



J. O. WESTWOOD MEDAL AND AWARD FOR INSECT TAXONOMY

- CALL FOR NOMINATIONS -

In response to the urgent need to expand the research effort in insect taxonomy and to encourage monographic revisionary work, the Department of Entomology of the Natural History Museum, and the Royal Entomological Society, launched a new joint award for excellence in insect taxonomy in 2006. The medal will be awarded biennially, for the best comprehensive taxonomic work published on a group of insect or related arthropods, typically a taxonomic revision or monograph, as judged by an independent international panel of experts and agreed by representatives of the two organisations. The award of this medal recognises only the highest standards in descriptive taxonomy. The winner of the first award was Dr Marianne Horak, Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO Entomology, Canberra, Australia, for her study of "The Olethreutine Moths of Australia" (2006, *Monographs on Australian Lepidoptera*, 10: 1-522, CSIRO Publishing).

We here announce that the third award will be made in 2012 and for which we now request nominations. The medal will be awarded for an outstanding recently published revision or monograph on a group of insects or related arthropods. The work nominated should have been published between 1st January 2009 and 1st January 2011. It is open to authors from any country in the world who demonstrate the highest standards in descriptive taxonomy in the work nominated. All interested in applying themselves, or in nominating another author, should submit a nominating letter, letters of support from two acknowledged experts, and at least one copy of the work by no later than 30 September 2011, to Westwood Medal, Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK, or electronically to j.westwood@nhm.ac.uk. We shall hope to announce the winner early in 2012 and to make the award at the International Congress of Entomology in Korea, from 19th to 25th August 2012.

The award has been named in honour of the leading 19th century British entomologist, John Obadiah Westwood (1805-1893). Westwood was the inaugural holder of the Hope Chair of Entomology at the University of Oxford, when it was established by the Reverend F.W. Hope in 1863. Westwood was one of the original group of founding members of the then Entomological Society of London in 1833 and served as President for three separate periods, 1851-52, 1872-73 and 1876-77. In 1883 he was elected to the unique position of Honorary Life President of the Society. He was a prolific author and published on most groups of insect and illustrated his own works, and those of many others, with his exquisite drawings and paintings.

Perhaps his most influential work was *An Introduction to the Modern Classification of Insects* published in two volumes in 1839, pp 1-462, and 1840, pp 1-587, by Longman, Orme, Brown, Green and Longmans, London. As a major appendix to volume 2 he added his *Synopsis of the Genera of British Insects*, pp 1-158. In this latter he first clearly established the concept of a type species for a genus, analogous to the type specimen for a species, and thus helped to provide a stable foundation for insect nomenclature. It is particularly appropriate that our award should be dedicated to this early pioneer of insect taxonomy.

Archie Murchie, Honorary Secretary, Royal Entomological Society
Andrew Polaszek, Keeper of Entomology, the Natural History Museum, London