Virtual Issue:
Larval information in entomological systematics

Systematic Entomology

The preparation of this 'virtual' issue of *Systematic Entomology* is timed to coincide with a symposium on the *Immature Stages in Insect Systematics* at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Reno, Nevada, 2008. Moderated and organised by Caroline Chaboo, University of Kansas, USA and Yves Alarie, Laurentian University, Canada, this topical theme reminds us of the importance of the 'baby bugs' in entomological studies. The theme of this issue of *Systematic Entomology* and the ESA symposium, concerns the incorporation into systematic studies of life history stages that have been ignored or of limited previous use in entomological systematics. The collected papers, and symposium presentations, emphasise characters of immature stages and their incorporation into phylogenetic analyses, providing many new insights. With the growth of molecular diagnostics, we can expect to see great advances in the association of many more immature stages with their better-known adults, and undoubtedly the generation of new ideas on relationships that were based previously only on the adult semaphoronts. The editors of *Systematic Entomology* will be happy to see the results of such research appearing in future issues of the journal.

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