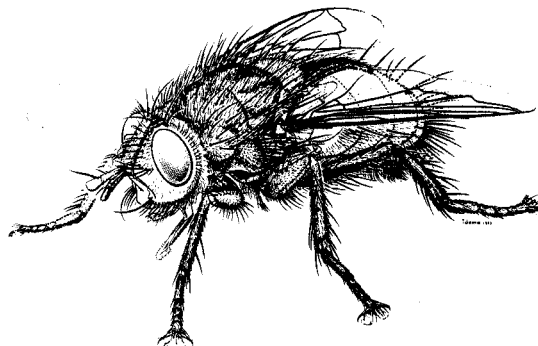


# The Tachinid Times

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First of all, I would like to thank all of you who provided information for this second issue of *The Tachinid Times*. Without contributions there would be no newsletter! I am pleased that the response to the first issue was positive, and encourage you to keep the newsletter going by submitting items of interest for inclusion in future issues. There is no set date for distribution of subsequent issues - when there is enough news for another issue and I have time to put it together, the next issue will appear. In addition to keeping me up-to-date on your current projects, consider sending information about the tachinid holdings of your institution or private collection (such as provided by Neal Evenhuis of the Bishop Museum for this issue), collecting trips, Diptera meetings in your region, or research notes that you do not plan to publish in a scientific journal but which might be of interest to other tachinidologists.

I would like to thank Monty Wood for his help with the first issue of this newsletter. Monty has withdrawn from active participation in the editing of the newsletter to devote his time to numerous other interests and commitments.

## **GOOD NEWS FROM BRITAIN (by Roger Crosskey)**

The Royal Entomological Society of London has established a special three-year Fellowship to produce a new work on the British Tachinidae intended to replace the late Dr. van Emden's rather difficult and now outdated handbook of 1954. The replacement work will be published, like its predecessor, in the Society's "Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects" series. Mr. Robert Belshaw took up the Fellowship on March 1st 1988 and is based in the Diptera Section, Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History). The idea is to break free of the van Emden mould and have new illustrated keys that can be more readily used by general dipterists, especially the large number of amateurs in Britain. If anyone has British specimens to be identified - well now's the chance.

## **DEXIA DECIDED (by Roger Crosskey)**

At last we can don the mantle of nomenclatural rectitude whenever we use *Dexia* for what virtually everybody has been calling *Dexia*. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has now issued Opinion 1475: "*Dexia* Meigen, 1826 (Insecta, Diptera): *Musca rustica* Fabricius, 1775 designated as the type species" (Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature 45: 74-75,

1988). It is good to have this miserable longstanding nomenclatural muddle resolved at last. The vote was 21 in favour and 1 against (Commissioner Lehtinen of Finland, but no reason given). However, tachinidologists must still bear in mind that if they include *Dufouria* in Dexiinae then technically the family group name should be Dufouriinae - a reason why Crosskey pragmatically kept Dufouriinae separate from Dexiinae in the Afrotropical Diptera catalogue and other publications. (Opinion 1475 is unrelated to the family-group name validity question.)

## THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF DIPTEROLOGY

I have just received (Feb. 1989) the First Circular about the Dipterology Congress, which will be held 27 August - 1 September 1990 in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. I was unable to attend the first Congress but have heard from some who went that it was a most rewarding experience. If you have not received the First Circular about the upcoming Congress and would like to be placed on the mailing list for Congress information, contact Dr. Ladislav Jedlička, 2nd International Congress of Dipterology, c/o Department of Zoology, Comenius University, Mlynská dolina, CS-842 15 Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

**Peter Adler** — Peter has extensive experience preparing and interpreting polytene chromosomes, particularly among black flies. Information gleaned from such studies can be used in phylogenetic analyses and to help sort out sibling species that are virtually indistinguishable morphologically (though usually different ecologically). Peter attempted to study the polytene chromosomes of some larval tachinids but found them unsuitable for analysis. Peter continues to study *Heliothis* and the reproductive behavior of *Eucelatoria bryani*.

