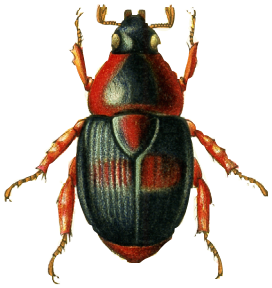

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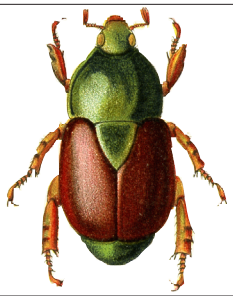

Kung ito umalingasaw, sila nasain lumapit.

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Xylotrupes on a String

by Ronald D. Cave

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The appreciation of beetles in Asian culture far exceeds anything most non-beetle enthusiasts will tolerate in Western culture. For example, beetles are a common food item on the menu. The first bite of food I had during my trip to Guangdong Province, China in 2006 was sautéed *Cybister japonicus*. It was on a visit to Thailand in October 2007, however, that I saw an example firsthand of how the Oriental culture views scarabs with admiration.

Thailand is a country known for some fantastic insect species, but I went there looking for natural enemies of the cycad aulacaspis scale. After examining the cycad collection at the Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden near Chiang Mai, we were headed back to town when our guide and cooperator, Dr. Amporn Winotai of the Thai Department of Agriculture, alerted the driver to pull off the road a moment. Dr. Winotai was already fully aware of my interest in Coleoptera, particularly scarabs. Being in the back of the van and thus not able to see much outside to the front and side, I was curious to know why we had stopped. Upon exiting the vehicle, there in front of me was a meager roadside stand of poles, thatched roof, and a few benches and dangling from horizontal bars were a great number of sugarcane stalks about 1-2 feet in length (Photo 1). Grasping each stalk was a living male *Xylotrupes gideon*! (Photo 2) I was struck with awe and delight because my host had stopped at a small business selling this marvelous dynastine scarab as pets. Each male had a piece of yarn tied to its bifurcate pronotal horn (Photo 3) and the other end of the yarn tied to a nail inserted into the bottom of the sugarcane stalk. Some beetles were feasting on the sweet sugarcane, leaving a small pile of powder directly below them.

Xylotrupes gideon is widely distributed in Southeast Asia and

Photo 1: The roadside stand. Photograph by Ru Nguyen.

Photo 2: Xylotrupes gideon on sugarcane stalks.

is not considered uncommon. A search on the Internet found a very large number of sites with images and notes about this insect, indicating it is a very popular beetle. Most of the *Xylotrupes* at the stand outside Chiang Mai ranged in price from 80 to 120 baht (about $2.50 - $4); the larger the specimen and its horns, the higher the price. One unique specimen had six tarsal segments on a leg, and the owner wanted $20 for him. The Insect Company (www.insectcompany.com) depicts a Thai specimen with 7 legs. No female *X. gideon* were for sale or even exhibited, maybe because they are "boring" without horns, but I preferred to think the businessman (Photo 4) left them in the wild so as to protect the perpetuation of the local population and the production of his livestock.

I picked out three handsome gentlemen, paid my money, and hung the treasures inside our rented van. Upon returning to my hotel room, I hung the stalks in a suitable place and then went to a local restaurant to feast on fried bamboo caterpillars and breaded grasshoppers (among other traditional food items). When I returned to the hotel, I saw beneath each stalk the expected remnants of sugarcane fed upon by my new friends. I admired my pets for a few minutes and then went to bed. About 4:00 AM I was awakened by a buzzing sound. I turned on the lamp light and lo and behold there was each male flying in a perfect circle below its stalk, still tethered by the yarn tied to the nail and its pronotal horn. This was fun to watch for a few minutes, but I had to sleep. So I placed each beetle back on its stalk and went back to bed.

We spent another day in Chiang Mai, so I left the pet beetles in the room to feed on the succulent sugarcane. Returning to the hotel room, it was obvious the maid had arranged the bed and swept

the floor; there was relatively little sugarcane dust below each stalk. I wonder what thoughts went through her head when she entered the room and saw my prizes. Curiosity? Disgust? Ambivalence?

