

Fig News



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EDITORIAL

In the last issue we learnt that Steve Compton was moving back to England. Now Tony Ware will be taking up a research position with the citrus industry and this means that the South African fig team will be disbanding. Because of these moves this will be the last edition of *Fig News* from South Africa and Steve will be taking up the reins and assuming responsibility for its continuation from England.

Because of the increasing costs and uncertain future funding, we will have to try to limit production. Future editions will only go out to those interested parties who have returned the questionnaire or who have corresponded with us over the last 18 months. As the now sole editor of *Fig News*, Steve will be needing our help. Please provide him with articles, reprints from your recent publications, letters, conference notices, news items, etc. We would like to reiterate the objectives of *Fig News*: to provide a medium whereby those interested in fig biology can COMMUNICATE with each other.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Rhodes University for their financial support in getting this venture off the ground. Thanks to all those who have contributed thus far.

TONY WARE & STEVE COMPTON

LETTERS

SALLY ROSS writes:

As of early next year I will be a free agent, having unexpectedly (due to Steve's departure) completed a Masters degree as opposed to a PhD. Does anyone need, or know of anyone who needs, a research assistant, field assistant, voluntary worker, general dog's body.... or in fact anybody to do anything round about that time? - need a break before starting a PhD. I've been working on the community dynamics of the insect herbivores on *Ficus burtt-davyi*, a local fig species. I have a fair bit of field experience in Britain, S. Africa, Madagascar and Indonesia and would be happy to try my hand at more or less anything in order to broaden this experience! I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who has anything to offer or, failing that, any bright ideas. (Address: Department of Zoology & Entomology, Rhodes University, Grahamstown 6140, South Africa)

WILLIAM RAMIREZ B. writes:

All fig wasps (pollinators and non-pollinators, including leaf gall makers) I have studied and photographed with the electronic (sic) microscope have a gular plate instead of a postgenal bridge as noted in the book of Boucek (1988: 156). Neither a gula or a postgenal bridge is found in the pteromalid fig wasps. Thus, the Torymidae, Eurytomidae and Pteromalidae (the non-pollinating fig wasps) do not seem to be derived from a common ancestor as noted by Boucek (1988: 23). For the presence of a gula in the pollinators (Agaoninae) *sensu* Boucek (1988), see Ramirez (1991: 87).

Boucek, Z. (1988). *Australian Chalcidoidea (Hymenoptera)*. C.A.B. International, Wallingford.

Ramirez B., W. (1991). Evolution of mandibular appendage in fig wasps (Hymenoptera: Agaonidae). *Rev. Biol. Trop.* 39, 87-95.

(ANY COMMENTS Ed.)

