

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### The Agromyzidae Collection in the Natural History Museum of Morbegno (Italy) Actual motivations

I began studying the Agromyzidae on the occasion of my PhD thesis when my Master Minos Martelli Full Professor of Agricultural Entomology, advised me to take a census of horticultural crops-infesting insects around Milan and when especially I came across *Ophiomyia pinguis* (Fallen) whose larvae use to develop in chicory, the also called "Milan radicchio".

I studied their biology, I noticed that few researchers before had shown interest in the study of Italian Agromyzidae, therefore I started dedicating myself to the collection and the classification of these Diptera.

But now, being myself retired as full professor from university since several years, I can't study anymore these insects and so, I decided to leave the collection, sorted by 20 boxes and supplemented with microscope slides, to whom will certainly be able to store the finds.

As concerns these insects they are more than 200 species, collected mostly in Italy; many of them derive from the researches carried out with Ivana Moreschi, operating mostly in Valcamonica (Lombardy), to whom goes my sincerest thanks for the high precision indicating every location where she did the research and for her precious work sustaining the researches on leaf miners Agromyzidae. In other cases, the finds derive from researches carried out in Greece, in collaboration with Costaninos Souliotis.

I could describe three new species to science, but many other ones, about one hundred and fifty species, were the first report for their presence in Italy.

The collection therefore includes numerous dry specimens, other ones are put in little, specific phials containing 70% ethylic alcohol. There are also some dry plants attacked by leaf miners.

96 microscope slides are part of the collection and are stored in a specific wooden box (figure 1) with internal metal shelves. The Microscope slides are disposed in 6 regular lines, thanks to the work of Paola Girgenti and Renato Regalin. The microscope slides contain, although not exclusively, the structures of male genitalia of the considered species as well as several other parts of the Agromyzidae used for the classification. In some cases, the preparations cannot be classified because they are females.



Figure 1

I thought that putting all my finds in a Museum would be the only way to leave proof of the work done.

The Museo di Storia Naturale di Morbegno was established years ago thanks to volunteer entomologists' passion and it contains lots of insects belonging to very different systematic orders.

As of now the museum operates thanks to Giulia Tessa passionate care with financial support from Comune di Morbegno. The Museum constantly organizes several events, with young people keen to know about Natural Sciences in Valtellina.

Always alive are the memory and the support of Filippo Venturi, full professor of agricultural entomology at Pisa University, and professor Pierantonio Rota, employee at Ministry of Agriculture and working in Milan at the University Agricultural Entomology Institute, refined connoisseur of plant adversities. When I became assistant at the Agricultural Entomology Institute, I could dedicate myself to the study of several insects, in particular of Agromyzidae, thanks to the support of the already cited professor Martelli.

Thanks to him and to professor Venturi I came in contact with some European dipterologists of great fame who helped me effectively.

I now trust other hands the collection while wishing other researchers can continue the study and the researches on the numerous species of Italian Agromyzidae.

Luciano SÜSS  
luciano.suss@unimi.it



Museum address: via Cortivacci 2, 23017 Morbegno, Italy

Dr. Giulia Tessa: giulia.tessa@comune.morbegno.so.it

Museo di Storia Naturale: museo@comune.morbegno.so.it

Comune di Morbegno: cristina.tarca@comune.morbegno.so.it

tel: ++39 0342 612451

tel: ++39 0342 606211