Unfortunately, the time spent with my dynastine pals was ephemeral. Our return flight to Bangkok was very early the next morning, so with deep remorse I untethered each fellow and dunked him in a bath of ethyl alcohol. The three now reside in a unit tray at home, with a short piece of yarn tied to their horn.

Photo 3: Closeup of the yarn tied to the pronotal horn.

Photo 4: The proprietor.

Anonymous Contributions Gratefully Accepted!

By Conrad P.D.T. Gillett

In keeping with the stercoraceous theme set by previous contributors and so familiar to scarab collectors, I present one of my favourite personal stories.

In August 2007 I had the good fortune to be involved in teaching biodiversity fieldwork to a group of biology students in Amazonian Ecuador. Of the four entomologically inexperienced but enthusiastic students whom I was responsible for, I had managed to successfully persuade three to select dung beetles as the subject of their studies, citing all the good reasons outlined in Sacha's recent paper (Spector, S. 2006. Scarabaeine dung beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae): An invertebrate focal taxon for biodiversity research and conservation. *Coleopterists Bulletin* 60 (5): 71-83 Suppl).

Of course, I had purposely and possibly rather cunningly, kept quiet (despite some curiosity on the part of the students) about the exact source of the 'dung bait' mentioned in my project suggestions. It was only after the ink of the student's signatures had dried on their project proposal submission forms, that I let the cat out of the bag, much to their collective horror. They would indeed each be providing their own human bait!

And so, quite apart from my academic interest in their hypotheses and experimental design, I was equally concerned that they were well fed on a suitable diet and that each received copious nutrition – at least as far as the uninspiring field kitchen could provide! After all, each of their ambitious trapping protocols would require a not inconsiderable daily portion of fresh 'human perfume'!

As it turned out, two of the three students quickly got the idea and were soon merrily on their way, ensuring their traps were sufficiently provided for each day and soon they were amassing impressive trap samples full of interesting scarabs.

However the third student, Helen Cooper, required my help for the first couple of days in provisioning her pitfall traps with their pungent lure. Her dubious excuse: constipation! I insisted on carrying out the task myself as I constantly (and unnecessarily!) highlighted that to do this important job, it is infinitely preferable to use one's own rather than someone else's! After about four days of this malarkey, with Helen's 'constipation' seemingly very chronic indeed, my foot had to be put down (my bait

was needed elsewhere) and so she would have to source hers elsewhere!

Her rather ingenious solution was to place a large plastic pot next to the 'long drops', in clear view of all visitors to those facilities. On the lid was emblazoned a well understood, concise request: 'Anonymous contributions gratefully accepted'! This unusual charity-collection did the trick, as in no time at all an individual (or perhaps even individuals) had filled the container to the brim with fresh ordure!

And so now there would be no skiving! Helen was a good sport and split her prize into the 30 portions required for her traps, which she baited herself!

She certainly gained my respect as even I, a maniacal scarab collector, would shirk at the prospect of using 'someone else's' – there would really have to be a very good chance of finding rare phanaeines in the area for me to do that!

Through Helen's fieldwork we were able to get some excellent data, including some very interesting observations for *Phanaeus haroldi*, showing it to be restricted to open areas.

Phanaeus haroldi **Kirsch. Photo courtesy of Matthew Ellis (University of Edinburgh).**

Ecuador dung beetle team photographed in July 2007 at Bellavista, 2,300 meters, Pichincha province. Left to Right: Andrew Sinnott, Esteban Orellana, Pamela Rivera, Chris Jackson and Helen Cooper.

Paris Museum Restructuring

We thank Brett Ratcliffe for forwarding the following letter, and for providing the two photographs of the Paris Museum.

Dear Colleague,

For four years, I have been in charge of the Coleoptera Collection of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris. Everybody knows its importance concerning its volume as well as its historical and scientific relevance. This collection represents 52% of the total entomological collection of the Paris Museum and contains approximately 20-25 million specimens.

Despite an inadequate number of staff members, we have succeeded to work as well as possible on all aspects concerning access for visitors and the loans of specimens, often sent by post. As far as I know, all requests have been satisfied, except when problems of safety for the specimens occurred or due to the recent problems linked to electrical repair in the Entomology building.