**Stig Andersen** — Stig continues to work on his book on Scandinavian tachinids, to be published in the series *Fauna ent. scand.* Recently, Stig's revision of the European *Phytomyptera* appeared in *Ent. scand.*; included was an interesting discussion of the internal structures of the distiphallus of some species, accompanied by illustrations, photographs and SEM's. Stig has similarly studied the distiphallus of some other tachinids and hopefully will publish some of his findings at a future date. Last year, in late April, Stig collected in Tunisia. On a previous trip to Tunisia (mid March 1986) he was too early for good collecting as there was still the occasional frost, while on this latest trip he was too late and most of the vegetation had died from the heat! Nevertheless, he was able to collect some undescribed species, including at least one each of *Eloceria*, *Triarthria*, *Peribaea*, *Linnaemyia*, *Nilea* and *Wagneria*. Numerous specimens of normally rare species were also collected, e.g. *Brachychaeta petiolata*, *Plesina phalerata* and *Minthodes numidica*. Many tachinids (and most other flies) were found hiding in caves on very warm days and some species were only collected by light traps (e.g. *Istochoeta*). The species *Mintho compressa* (F.) was observed in the Sahara desert hiding in rodent nests and apparently only active in the evening. The best represented groups of calyprate flies in Tunisia, judging from the two trips, were beetle parasitoids and rhinophorids.

**Robert Belshaw** — Robert has taken on the task of producing a new handbook to the British Tachinidae, as announced above by Roger Crosskey. Anyone who has British specimens in their collection is asked to contact Robert - he is particularly interested in borrowing specimens of certain species that are not well represented in the BMNH collection (a list of these will be sent by Robert upon request). Host records for British Tachinidae are also being sought. A rough draft of the new key to British tachinids will be completed soon. The key will be available to anyone interested in trying it and commenting on it.

**Christer Bergström** — Christer became interested in tachinids in 1976 during entomological studies at the University of Uppsala. Since that time, all tachinid studies and collections have been carried out in his spare time. Christer has a private collection of more than 5000 specimens (mostly from Sweden) representing more than 200 species. Interests include systematics, host-parasite relationships and distribution of Fennoscandian Tachinidae. A manuscript in preparation is entitled "*Cerantheria*

*lichtwardtiana* Vill. (Dipt., Tachinidae) bred from *Geina didactyla* (L.) (Lep., Pterophoridae)". A long term goal is to revise the European species of *Gymnosoma*, based on comparative studies of the male and female genitalia.

**Bryan Cantrell** — The last part of Bryan's Ph.D. thesis was published in the latter part of 1988 - a large and valuable study on the male and female genitalia of Australian tachinids. Also included in that work is a fairly extensive survey of first instars and some information about puparia. The paper took more than two years to be published after final acceptance, so some important contributions by others that one might have expected to see discussed (e.g. Tschorsnig's study of male genitalia) were actually published after Bryan's paper was written. Bryan's responsibilities in the Entomology Branch have expanded since his thesis was completed, reducing the amount of time available for tachinid research. Nevertheless, he has recently completed a revision of the Australian species of *Winthemia* (which seem to be as difficult in Australia as elsewhere) and will soon see publication of his chapter (with Crosskey as coauthor) on tachinids in the upcoming "Catalogue of the Diptera of the Australasian and Oceanian Regions".

**Raúl Cortés** — Raúl is now keeper of the Collection of Diptera at the "Universidad Metropolitana de Ciencias de la Educación" in Santiago, where his time is almost entirely devoted to research and directing theses. He is still a retired Professor of Entomology at the State University (Casilla 1004), but has few important responsibilities left there. Raúl has recently become the editor of *Acta Entomologica Chilena*. For the past three years Raúl has been the Advising Entomologist to Project Insects associated with Tamarugo (*Prosopis tamarugo*) in the pampa above Iquique (in the northern desert of Chile). A number of unrecorded or undescribed tachinids have been collected from this unusual habitat.

**Roger Crosskey** — Roger regards his tachinid days as essentially over. Though not pursuing tachinid systematics anymore, Roger has helped sort out a few nomenclatural problems over the past couple of years and assisted Cantrell with the tachinid chapter in the "Catalogue of the Diptera of the Australasian and Oceanian Regions". I expect that Roger's presence will continue to be felt in the field of tachinidology for some time, even if he has discontinued research on the family. (If you would like to see more news like the sort submitted by Roger on page 1, give me some news to print!)

