Assemblée mensuelle du 2 décembre 1987
Maandelijkse vergadering van 2 december 1987

Admissions / Toelatingen:

M. Hubert BRUGE, rue Jean Blockx 15, 1030 Bruxelles, est présenté comme membre associé par MM. J. DELIGNE et J. PASTEELS. M. BRUGE étudie les Staphylinides.

Communications / Mededelingen:

1. MM. M. ROUARD et N. MAGIS nous communiquent que la Régie des Postes a émis le 29 septembre 1986, une série de quatre timbres-poste spéciaux, dénommée « Personnalités belges », consacrés respectivement au 100e anniversaire de la naissance du peintre et sculpteur Constant PERMEKE, au fondateur de notre Société, le Baron Michel-Edmond de SELYS-LONGCHAMPS, au 100e anniversaire de la naissance de l'écrivain Félix TIMMERMANS et au poète Maurice CARÊME.

2. Dhr. P. GROOTAERT doet de volgende mededeling.

Some **Medetera** (Diptera, Dolichopodidae) associated with Scolytidae (Coleoptera) from elms

by P. GROOTAERT, G. HAGHEBAERT and M. POLLET

Larvae of *Medetera* are well known predators on larvae of Scolytidae and thus can be important in the biological control of these bark beetles. The Dutch elm disease, caused by a fungus and transmitted by Scolytidae, is still a serious problem in Belgium. Several elms died in Ostend during 1986. Therefore we were interested to see which *Medetera* species were associated with which Scolytidae.

In April 1987, bark was removed from cut elm trees from the Maria Hendrika park in Ostend. At the moment of removal of the bark, no adult beetles or flies were found. The bark was kept in a glass container at room temperature on a window sill in the laboratory. At the end of June all beetles and flies were removed and mounted for identification. The bark was examined for empty pupae which were found in the bore holes of the Scolytidae. The respiratory horns of the pupae were protruding from the holes.

The following insects were found:

Scolytidae: *Scolytus scolytus* (FABRICIUS), 24 specimens; *Scolytus multistriatus* (MARSHAM), 16 specimens.
Tenebrionidae: *Hypophloeus bicolor* (OLIVIER), 16 specimens
Cucujidae: *Uleiota planata* (L.), 1 specimen
Dolichopodidae: *Medetera bispinosa* NEGROBOV, 7 ♂♂, 16 ♀♀; *Medetera feminina* NEGROBOV, 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀; *Medetera impigra* COLLIN, 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀.
Eulophidae: *Entedon leucogramma* (RATZEBURG), 9 specimens
Braconidae: *Dendrosoter protuberans* (NEES), 1 ♀

Scolytus scolytus and *S. multistriatus* are well known vectors of the Dutch elm disease. In the Netherlands five Scolytid species are known to live on elm: *Magdalis armigera, Pteleobius vittatus, S. scolytus, S. multistriatus* and *S. pygmaeus*. Only the latter three species are known to spread the virus. In addition, *S. laevis* is also known as a vector in England and Denmark.

S. scolytus is a large species and lives in branches with a diameter exceeding 7-8 cm while *S. multistriatus* can live in smaller branches.

As can be seen from the table, three species of *Medetera* are associated with the above mentioned Scolytidae. According to its size we suppose that the large *M. bispinosa* (more than 4 mm) feeds on the « large » *S. scolytus* while the smaller *Medetera* are probably limited to feeding on the smaller Scolytids. However, BEAVER (1966) found that *Medetera* larvae feed on whatever prey animal they can, even dead beetle larvae.

To our knowledge, only the study of BEAVER (1966) on elm in Great-Britain describes the association of elm Scolytidae and *Medetera*. He found 2 species of *Medetera* preying on *S. scolytus*: *M. nitida* MACQUART and *M. impigra* COLLIN. Although *M. nitida* is a valid species, we suppose that considering the size of the larvae his *M. nitida* are probably *M. bispinosa*, a species that was only described a year after BEAVER's study in 1967 by NEGROBOV.

1. *Medetera bispinosa* NEGROBOV, 1967 Belg. n. sp.

To our knowledge this is the first record in Belgium. It was described by NEGROBOV in 1967 from elm. The species was identified with NEGROBOV's key in « die Fliegen der Palaearktischen Region » and it should be noted that the figures do not correspond with the single figure of the hypopygium in the original description (NEGROBOV, 1967). The drawing of *M. bispinosa* has been interchanged with that of *M. stackelbergiana*. Since the description in Russian fits with the German translation and especially because a large number of drawings were added to the later description, we suppose that the latter is the true *M. bispinosa*.

2. *Medetera feminina* NEGROBOV, 1967 Belg. n. sp.

Also a first record for Belgium. The species was originally described from Voronesh in Russia. Not yet reported from elm.

3. *Medetera impigra* COLLIN, 1941.

A rather « common » species in Belgium and reported as to be associated with Scolytidae on pine (VERLANT, 1986).