

Center for Systematic Entomology, Gainesville, Florida

Insecta Mundi

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Year 1988

BOOK REVIEW: *The Leafhoppers
and Planthoppers, 1985*

Frank W. Mead
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,
Gainesville, FL

BOOK REVIEW

Nault, L.R. and Rodriguez, J.G. (Editors). 1985. **The Leafhoppers and Planthoppers**. John Wiley & Sons, New York. 500 pp. \$79.95 (hardbound).

This book is composed of 19 chapters written primarily by U.S. authors but enriched in 9 of the chapters by contributors from Great Britain, Egypt, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Italy. The chapters have sprung primarily from a symposium in honor of Dwight M. DeLong at the 1983 Entomological Society of America meeting in Detroit, Michigan. Practically all aspects of science concerning leafhoppers (Cicadellidae) and planthoppers (Fulgoroidea) are treated. The beginning chapters are on the life and contributions of Dr. DeLong and on the systematics and morphology of leafhoppers and planthoppers. Following that are a variety of contributions which utilized many of the new tools available to science, such as electron microscopy, sound recording, and audiospectrographs of the weak sounds produced by leafhoppers and planthoppers. These contributions emphasize ecology, genetics, evolution, plant resistance, parasites and pathogens, and transmission of plant diseases. Each chapter ends with "Literature Cited" that often lists 50-100 or more references. There are abundant drawings, tables, photographs, and charts reproduced with good detail and contrast. The paper and binding are of good quality, and in the review copy the pages stayed flat at almost any place to which the book was opened.

The price of the book may be a little steep for those on limited budgets, but on the positive side, there is a great deal of up-to-date information on two insect

families that have attracted a significant share of the entomological world's attention in recent years. Leafhoppers and planthoppers are pests and vectors of diseases that affect many of the world's most important crops such as rice, maize, coconuts, beans, potatoes, alfalfa (lucerne), beets, oats, barley, wheat, sugarcane, and other food, ornamental, and fiber plants. The fulgoroids, many of which have bizarre shapes and structures, have come in for increased attention, especially the delphacids, but it may be fairly said that there has been an explosion of leafhopper papers in recent years. No doubt their economic importance is a big factor for this interest, but research into their acoustical emissions and behavior, researchers' increased ability to rear numerous species and study their life histories, their migratory habits, their use as indicators of ecological situations, and their co-evolution with disease organisms and host plants have made them popular research subjects.

This book should be on the shelves not only of specialists in auchenorrhynchous Homoptera, but in the libraries of entomological research institutions, including universities, and federal and state agricultural experiment stations, and museums.

Frank W. Mead
Division of Plant Industry
Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
P.O. Box 1269
Gainesville, FL 32602