, junto con el prominente aracnólogo y también Curador en el AMNH, el Dr. Willis J. Gertsch. En 1936, cuando esos dos locos eran estudiantes en Berkeley, organizaron una gran expedición para recolectar material para sus tesis (cicindélidos y arañas), y para revisar algunos ejemplares tipo—se echaron seis semanas en una moto, con redes aéreas y de golpeo, cajas de insectos, y frascos y viales con alcohol, etc., desde California hasta Chiapas por la Costa del Pacífico, y por si fuera poco se regresaron costearo el Golfo hasta Florida y subieron hasta llegar

a Nueva York. Después de revisar los ejemplares tipo necesarios en NY, cruzaron todo EE.UU. en la moto, para regresar a la universidad en California a tiempo para las clases.

Cuando yo inicié mi proyecto de doctorado con alacranes de la familia Diplocentridae, el Dr. Gertsch estaba en proceso de jubilarse, pero el autorizó el primer préstamo que yo solicité al AMNH. Él se retiró en Portal, Arizona, donde el Doc fundó la Estación Biológica del AMNH en 1956 y donde el Doc también tenía una propiedad y enseñaba un curso de trabajo de campo durante los veranos. En muchas ocasiones visite a Willis