

BITS & PCES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PACIFIC COAST ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 227

February 2012

Editor: Deanna Jackson

The Pacific Coast Entomological Society will meet at
8 PM on **FRIDAY, February 17, 2012**,
in Room 2063, Valley Life Sciences Building,
University of California, Berkeley

Darko Cotoras

University of California, Berkeley,
will present a talk entitled:

*"Biogeographic and phylogenetic relationships of terrestrial invertebrates from
Robinson Crusoe Island, Juan Fernández Archipelago"*

Pre-Meeting Dinner

The pre-talk dinner (6:00pm) will be at Le Régal Vietnamese Restaurant, 2126 Center St., less than one block west of campus near the Shattuck and Center St. intersection. We will meet on the north side of the VLSB at 5:45 p.m. and walk to the restaurant or you can meet us there. RSVP by 17 February by sending a message to Pete Oboyski at poboyski@berkeley.edu.

Pan-Pac Back Issues Available

Due to space considerations, the Essig Museum is clearing out much of their literature collection. This includes a large number of back issues of the Pan-Pacific Entomologist journals. If you have an interest in any of these issues, please contact Bob Zuparko to arrange a time to come see what is available. Bob would like to organize the visits so that they all occur on the same day. If you have only one or two issues that you are looking for, he may be able to check that for you. Unfortunately, there is no list of available issues, so if you want more than a couple back issues, you will have to dig through the stock that is currently being housed at the Clark Kerr campus. You can reach Bob at rz@berkeley.edu.

New Factor in Colony Collapse

There are a number of different factors that entomologists suspect contribute to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) in honey bee hives across North America. CCD is characterized by a loss of hives, and the behavior of hive abandonment. So far, the main suspects in CCD have been parasitic mites, fungal parasites, and viral diseases. Though viral diseases and fungal infections vectored by the mites likely increase mortality in the hives, they have not been shown to have an effect on the behavioral changes that lead to hive abandonment. Recently, researchers at SFSU, UCSF, and LACM have isolated another factor in CCD, a phorid fly, *Apocephalus borealis*, a native to North America, and a known parasite of bumble bees and paper wasps. The genus *Apocephalus* includes the well-known "decapitating" flies that parasitize a variety of ant species. *A. borealis* has apparently adapted to honey bees as a new host. Female *A. borealis* flies have been observed pursuing bees and ovipositing into the bees' abdomens. Infected bees became nocturnally active, left the hive and were attracted to lights. The full article can be found here: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0029639>