Providing access to the collection for all the French and foreign specialists has always been my priority. The entire Coleoptera collection has been available to the scientific community. In this respect, we must thank not only all the scientific persons in charge of the various families of Coleoptera, but also the technician staff members whose work was considerable: Mrs. Azadeh Taghavian, Mrs. Isabelle de Miré-Gidon, Mr. Antoine Mantilleri and Mr. Guy Le Corvec have greatly contributed to the well-functioning of the Coleoptera service.

Organization of the management of the collections is now in the process of a complete restructuring. There is now an autonomous technical service, independent of my responsibility, which is leading this new organization. Certainly we can look forward to this new reform, which - I guess and I hope - will increase the efficiency of the collections management. Nevertheless, I am not responsible for these changes, and I do not even know all their details.

Besides, there is a severe staff deficit:

In 1990, nine scientists were in charge of the Coleoptera Collection management. In 2002, there still were six scientists: Drs. N. Berti, Y.

Mary Liz Jameson and Andrew Smith at the Paris Museum.

Cambefort, T. Deuve, C. Girard, J. Menier and H. Perrin. Following the death of Dr. Nicole Berti and several retirements, there are today only two scientists: Dr. Olivier Montreuil and myself. Needless to say, the management of the Coleoptera collection will suffer from this understaffing.

Two years ago, Dr. Olivier Montreuil and myself accepted responsibility of management of some Coleoptera families which were in the charge of the retired staff members, such as Cerambycidae, Elateridae, Tenebrionidae, Cleroidea, Staphylinidae, "malacoderms," etc. In addition, Dr. Helene Perrin, though just retired, will continue to manage the Curculionoidea Collection. Nevertheless, some important collections will have no one in charge and their access could be closed: Chrysomelidae, Coccinellidae and the aquatic families (Hydradephaga, Hydrophilidae, Hydraenidae, etc.).

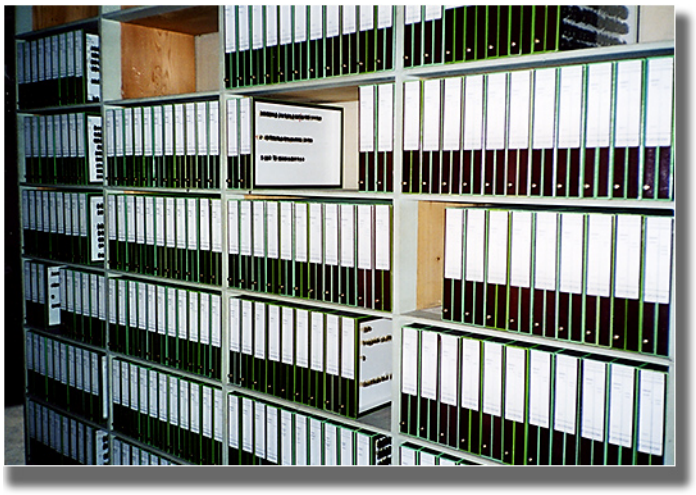
This is obviously an unsatisfactory situation to which we shall have to find a solution in the near future.

Today, I do not know what the future of the management of this Coleoptera collection will be. Some initiatives have already been taken by the new administrative structure to reorganize the rooms for visitors, to make a portal on the Museum website as the normal way for requiring any visit or loan, to prohibit all chemical products (pesticides) in the collections for health protection, etc. I hope for all of us a subsequent increase in the quality of the management. I am not resigning, but I have now only partial supervision and responsibility for the collection, concerning both its preservation and its management.

With my best regards,

Sincerely,

Dr. Thierry Deuve



A part of the collection of the Paris Museum.

Chromatic Variability in *Protaetia* (Cetoniidae)

by Olivier Décobert

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Protaetia aeruginosa (Linné) is one of the most beautiful cetonids of France. It is ordinarily green with golden reflections (Photo 1), rarely reddish. This species can be found in the South of France, but also in the Paris region, which is its northern limit.

I recently obtained, by exchanging beetles with an Italian entomologist, two interesting forms of this scarab. One is red (Photo 2) and the other is black (Photo 3). I must state precisely that this person breeds *P. aeruginosa* whose origin is Croatia (Velebit mountains), where chromatic variations are more common than in France. He obtained by selection, generation after generation, a growing proportion of these forms.