**Simon Grenier** — Simon is currently a research director in the I.N.R.A. in Lyon. He began studying the Tachinidae 18 years ago, after a speciality thesis on an ichneumonid parasitoid of caddisflies. Since then his research has mostly concerned the *in vitro* rearing of tachinids. In 1978, with Guy Bonnot and Bernard Delobel, he was first to rear a tachinid entirely on an artificial medium. Simon's doctoral thesis, entitled "Biology and physiology of host-parasitoid relationships in three tachinid flies (Diptera, Tachinidae) of agronomic value. Development in artificial media. Biological control", was completed in 1986. His major project at the moment is identification of factors responsible for the synchronization of development of tachinid larvae with that of their hosts. Simon supervised a thesis conducted on this subject, completed by Ali Ramadhane in 1988.

**Benno Herting** — Benno retired from the Staatliches Museum in Stuttgart in July 1988. Fortunately for us, he has not retired from his studies on the Tachinidae, though he works fewer days now than before. Benno is working on the last part of the Dexiinae for "Die Fliegen der paläarktischen Region" (*Estheria*, *Billaea*, *Dinera*).

**Keisuke Iwao** — A graduate student at Kyoto University, Keisuke is studying tachinid parasitoids of *Pieris* butterflies in the vicinity of Kyoto. Under study are the tachinids *Epicampocera succincta* Meigen and *Compsilura concinnata* Meigen. Keisuke is investigating host habitat location, host location, and intra- and inter-specific competition. A poster about this work was presented at the XVIII International Congress of Entomology in Vancouver, July 1988. One of Keisuke's discoveries was the development of *Compsilura concinnata* in the gut of its host!

**Ferenc Mihályi** — Anyone wishing to purchase Ferenc's 1986 book on Hungarian tachinids can do so through Kultura (H-1389 Budapest, P.O. Box 149, Hungary) or Pannonia Books (P.O. Box 1017 Postal Station "B", Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 2T8). I do not know the cost. The book was translated into German by Ferenc with the intent of having it published (with Schuman as coauthor)

as part of a German series; however, the chance of publication now seems remote. Ferenc has recently given up his museum work, not because of his age (82), but poor eyesight (caused, he says, by 60 years of working with a microscope).

**Jim O'Hara** — I continue to work on a nematode (*Thelazia skrjabini*) that is transmitted to the eyes of cattle by the face fly, *Musca autumnalis*. My tachinid work is reserved for my spare time. Much of my "tachinid time" in 1988 was spent sending back siphonine specimens to their respective institutions, after recording label data about undescribed species (a tedious task, but necessary if I want to reborrow material at a later date). My study of the genus-group taxa of the Siphonini was submitted about a year and a half ago and will probably be published in March 1989. For the last several months I have been accumulating news for this newsletter; once the newsletter is out I want to spend some time reacquainting myself with my general tachinid collection.

**Knut Rognes** — Knut is a specialist on calliphorids and muscids, but has a general interest in tachinids and collects them wherever he goes (mostly in Norway). Knut has curated the tachinid collections of all Norwegian museums, so can probably provide help to anyone wanting information about particular taxa in Norway.

**Curtis Sabrosky** — We were saddened to hear that Curtis' wife, Laurel, passed away last summer (1988) shortly after their move to a life-care retirement community in Medford, New Jersey. Curtis is continuing his work on the Diptera, though tachinids do not figure prominently in his plans. A large study on the bird blow flies, *Protocalliphora* (coauthored with Gordon F. Bennett and Terry L. Whitworth), will soon be published. The most ambitious project currently underway is a treatise/catalog on the family-group names in the Diptera.

**Hiroshi Shima** — As evident from the papers cited in the tachinid bibliography, Hiroshi continues to produce revisions of (mostly) eastern Palearctic and Oriental tachinids. In July 1989 Hiroshi gave a poster presentation about the phylogenetic relationships among the major lineages of the Tachinidae at the International Congress of Entomology in Vancouver. After the Congress Hiroshi collected for a time in the Okanagan Valley of southern British Columbia (Canada), before visting the CNC (Ottawa) and USNM (Washington) to study types of Japanese and Oriental tachinids.

