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Forum Herbulot

FORUM HERBULOT NEWSLETTER

*A newsletter for geometrid specialists*

# Practical information of XIII International Congress of Forum Herbulot 29 June – 2 July 2026, Finland

Dear Herbulotians,

We are happy to announce the program, abstracts, and list of participants for the XIII International Congress of Forum Herbulot.

We have 27 confirmed oral presentations covering numerous topics on Geometroidea, including: conservation, caterpillars, phylogeny, systematics and ecology. In this congress we have also included presentations on Lepidoptera of more general interest, a workshop on DNA barcoding and phylogeny, and a talk on insect outreach. The mid-congress excursion will give the participants the opportunity to explore the extensive insect collections and public exhibition of the Finnish Museum of Natural History, visit Haltia Nature Centre in Nuuksio National Park, and stop by the entomological store Tibiale Ltd. We believe the program will be engaging and full of cutting-edge news in the current research. The program has been circulated via mailing lists to members of Forum Herbulot, the Society for European Lepidopterology, the Lepidopterological Society of Finland, and the Entomological Society of Finland. It is also available on the Forum Herbulot website https://www.herbulot.de/

The Organizing Committee warmly welcome all visitors and look forward to seeing you

Pasi Sihvonen, Maria Heikkilä, Mikael Englund, Kyung Min Lee, Elena Kochanova and Hossein Rajaei

Enquiries pasi.sihvonen@helsinki.fi

# The Venue

The congress venue is Hotel Lepolampi in Espoo (southern Finland), a countryside location situated by a small lake and surrounded by conifer-rich mixed forests.

- Address: Kivilammentie 1, 02820 Espoo.
- Phone: +358 (0) 10 324 4840
- E-mail: myynti@lepolampi.fi
- Website: https://www.lepolampi.fi/yhteystiedot/





# Travel information

Hotel Lepolampi is located 33 km from Helsinki-Vantaa Airport. It can be reached by public transport (ABCD ticket, including train + bus 243, approximately 10 €) or by taxi (approximately 70 €).

For plan your travel, visit: https://www.hsl.fi/en

# Registration, congress package, day visitors

## Registration

Registration is open until the beginning of the congress; however, registrations after 1st of May will not be included in the abstract book. You can register by sending the attached form to myynti@lepolampi.fi Please write “Forum Herbulot 2026” in the subject line.

Accommodation prices (including breakfast and VAT)

- Single room 94 € /night,
- Twin room 120 € / night (60 € per person / night).

Cancellation policy

- 30–60 days before check-in: 25 % will be charged
- 14–30 days before check-in: 50 % will be charged
- Less than 14 days before check-in: 100 % will be charged

## Congress package

- Monday, 29 June: 58 € (lunch, afternoon coffee/tea, dinner, attendance fee).
- Tuesday, 30 June: 58 € (lunch, afternoon coffee/tea, dinner, attendance fee).
- Wednesday, 1 July (mid-congress excursion): 14,00 € (dinner included). Registered participants will be served lunch and coffee/tea for free during the excursion.
- Thursday, 2 July: 82 € (lunch, afternoon coffee/tea, gala dinner, attendance fee).

The full four-days package costs 212 €. Hotel will send invoices (accommodation and/or congress fees) to participants at the beginning of June.

## Day visitors

We warmly welcome day visitors. You may attend a single talk, a session, or a fully day without a prior registration. The attendance fee is 5 € per day only. If you wish to eat or have coffee, indicate those in the registration form. The hotel will prepare the amount of food and drinks based on registrations.

- Lunch: 26 €
- Afternoon coffee/tea: 13 €
- Buffet dinner (Monday-Wednesday): 14 €
- Gala dinner (Thursday): 38 €

# Scientific Program: Speakers and Topics

Note: Only presenting author is given here (full list of authors are available on the abstract pages)

## Monday, 29.6.2026

- Sille Holm (PLENARY LECTURE): Tracing hostplant specialisation in declining tropical forests
- Axel Hausmann: Lepidoptera collected during Forum Herbulot in South Africa and identified via DNA barcoding
- Feza Can: Contribution to the knowledge of the Geometridae (Lepidoptera) in north-eastern Türkiye
- Anne Duplouy: The hidden microbial diversity associated with Lepidoptera
- Paola Ancajima Georgette: A little-explored synapomorphy in Lepidoptera: the epiphyses and their variations in Sphingidae
- Gyula Laszlo: Integrative taxonomic revision of the genus *Rhodophthitus* Butler, 1880 (Lepidoptera, Geometridae, Ennominae)
- Mikael Englund: Quantitative image analysis in geometrid taxonomy
- Markus Rantala: Comparison of different LED light systems and how they attract geometrid moths
- Pasi Sihvonen: Overview of Finnish Lepidoptera: diversity, conservation, and research