With scarabs that have "metallic" colours, one can theoretically have all the varieties which correspond to colours contained in the white light spectrum (radiations from violet to red, including blue, green, yellow, orange). In reality, several parameters like environment and genetics determine the colour effectively observed for a species. The microstructure of the cuticle is the cause of the colour of the

Photo 1

Photo 2

Photo 3

insect, because of an interference phenomenon which selects a domain of radiations going out of the cuticle and destroying the others.

In nature, melanism (Photo 3) is very rare, and is an extreme case. The radiation emitted from the cuticle are not in the visible spectrum (it can be infrared for example) and our eyes see a black (but shining) insect.

Curiously, there are species which are variable in colour, and others which are not. This is the case for another beautiful French cetonid (Photo 4) which lives in some regions of the South of France: *Protaetia mirifica* (Mulsant). I found this specimen in Païolive forest region of Ardèche (Photo 5), using a wine trap. For that species, there is no chromatic variability and the colour is always violet.

In a rainbow all the coloured radiation that compose white light (the spectrum) can be seen.

Photo 4: *Protaetia mirifica.*

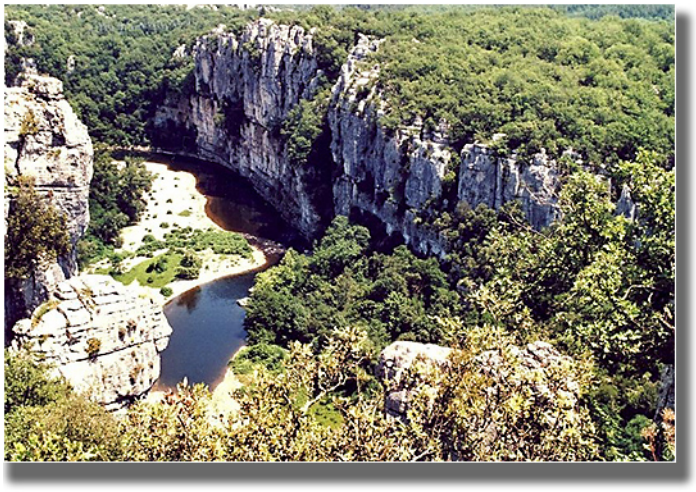

Photo 5: Païolive forest, habitat of *Protaetia mirifica.*

Extending Depth of Field in Adobe Photoshop CS4

by Barney D. Streit

Helicon Focus was reviewed in *Scarabs* #22, November, 2007, pages 5-8, and was given a favorable rating. For those of you unfamiliar with that article, what Helicon Focus does is assemble a stack of separate images, each taken of the same magnified subject, but each with a separate, narrow zone of focus. The final image rendered by Helicon Focus is sharp and in-focus throughout, which is impossible to achieve in a single exposure when the subject is magnified.

The latest version of Adobe Photoshop, CS4, now has the capability to do the same thing. How does it measure up? Is Photoshop as fast as Helicon Focus, and is the quality as good? I set out to find the answers.

First, you must load the images into Photoshop, each as its own layer. There are two ways to accomplish this:

1. From Adobe Bridge: Tools -> Photoshop -> Load Files into Photoshop Layers...

2. From Photoshop: File -> Load Files into Stack...

In the Layers Panel, select all the layers. Go to the Edit menu, and select Auto-Blend Layers... then click on Stack Images and also click on Seamless Tones and Colors then hit OK.

I have seen reports that Photoshop can cause fringing on the edges of the subject. It is possible that fringing can result when Photoshop tries to blend areas where there is no sharp focus. In other words, there were not enough images in the stack to supply Photoshop with all the information it needed in order to construct an image with everything in sharp focus.

For comparative purposes, I ran the identical stack of 13 images that was used in the aforementioned review of Helicon Focus.

The result was a bit surprising: It was the final Helicon Focus image, not the Photoshop CS4 image, that resulted in fringing. These images are shown on the following page. Differences in processing speed were minor.