**Hans-Peter Tschorsnig** — Work is continuing on a key to the Middle European genera of the Tachinidae. Peter is also compiling information on reared tachinids of the Palearctic region; at present Peter's data base includes about 8000 records! Peter eventually hopes to prepare similar data bases on ecology and distribution of European tachinids and tachinid literature of the world. Some rare tachinids were collected during a trip to central and southern Spain in April and May 1988.

**Monty Wood** — Monty is enjoying his early retirement from the Biosystematics Research Centre - not by retiring from entomology but by pursuing his entomological interests in the freedom that retirement allows. Freedom to collect often and wherever he wishes, attend meetings at will and conduct research of choice. As a result, Monty is as busy as ever! He is building a field station on his property in the cloud forest at Monteverde, Costa Rica, which will provide anyone wishing to experience collecting in the tropics with a safe and comfortable place to do so. Concerning tachinids, Monty has completed most of his checklist to the Tachinidae of North America for the new "Systematic Database of Diptera" (that is designed to replace the 1965 "Catalog of the Diptera of America north of Mexico"). A decision to extend the Database to include the Nearctic portion of Mexico has created a problem for Monty because a number of species from that area were described from mixed series of syntypes by F.M. van der Wulp. Monty plans to stabilize the names to be used in his checklist by studying the Wulp collection in the BMNH in August 1989 and designating lectotypes as necessary.

**Norm Woodley** — Norm is revising *Belvosia*. He has been studying North American *Gymnocheta*, and might prepare a short review of the group because the species have fairly distinctive male genitalia that have never been illustrated.

## UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

**Manual of Nearctic Diptera, Volume 3** — The final volume of the Manual will be published about March 1989. It deals with the phylogeny and classification of the Diptera, and is divided into three chapters: Nematocera, Orthorrhaphous Brachycera and Muscomorpha.

**Catalog of the Diptera of the Australasian and Oceanian Regions** — Editor Neal Evenhuis (Bishop Museum) expects this catalog to be out in March or April 1989. The catalog is being jointly published by Brill and the Bishop Museum Press and will probably cost between \$50.00-\$100.00US. The tachinid chapter is coauthored by Bryan Cantrell and Roger Crosskey.

**Immature Insects, Volume 2** — The first volume of this two-part reference work was published in 1987 by Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co., Dubuque, Iowa USA (edited by Frederick W. Stehr; 754 pp.). The second volume is in press - it includes the Diptera. The Tachinidae chapter was written by R.H. Foote and G.A. Dahlem.

## TACHINID HOLDINGS OF THE BISHOP MUSEUM IN HONOLULU

My thanks to Neal Evenhuis for providing the following list of tachinid holdings, arranged according to geographic region. Numbers reflect the total number of specimens held by the Bishop Museum as of October 1988. Those in parentheses are the number identified at least to genus, though many are identified to species. The Bishop Museum also has 32 primary types of the Tachinidae. Please contact Neal at the address given in the Mailing List if you have any questions about the tachinid holdings or would like to borrow Bishop Museum specimens.

Australia	1000 (200)	New Guinea	11011 (1211)
Borneo	1000 (500)	Philippines	1226 (426)
China	710 (410)	Ryukyus	200 (104)
Europe	136 (6)	Samoa	180 (24)
Fiji	350	Society Is.	10 (1)
Hawaiian Is.	850 (700)	Solomon Is.	1029 (179)
Hong Kong	179 (129)	Taiwan	179 (29)
India	15	Thailand	100 (80)
Japan	520 (120)	Tonga	200
Java	25 (6)	USA (excl. Hawaii)	1020 (350)
Laos	400 (50)	Vanuatu	668 (8)
Malaya	78 (7)	Vietnam	153 (100)
Micronesia	556 (136)	unsorted	2720
Nepal	89 (43)	on loan	3607
New Caledonia	387 (17)		

Total tachinid holdings of the Bishop Museum: 27787 (4800) specimens.

## PUBLICATIONS OF RAÚL CORTÉS

I would like to include in each issue of *The Tachinid Times* the bibliography of a tachinidologist. The publications of Benno Herting were highlighted in the first issue. In this issue I feature the publications of Raúl Cortés. Not included in this list is a large number of papers on biological control (mostly by tachinids) and non-tachinid subjects. The following should be useful to those of you who do not regularly receive Raúl's reprints, as not all are cited in abstracting journals.