## Tuesday, 30.6.2026

- Pritha Dey (Plenary Lecture): Traits and Tactics: How moth traits influence their ecology
- Giada Zucco: Plantations of the non-native *Pseudotsuga menziesii* as surrogate of *Abies alba* forests for Geometrids in Southern Italy
- Hermann Staude: The Lisima Wilderness Project, exploring geometrid moths in the highlands of Angola
- Chang-Gyu Park: Different responses of moths to environmental changes- a review at the family or subfamily levels
- Anssi Vähätalo: Defining the seasonal window of artificial light at night impacts on moths using 1.4 million records across Northern Europe
- Simeão Souza Moraes: Unveiling cryptic diversity: integrative taxonomy discovers eight new species of *Eois* moths and exposes biodiversity shortfalls in a Neotropical region
- Wendy Zhang: How can curiosity change the way we see insects? Creative approaches to insect outreach
- Reima Leinonen: The Lepidopterological Society of Finland
- Ida-Maria Huikkonen: Finnish moth monitoring scheme – national results regarding Geometroidea

Thursday, 2.7.2026

- Marianne Espeland (PLENARY LECTURE): High-throughput sequencing and museomics: A new era for Lepidoptera systematics
- Da-Hee Jin: A Phylogenetic Study of Korean Epipleminae (Lepidoptera: Uraniidae)
- Elena Kochanova and Kyung Min Lee: Workshop: The hitchhiker's guide to phylogeny: a practical workshop of DNA barcodes analysis
- Paola Ancajima Georgette: Filling gaps on the biodiversity knowledge in the genus *Agylla* Walker, 1854 (Lithosiini, Arctiinae, Erebidae)
- Leo Vähätalo: 101 new species of Coleophora (Gelechioidea: Coleophoridae) to Georgia (Caucasus) – what about Geometridae?
- Claude Tautel: Redefining Desmobathrinae and Epidesmiinae on a morphological basis (Geometridae)
- Leidys Murillo Ramos (PLENARY LECTURE): The structure of geometrid moth diversity
- Robyn Crowther: Unlocking a Global Resource: Digitising the NHMUK Geometridae Collection through DiSSCo UK
- Hossein Rajaei: The second edition of the world catalogue of the Geometrid moths is now online

# Four pieces of geometrid research made the backbone of Mikael Englund's PhD thesis

Mikael Englund

I defended my PhD thesis at the University of Helsinki, Finland, on April 24th, 2026. The dissertation was based on four recently published papers, where all the model organisms were geometrid moths from the subfamily Larentiinae. In two papers the field work locations were in South Africa, one in the Canary Island of Tenerife, and one in Finland. For all the research projects a team of experts comprised several herbulotians and other researchers in various roles. Here is a brief teaser for each paper with an open access hyperlink, should you wish to look at the complete stories.

We experimented with the use of micro-CT imaging in species description in a project that involved describing a large, conspicuous, putative new larentine species from South Africa. As soon as we got the barcode sequenced, we realised that we were not the first ones to attempt to describe this species as L.B. Prout made the first attempt some time at the early 1900's. We found his manuscript name on a label attached to oldest known specimen from the year 1894 in British Museum. However, he never published the description, which we did in this article:

https://resjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/syen.12627

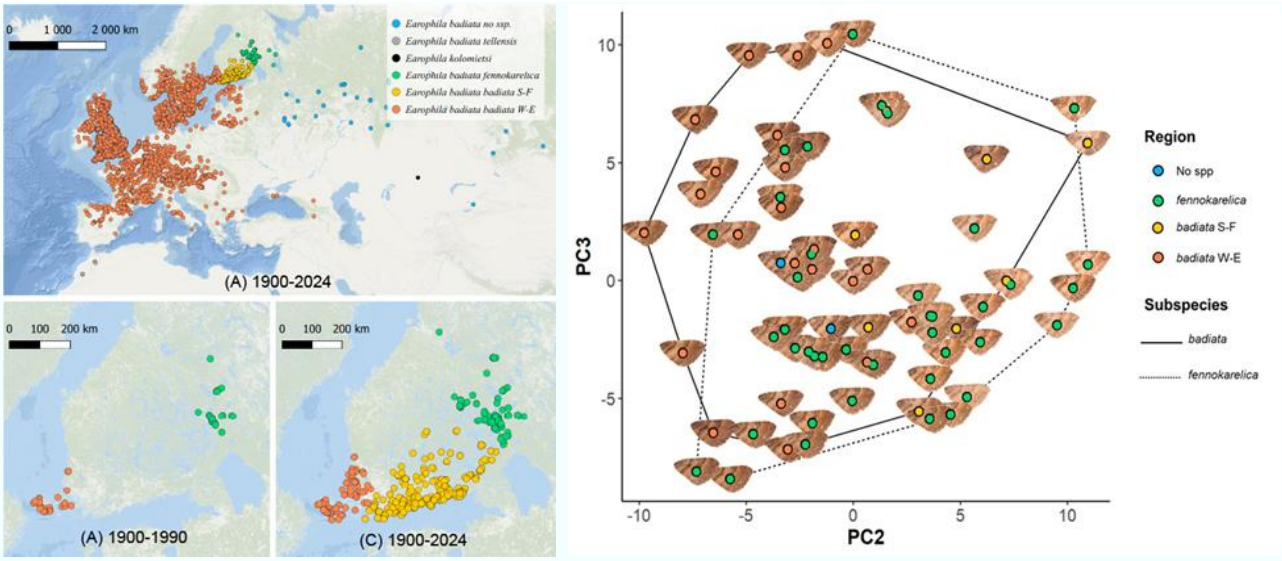
In the next project we also described a new larentine species previously mixed with another endemic larentine from the well-studied Spanish Canary Island of Tenerife. A photo of this species, baptised as *Atlanticola mystica,* appeared in the recommendable identification book "Mariposas de Canarias" by Marcos Baez from 1998, but misidentified as *Herbulotina grandis*. The whole story can be found here:

https://shilap.org/revista/article/view/1052/3247

The shoulder stripe moth *(Earophila badiata)* rather rapidly colonised a 400 km wide gap between two allopatric subspecific populations in Finland from the 2010's on. We wanted to study the nature and population dynamics of this event but were unable to separate the subspecific taxa involved with certainty. This led to revision of the entire species group and the experimentation of quantitative forewing image analysis for the first time in geometrid taxonomy. The quantitative image analysis yielded also other interesting results not readily quantifiable "by the eye". The whole story can be accessed here:

https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.20620


Left: The oldest known specimen of *Chloecolora vergetaria* from 1894. Center: John Brown and Hermann Staude erecting a trap to collect more specimens during our post congress excursion of XII Forum Herbulot in South Africa: Mpumalanga. Right: A specimen emerged from the larvae found from the *Sclerochiton harveyanus* bush right behind Hermann's back in the previous photo.

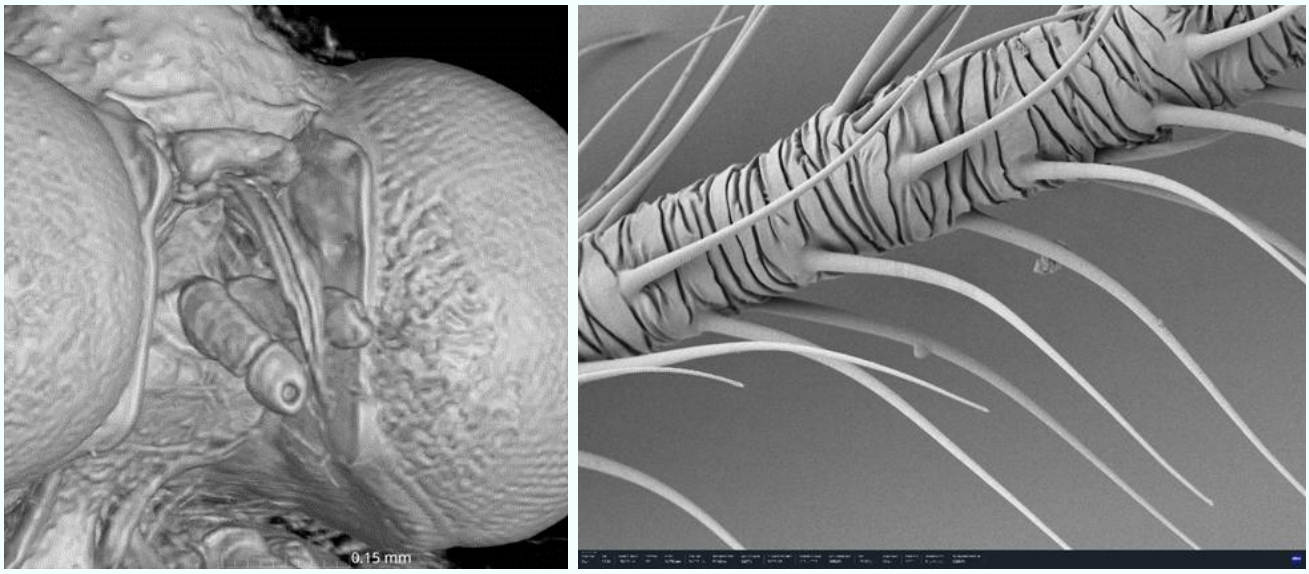



*Earophila badata* colonised rapidly Southern Finland from 2010 on, and the forewings tend to become paler and less contrastic on average the further to the east and north the specimens originate. However, the intraspecific forewing variation is considerable.

In the final article we discover and describe a new genus *Fynbosia* belonging to Larentiinae, and two new species, *F. horingaria* and *F. unicaria* from the South African Cape province. We found the first specimen in a rather surprising manner from our bathroom window during a field trip in 2022. Just seven specimens of these moths are known as we found no more specimens in several major collections. You can take a look at the micro-CT video of the odd proboscis and labial palpi, SEM images of the unproportionally large antenna, and the entire story here:

https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.1267.174407

Several herbulotians scored their academic "firsts" with this project: Pasi Sihvonen as principal supervisor, Kyung Min Lee and Leidys Murillo Ramos as supervisors, Sei-Woong Choi as opponent, and I as defendant. I cordially thank them and several others, who contributed as co-authors.




Micro-CT image of the vestigial proboscis and labial palpi (left) and a SEM image of the crumpled cuticula of the ramus of the antenna (right) of *Fynbosia horingaria*.