In conclusion then, if you do not already own Helicon Focus, Adobe Photoshop CS4 will do a fine job. To be sure, it is more expensive, but it can do so many other things.

The Heliconfocus image. The arrows point to two small areas of fringing.

The Photoshop CS4 result. Note that fringing is absent.

SOLA - 2008

The 2008 meeting of the Sacred Order of the Lamellate Antenna, otherwise known as SOLA (see *Scarabs* #23, January, 2008 for a complete explanation) met in Reno, Nevada, during the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America. We take pleasure in reporting the lectures for the benefit of our readership.

Before the meeting even got started, there was a keen disagreement regarding which is superior: dynastines or rutelines? We think dynastines won.

Andrew Smith (poster boy for Crest® Toothpaste, and also of the Canadian Museum of Nature) again organized and moderated the meeting.

Statuesque Frank Krell of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science spoke on "Gems, Replicas, and Dung Balls: New Scarab Fossils from Africa, Asia, and Europe."

Paul Skelley explaining the SOLA Award. See *Scarabs* #28, June, 2008 for a complete explanation. Everyone was relieved that Paul was not carrying a loaded revolver this year, as he displays his empty left hand to the audience.

Mary Liz Jameson, now of Witchita State University, began her talk "Solomon Island Mysteries: Allometry, Development, and Variation in *Chalcasthenes* (Dynastinae)" with her back to the audience! Here she has a good laugh after Andrew pointed her in the right direction. We attribute this odd behavior to separation (from Team Scarab) anxiety.

***Scarabs*' own Bill Warner of Phoenix, Arizona gave "A Phenetic Tour of the North American Cremastocheilini." A heckler shouted that "*Cremastocheilus* isn't a scarab." Bill, as shown here, coldly stared the guy down, without uttering a word, until he left the room.**

Bill's tour was again interrupted when the microphone sprung a leak. He kept dry by plugging the hole with his finger until Andrew brought in another microphone.

Glenè Mynhardt of The Ohio State University, spoke to us on the "Phylogeny of *Cremastocheilus*: Musings on Morphology and Myrmecophily." This photo was taken at the end of her talk, when she told Paul to sit down, and that she did not want the SOLA prize. Presently, Glenè is in a not-so-friendly competition with Bill Warner for the title "Queen of the Cremastocheilines."

Here is Brett Ratcliffe of the University of Nebraska, warning the *Scarabs* editorial staff not to make him look "stupid." His talk, "A Biotic Survey and Inventory of the Dynastine Scarab Beetles of Mesoamerica, North America, and the West Indies: Review of a Long-Term, Multi-Country Project" won the SOLA Award for 2008.

Jesus Orozco of the University of Nebraska, lectured "On *Euphoria*," but could also have lectured on "How To Rape and Pillage Cetonids from Collections Throughout the West While Driving a Motorcycle."

Matt (M.J.) Paulsen of the University of Nebraska discussed "Nebraska Scarabaeoids." After seeing so many Nebraska scarabs for so long, he falls asleep after hearing even himself talk about them. Matt also helped organize the meeting. Now that lucanids are scarabs, Matt has many new friends!

In Past Years - XVIII - 1976-1977

by Henry F. Howden

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After my first sabbatical, I was content to stay in Ottawa, but winter cold and some requests from students made a trip to the tropics in February seem reasonable. After considerable searching, the field station at Rio Palenque, Ecuador, became the logical choice, both economically and as a place to house 25 people. The trials and tribulations of getting to and from the station and a few events during our stay have been mentioned in *Scarabs*, 2007, Number 20: 23-25, and they will not be repeated. The station was located in a small patch of lowland, west coast, rain forest; something difficult to find even then.

February was a wet month and it was fortunate that the station was built on pillars (Photo 1), leaving a large, open, dry area underneath where we ran our various bug lights. About half the time we were there it rained, often at night. Insects still came to light and, with everyone confined at the station because of the rain, there was a real "scrum" when something like an *Inca* arrived at a light. During the day Vince Nealis (who was associated with me at the time) and I looked for perching scarabs. We had seen beetles perching at Leticia on the Amazon, and wondered if perching had anything to do with locating their food. After the first day when we found a number of specimens perching, we measured how high above the ground they perched, and noted that small species seemed to sit closer to the ground. We then kept records for the rest of our stay (six days). A total of 170 specimens of seven species were taken perching. Both the height above the ground and the size of the beetle were measured and the results published by the two of us in 1978 in *Biotropica*, 10: 43-46. Small species definitely perched closer to the ground than larger species. We suggested that being close to the ground allowed the small beetles to detect small droppings, but this idea was debated for some years. I believe we finally won.