1944. Sinopsis histórica de los estudios sobre Taquífnidos Chilenos (Dipt., Tachinidae). Boletín de Sanidad Vegetal (Chile) 3(1): 5-11 (1943).
1944. Las especies Chilenas del género *Archytas* Jaen. (Dipt., Tachinidae). Boletín de Sanidad Vegetal (Chile) 3(2): 139-141 (1943).
1944. Las especies Chilenas del género *Cylindromyia* Meigen (Dipt., Tachinidae). Boletín de Sanidad Vegetal (Chile) 3(2): 177-179 (1943).

1944. Taquínidos nuevos para Chile (Dipt., Tachinidae). Boletín de Sanidad Vegetal (Chile) 3(2): 142 (1943).
1944. *Trichodischia* Bigot y *Dischotrichia* n. gen., géneros nuevos de Taquínidos para Chile (Dipt. Tachinidae). Revista Universitaria (Universidad Católica de Chile) 29: 49-58.
1944. El Dr. Charles H.T. Townsend. Revista Universitaria (Universidad Católica de Chile) 29: 109-111.
1944. Las especies Chilenas del género *Sturmia* R.D. (Dipt., Tachinidae). Boletín del Museo Nacional de Historia Natural 22: 159-167.
1945. Algunos géneros Goniinos de Taquínidos Chilenos (Dipt., Tachinidae). Agricultura Técnica (Chile) 4: 115-124 (1944).
1945. Nuevo nombre genérico para un Taquínido de la República Argentina (Dipt., Tachinidae). Acta Zoologica Lilloana del Instituto "Miguel Lillo" 2: 255-257.
1945. Taquínidos Chilenos nuevos o poco conocidos (Dipt., Tachinidae) I. Agricultura Técnica (Chile) 5: 24-30.
1945. Especies Chilenas de los géneros *Phorocera* R.D. y *Parasetigena* B.B. (Dipt., Tachinidae). Acta Zoologica Lilloana del Instituto "Miguel Lillo" 3: 157-164.
1945. Nuevos géneros de Taquínidos Chilenos aliados a *Trichoprosopus* Macquart (Dipt., Tachinidae). Revista Chilena de Historia Natural 48: 149-160 [numbered pp. 1-12 in reprints].
1946. Tachinidae in C. Stuardo, Catálogo de los Dípteros de Chile, pp. 172-185. Santiago, Chile.
1948. Sobre algunos Taquínidos Chilenos y sus huéspedes (Dipt., Tachinidae). Revista Universitaria (Universidad Católica de Chile) 33: 119-125.
1950. Nueva especie Chilena del género *Phorocera* R.D. (Dipt., Tachinidae). Agricultura Técnica (Chile) 9: 5-10.
1951. Sobre tres especies de Taquínidos Chilenos (Dipt., Tachinidae). Agricultura Técnica (Chile) 10: 59-65 (1950).
1951. Nuevos géneros de Tachininae Chilenos con cerdas facio-orbitales (Diptera Tachinidae). Revista Chilena de Entomología 1: 249-262.
1952. Los insectos de las Islas Juan Fernández 9. Tachinidae (Diptera). Revista Chilena de Entomología 2: 109-111.
1963. Tipos de Tachinidae (Diptera) Chilenos en algunos Museos extranjeros. Revista Universitaria (Universidad Católica de Chile) 47: 241-252.
1967. Primeros géneros de Taquínidos Chilenos con la cuarta vena longitudinal evanescente (Diptera: Tachinidae). Boletín Técnico Estación Experimental Agronómica, Universidad de Chile 26: 3-9.
1967. Taquínidos Chilenos nuevos o poco conocidos II (Diptera: Tachinidae). Boletín Técnico Estación Experimental Agronómica, Universidad de Chile 26: 10-29.
1968. Taquínidos Chilenos (Dipt., Tachinidae) parásitos de Phasmidos (Phasmoidea). Bol. Soc. Biol. Concepción 40: 101-111.
1968. Nueva especie Chilena del género *Incamiya* Townsend 1912 (Diptera: Tachinidae). Revista Chilena de Entomología 6: 17-20.
1968. El Taquínido más austral de Chile (Dipt. Tachinidae). Revista Chilena de Entomología 6: 142.
1969. Rehabilitación de una especie Bigotiana. *Trichodischia caerulea* Bigot 1885, deferente de *T. soror* Bigot 1885 (Diptera: Tachinidae). Revista Universitaria (Universidad Católica de Chile) 53: 97-99.
1969. (with N. Hichins.) Taquínidos de Chile. Distribución geográfica y huéspedes conocidos. Ediciones de la Universidad de Chile, 99 pp., Santiago, Chile.
1971. (with L. Campos.) Taquínidos de Tarapacá y Antofagasta (Diptera: Tachinidae). Anales de la Universidad del Norte 8: 1-104.
1972. (with L. Valencia.) Nueva especie Chileno-Peruana del género *Ateloglutus* Aldrich, 1934, con descripción de un nuevo sub-género (Diptera, Tachinidae, Voriini). IDESIA (Depto. Agricultura, Universidad del Norte-Arica) 2: 65-70.
1973. Taquínidos Chilenos nuevos o poco conocidos III (Diptera, Tachinidae). Revista Chilena de Entomología 7: 97-105.
1973. E.E. Blanchard. Revista Chilena de Entomología 7: 261-262.
1973. C.H. Curran. Revista Chilena de Entomología 7: 262.
1973. W.R. Thompson. Revista Chilena de Entomología 7: 262.
1974. Sobre cuatro géneros de Dexiinos Chilenos (Diptera, Tachinidae) con los fémures posteriores de los machos modificados. Revista Chilena de Entomología 8: 35-38.
1974. (with L. Campos.) Taquínidos de Tarapacá y Antofagasta. Addenda I. (Diptera: Tachinidae). IDESIA (Depto. Agricultura, Universidad del Norte-Arica) 3: 111-125.
1976. Taquínidos Chilenos nuevos o poco conocidos, IV (Diptera, Tachinidae). Boletín Técnico, Facultad de Agronomía, Universidad de Chile 40: 3-14.
1979. Taquínidos Chileno-Argentinos (Diptera, Tachinidae). Inv. Agrícola (Chile) 5: 75-82.
1979. (with N. Hichins.) Taquínidos de Tarapacá y Antofagasta (Diptera: Tachinidae), Addenda II. IDESIA (Depto. Agricultura, Universidad del Norte-Arica) 5: 111-116.
1980. Neotropical Tachinidae (Diptera) I. Notes, records, distribution and descriptions. Rev. Brasileira Ent. 24: 105-110.

