

news and important announcements. First aid supplies are always available and the College nurse is in attendance at all times. A campsite area is available for students with families who would like to live in a tent for the session. Children of married students must be tended at all times."

Information on recreation opportunities, registration procedures, expenses (tuition, living, and fees), equipment to bring (bedding, clothing, field, supplies), general

regulations (parking, attendance, pets), field trips, and tuition credits were provided in the announcement.

Courses for the 1967 session were Materials and Methods for Teaching Nature, Genetics, Herpetology, Ornithology, and Ecology of Terrestrial Vertebrates. L. Harris taught genetics and herpetology, N. Tunnell taught Ornithology and Ecology, and other staff taught the materials and methods course.

## Shorter Contributions

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*PLAGIOGNATHUS REPETITUS* KNIGHT, A PINE BARRENS PLANT BUG NEW TO VIRGINIA (HETEROPTERA: MIRIDAE). — *Plagiognathus repetitus* Knight, a small (3 mm) shining black mirid of the subfamily Phylinae, was described from Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Nova Scotia (Knight, 1923). Since the original description, only Michigan (Knight, 1941), Ontario (Judd, 1960), and Quebec (Laroche, 1984) have been added to the distribution. This plant bug develops on cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon* Ait., Ericaceae) in Massachusetts (Franklin, 1950), and adults have been collected from another ericaceous plant, leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata* (L.) Moench), in Ontario (Judd, 1960). Blatchley (1926) mistakenly reported this bug's association with conifers, perhaps misreading Knight's (1923) original description in which he listed paratypes from Conifer, N.Y. Blatchley's statement apparently was responsible for the notion that the actual host plant of *P. repetitus* at Byron Bog in Ontario was a conifer, either larch (*Larix laricina* (DuRoi) K. Koch, Pinaceae) or black spruce (*Picea mariana* Mill., Pinaceae) rather than leatherleaf (Judd, 1960).

In Massachusetts cranberry bogs, overwintered eggs of *P. repetitus* hatch in early June, and adults are found from late June or early July until late July (Franklin, 1950). Judd (1960) collected adults in southwestern Ontario from July 10 to August 18.

The first Virginia record of *P. repetitus* is based on a collection in the Zuni Pine Barrens on 1 June 1996. Eight

adults and two fifth-instar nymphs were beaten from sheep laurel (*Kalmia augustifolia* L., Ericaceae). The adults are deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D. C.

Located about 7.2 km south of Zuni, Isle of Wight County, the Zuni Pine Barrens represent a unique Coastal Plain community that is part of the Blackwater Ecologic Preserve, which is managed by Old Dominion University. The barrens include the northernmost population of longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris* Mill.) in the United States, as well as several other rare or unusual plant species. Sheep laurel is a characteristic shrub of the plant communities referred to as the longleaf pine ridge and the pond pine flat in the Zuni Pine Barrens (Frost & Musselman, 1987).

The discovery of *P. repetitus* in southeastern Virginia extends the known range about 375 km southward from Lakehurst, N.J. Despite this plant bug's mainly northern distribution, which includes Nova Scotia and the Adirondacks of New York, this characteristic pine barrens species might have been expected to occur at Zuni. It develops on sheep laurel and other ericaceous shrubs in pine barrens communities in New England and Pennsylvania (AGW, unpublished data).

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species are nonetheless constrained by one or more major environmental variables (chiefly climatic) and occur only in those regions that afford the necessary niche specifications. On a previous occasion (1982) I noted the implausibility of cold-adapted spiders (e. g. *Araneus nordmanni* [Thorell]) being indigenous to southern Texas particularly if the record(s) came from a collection known to be replete with curatorial labeling errors. When any organism is recorded from a site that is both geographically and ecologically disjunct from its established area, critical examination of the documentation can often rectify the problem.

In his revision of the genus *Theridion*, H. W. Levi (1957: 71) examined material of *T. montanum* Emerton from a distinctly boreal range extending from southern Alaska to Newfoundland and south through the Rocky Mountains to northcentral New Mexico. A single spot was also mapped for southwest Virginia, on the basis of a collection cited as "Virginia: Grout's Mill, Stratton, Dickensen County (J. H. Emerton)". While there is no reason that such a species could not occur far to the south along the higher Appalachians, two points suggested incorrect labeling: the material was collected by a New England resident not known to have done field work in Virginia, and there is neither a Grout's Mill nor a place called Stratton in Dickenson County or anywhere else in Virginia. Levi himself noted that this "...may be an erroneous record."

Recently, while reading through some old literature about American centipeds, I happened to notice that the type locality of the lithobiid *Sonibius parvus* Chamberlin (1922: 316) was cited as "Vermont: Grout's Mill, near Mt. Stratton." Reference to several detailed maps of Vermont disclosed that the localities Mount Stratton, Stratton, and Grout's Pond are clustered in the westernmost part of Windham County, 17 miles (28 km) northeast of Bennington. Some kind of curatorial labeling error obviously occurred with the sample of *T. montanum*: a handwritten "VT" might have been mistaken for "VA", but how Dickenson County became involved is not clear.

Although this published record for *montanum* in Virginia is canceled, it remains entirely possible that the species could eventually be found, e.g., in the red spruce-balsam forest on Mount Mitchell, NC, above 6000 feet. Or, perhaps less likely, in the same habitat type at Mount Rogers, Virginia. Many other small arthropods are currently known in the southern Appalachians apparently disjunct from populations in the Adirondacks or White Mountains.

DELETION OF THE SPIDER *THERIDION MONTANUM* FROM THE VIRGINIA FAUNAL LIST (ARANEIDA:THERIDIIDAE). — Although many kinds of small spiders occupy enormous geographic ranges, possibly as a result of "ballooning" by juveniles, most



Wheeler, A. G. 1996. "Plagiognathus repetitus Knight, a pine barrens plant bug new to Virginia (Heteroptera: Miridae)." *Banisteria : a journal devoted to the natural history of Virginia* 8, 52–53.

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