In general, all of us had reasonable collecting and enjoyed the warm weather, even when it was not sunny. Dung and fruit traps yielded

Photo 1: Rio Palenque Field Station.

a reasonable number of species, and it was a good introduction to the tropics (Photo 2) for most of the students. The one part most of us didn't like was the food. The two cooks seemingly were not used to feeding 25 people at a time, so meals were often late, and heavy on rice and beans. The last morning that we were there, we had a "special" breakfast which the cooks had spent hours preparing the night before. This turned out to be small circular pastries the size of cup cakes. Trying to decide what was in them was impossible; we asked the cooks, but none of us knew the word they used and, since none of the cooks could spell, we never found out. All any of us could say was it was one of the worst things any of us had ever tried, some of us suspected it was partly composed of one of their favorites - palm weevil grubs. So we left in the rain, hungry and wet, to start our trip back to Ottawa. On our return to Ottawa we found that a foot of snow had been added during our absence! Most of us were happy for our ten days of warm weather. By then enough work had piled up to keep Anne and me occupied for most of that year.

Photo 2: Dirt road to Field Station. Scenery reminiscent of Frank Hovore's wonderful video of Barney Streit's collecting in the wilds of the Amazon forest.

Photo 3: Cut over forest near Vilches Alto. Why some of the machinery was left is unknown.

In December, Stewart Peck and I were invited to join Luis Peña to collect in Chile. So with warm weather beckoning and mid term exams finished, we left Ottawa on December 7. We arrived in Santiago the next day and were met by Luis (nickname - Lucho) at the airport. Lucho had a large camper that would sleep four. One day was spent getting supplies and packing the camper. While still in Santiago, we were introduced to some interesting foods: sea urchin eggs and the muscles of giant barnacles which tasted like good crab meat. We also obtained a large bottle (perhaps four gallons) of white wine that turned out to have a slight vinegary flavor; we drank it anyway. The second day we left and headed south, every night camping in some secluded

forest that Lucho knew, usually in a valley on the western side of the Andes. There was one particular species that I wanted to collect, *Frickius variolosus* Germain, a Chilean oddity with questionable relationships (see photograph on page 21). Chile also houses many endemics and there were lots of other groups of interest. Our first stop was at Vilches Alto, Talca Province (Photo 3). It was a lumbering area, with numerous dirt tracks and still much uncut forest. I found *Bolborhinum* burrows in some of the dirt tracts, lucanids under cut logs, as well as cerambycids, weevils, a small snake and a number of unwanted scorpions and tarantulas. The evening temperature dropped around 10 PM to about 50°F, thus ending collecting; so much for warm summer temperatures! Two more days were spent in the area, with great collecting, several species of *Bolborhinum*, and several *Megathopa villosa*, one pair with a food ball of cow dung, another female with a brood ball containing a larva. It was great collecting, but still no *Frickius*. Lucho told me to calm myself, we would find them further south. The next area visited was Las Trancas, Nuble, (70 km. east of Chillan) near a spectacular waterfall (Photo 4). The camp was at an elevation of about 1,300 meters, cold and windy with patches of snow in the forest. I wondered what he thought we would collect there; the answer was more than expected, but no scarabs. That night there was frost and the next day we moved to an adjacent valley that

Photo 4: Camp site near Las Trancas. It was cold; so much for summer weather!

Photo 5: "Shangrila" camp. Note camper to right of building and ridge of lava to left.

Photo 6: Volcano that had, years earlier, furnished the lava for the ridge. We left before it added to the ridge!

Photo 7: "Someone's Folley" View from top of ski run with hut at bottom. A ridge of lava divides the valley.