1982. *Marnefia mirifica* n. gen. et sp. - con insólita venación alar (Diptera, Tachinidae, Actiini). *Phegea* 10: 137-144.
1983. First record of transantarctic relationships in the Tachinidae (Diptera, Muscoidea, Calyptratae). *Revista Brasileira de Zoologia* 1: 419-420.
1983. Tachinid flies (Diptera: Tachinidae) from Tarapacá and Antofagasta provinces, Chile III. Addendum. *Florida Entomologist* 66: 377-389.
1986. Taquíidos de Aysén (XI Región) y Magallanes (XII Región) Chile (Diptera: Tachinidae). *Acta Ent. Chilena* 13: 133-160.
1986. Las moscas parásites de la Familia Tachinidae (Diptera, Calyptratae). *Acta Ent. Chilena* 13: 191-197.
1989. (In press.) Algunos caracteres no genéricos en Taquíidos Chilenos (Diptera: Tachinidae). *Acta Ent. Chilena* 15: ??.
1989. (In press.) L.P. Mesnil. *Acta Ent. Chilena* 15: ??.

## TACHINID BIBLIOGRAPHY

I have assembled for this issue a tachinid bibliography for 1987-1988, with some additions to the previous list for the period 1980-1986. The present list was compiled in more haste than the first one. I have relied mostly on Current Contents, Biological Abstracts, Entomology Abstracts and papers I have come across in the literature or were sent to me. The list is probably far from complete, as I did not conduct a thorough literature search and because many 1988 papers have not yet appeared in abstracting journals.

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