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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: Curator Identification Co-operation - An idea

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Source: Wallace, I. (1978). Curator Identification Co-operation - An idea. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter*, Vol 2 No 1, 42 - 43.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1664>

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CURATOR IDENTIFICATION CO-OPERATION - AN IDEA

At an early meeting of B. C. G. , it was suggested that the newsletter be used to notify fellow curators of recent taxonomic changes and advances in particular groups. This suggestion was re-iterated by Graham Walley at the recent Manchester meeting where he called for a register of experts. The bibliography of British Lichens in newsletter number 3 was an example of the proposed assistance.

Curators build up a library of books and reprints for identification purposes. Most of us, particularly those concerned with invertebrates, specialise in one or two groups and can become very expert. The library of reprints, many of which take months to obtain via inter-library loan, becomes increasingly useful.

My idea for co-operation revolves around the easy access many of us have to photocopying facilities. It involves us assembling our most useful reprints on a particular subject into a package which could be loaned to a fellow curator. He/she would photocopy the package and return it promptly, preferably by return post. The donor would only be without the use of his reprints for a few days at a time, which is unlikely to be a serious inconvenience. The scheme could save us all much time and effort.

The B. C. G. newsletter would become the organ to advertise available packages. A brief list of the contents would enable curators to decide which packages to choose.

It could be argued that certain individuals and institutions will be put to a lot of expense sending out packages, but those individuals will normally be perfectly happy to identify specimens coming in, and consider it part of their duty. Supplying an enquirer with literature may prevent an identifier being swamped with large amounts of easily identified material, and thus prove a time, and therefore money, saver. Most of the items of literature in a package will be reprints from periodicals and thus less likely to breach copyright regulations, another possible argument against this idea.

As an opener to this scheme, I offer the following items for identification of caddis larvae. They are designed to bring Hickin's 1967 book on Caddis Larvae, which many people have access to, up to date.

- BARNARD, P. C. (1971) 'The larva of Agraylea sexmaculata Curtis (Trichoptera, Hydroptilidae)' Entomologist's Gaz. 22 pp 253 - 258.
- BOON, P. J. (1978) 'The use of ventral sclerites in the taxonomy of larval hydroptychids' Proc. of the 2nd. Int. Symp. on Trichoptera, 1977, Junk, The Hague pp 165 - 173

- BRAY, R. P. (1967) 'The taxonomy of the larvae and pupae of the British Phryganeidae (Trichoptera)' J. Zool., Lond. 153 pp 223 - 244.
- EDINGTON, J. M. and ALDERSON, R. (1973) 'The taxonomy of British psychomyid larvae (Trichoptera)' Freshwat. Biol. 3 pp 463 - 478.
- HILDREW, A. G. and MORGAN, J. C., (1974) 'The taxonomy of British Hydropsychidae (Trichoptera)' J. Ent. (B) 43 pp 217-229
- HILEY, P. D. (1972) 'The taxonomy of larvae of the British Sericostomatidae (Trichoptera)' Entomologist's Gaz. 23 pp 105 - 119.
- HILEY, P. D. (1976) 'The identification of British limnephilid larvae (Trichoptera)' Systematic Ent. 1 pp 111-120
- LEADER, J. P. (1968) 'The larva of Molanna palpata MacLachlan, and some further characters of the larva of Molanna angustata Curtis (Trichoptera, Molannidae)' Entomologist's Gaz. 19 pp 21-29
- ROSS, H. H. (1944) 'The caddisflies or Trichoptera of Illinois' (the family key to larvae only) Bull. Ill. St. nat. Hist. Surv. 23 pp 1 - 311 (whole work).
- WALLACE, I. D. (1977) 'A key to larvae and pupae of Sericostoma personatum (Spence) and Notidobia ciliaris (Linne) (Sericostomatidae: Trichoptera) in Britain's Freshwat. Biol. 3 pp 463-478.
- WALLACE, I. D. (1978) 'The larva of Limnephilus elegans Curtis in Britain (Trichoptera: Limnephilidae). Entomologist's Gaz. 29 pp 177-178.
- WALLACE, I. D. and WIGGINS, G. B. (1978) 'Observations on the larva and pupa of the caddisfly genus Hagenella (Trichoptera: Phryganeidae)' Proc. of the 2nd. Int. Symp. on Trichoptera, 1977, Junk, The Hague pp 207-214

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