Lucho called "Shangrila" (Photo 5). It should have been named Someone's Folly. The narrow dirt road into the valley crossed a rather high lava ridge, the road itself becoming winding and very narrow over the ridge with the smoking volcano (Photo 6) in the background. In the valley there was a completed ski chalet lacking paint and with the interior obviously unfinished. The hillside above had been cleared and a hut built at the bottom to house a ski lift. Although I never was a skier, the run seemed very narrow to me, it still was strewn with large rocks and ended in a very steep drop-off just beyond the hut (Photo 7). Apparently, no one had thought that, with enough snow to cover the rocks, the road over the lava flow would become impassable! This fact must have become evident before the project was finished, so there it sat, a nice quiet summer camp ground that no one visited. The problem, as I saw it, was that there seemed to be a lack of scarabs as well as skiers, the commonest arthropods being tarantulas. That night the volcano started rumbling and showed signs of erupting, so we left early the next morning; still no *Frickius*.

During the next few days we were rained out and there was little collecting. We all went into Victoria to get supplies and to make bus reservations for Stewart and me to return to Santiago on January 2. Lucho was to continue south with some birders he was to meet in Victoria the day after we left. After making our

reservations, we then traveled east on the road toward Villa Portales / Lonquimay (Photo 8). At about 1100 meters elevation we started to see large Araucaria trees and shortly thereafter I found the first *Frickius*, under a log! The next several days were spent in the area digging under horse dung; numerous *Frickius* were found under the dung, some with eggs in cells below the dung. The following day we collected cells containing third instar larvae that were similar to *Geotrupes* larvae: having reduced third legs, similar anal lobes, etc. This finding and the relationships of *Frickius* to other scarabs was published in 1982 in the *Canadian Journal of Zoology*, 60: 2713 - 2724. The relationships I proposed are still not accepted by everyone, as they prefer to use adult characters, rather than larval ones. Later, on Christmas eve, we moved higher to about 1,300 meters, 7 km. West of Villa Portales (Photo 9). Our camp was in a partly cut-over Araucaria forest and just after we arrived it started to rain hard! It continued to rain hard most of the night, our total beetle catch for that locality that day was nine beetles. The next day, Christmas morning, we decorated a small Araucaria with items at hand (Photo 10) and then moved to the summit of the pass at 1,700 meters. Collecting at tree line turned up the same fauna that we found at lower elevations, even a *Bufo*! We then started to retrace our way back toward Victoria. To our consternation we found that the hard rain had made parts of the dirt road nearly impassible

Photo 8: Near Villa Portales; area where *Frickius*, adults and larvae, were found.

for the camper (Photo 11). It took some time to navigate the washouts, but we finally arrived at one of our old sites at 1,100 meters. As we were having supper, about 7 PM, we suddenly saw a dozen or more large lucanids flying near a thicket of bamboo-like grass. Supper was abandoned, and there was a wild rush for nets and jars. The result

Photo 9: 1,300 meters elevation, 7 km west of Villa Portales, camp site with some *Araucaria* trees left uncut.

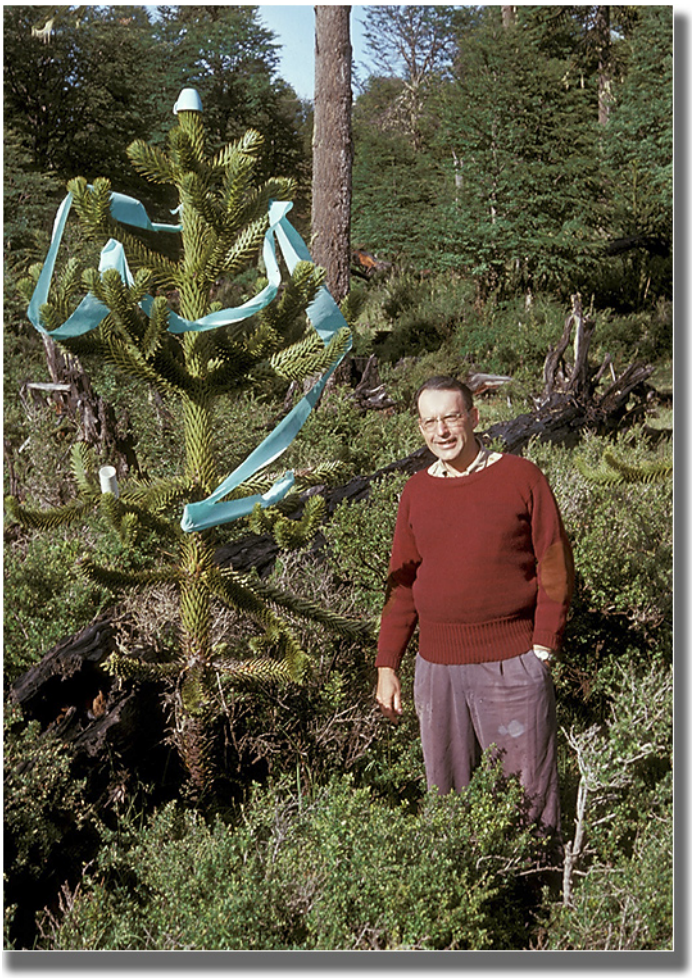

Photo 10: Christmas day with our decorated *Araucaria* tree; hard to see are some of the decorations like a tooth brush, car keys, note book and oil can (I had some dark hair then).

Photo 11: The road down toward Victoria after a hard rain.

was four lucanids captured, with Lucho bemoaning that he hadn't taken more; I collected only one male (Photo 12) that landed on me! According to him it was a rare species and very saleable. He later tried to get more with no success. The next day we moved to a field adjacent to the forest edge and a small stream in which we did some much needed laundry. While we were doing this, a small car came bouncing across the field, a man stepped out and said "Hi, Henry". For a moment I did not know how that person got my name, then I recognized Ashley Gurney, the orthopterist from the USNM. He had heard that I was in the area and thought it would be fun to surprise me; he succeeded! I had known him since my time as a student at the University of Maryland. We chatted for a few minutes, then he said he had to meet someone and left, bouncing off across the field. That was the last time that I saw him.

Our final camp in Chile was about 15 km. west of Victoria in a mixed forest with pastures nearby. We spent two days there, collecting at least one different species of *Bolborhinum*. As we were packing up, I found a dead cerambycid, *Chenoderus childreni*, near our camp. It was in perfect condition except for some chewing at the edges of the abdomen. It was one of the unusual Chilean endemics that I had hoped to collect. A few years later it vanished from my collection! On leaving, we followed a dirt track through the forest and in the middle of a fairly narrow section found a large tree blocking

the road (Photo 13). It had partly fallen, as was propped up by a tree on the other side. There was a space beneath it, but the camper was about a foot too high to fit under the tree. The tree was too big for us to move, and lacking a power saw, we had no choice but to dig out the road to a depth that allowed the camper to pass under the tree. Such fun, particularly as Stewart and I had a bus to catch! Lucho had to meet his birders and continue south for another month. After an hour with all of us digging we managed to squeeze the camper under the tree and made it to the bus station, somewhat dirtier than we would have liked.

The introduction to a Chilean First Class bus was a surprise. There were two drivers with a bed at the rear for one of them to rest while the other drove for an hour or so. Then there was a steward who served soft drinks and made sure that a large radio was tuned to music. Perhaps even more surprising was that the drivers generally did not exceed the posted speed limits. Several rest stops were made along the way before we reached Santiago about 7:30 PM. We checked into a hotel, ate a great Chinese meal and caught our flight back to Ottawa the next day, January 3, 1977.

Photo 12: The lucanid that interrupted supper!

Photo 13: Stewart trying to decide how to get the camper under the partly fallen tree.

***Frickius variolosus* Germain. This photograph is courtesy of Andrew Smith, who took it in Chile in 2006.**

Coenonycha ampla Cazier, 1943

by The Editors

Coenonycha ampla Cazier was described when Cazier and McClay revised the genus: A Revision of the Genus *Coenonycha* (Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae): *American Museum Novitates*, Number 1239, July 19, 1943. It feeds on *Juniperus californica* Carrière, as shown in these photographs. The data are: U.S.A.: California, San Bernardino County, vicinity of I-15, 1.5 road miles north of Oak Hills Road, 6-III-1989. This species is one of the larger species of the genus.