

Book Review

The Thrips of Central and South America: An Introduction (Insecta: Thysanoptera). Laurence A. Mound and Rita Marullo. *Memoirs on Entomology, International*, Vol.6. March 1996. 488pp. Illustr. ISBN: 1-56665-061-5; Hardback. \$65.00.

Mound and Marullo's aim in producing this book initially was to be an introduction to the Thysanoptera of Costa Rica. The extensive distribution of these small insects caused the authors to extend the geographical area covered and review the Neotropical thrips fauna at family and genus level as there are no available comprehensive publications. The family classification for the suborder Terebrantia is that adapted by Mound, Heming and Palmer (1980). The suborder Tubulifera is exceptionally difficult, and all authors are not in agreement in their respective classifications. Gauld and Mound (1982), Crespi (1993), and Mound and Cresi (1994) are followed here. All areas reported on are not equally known, and faunal comparisons are not given. Some of the more serious pests are listed, and flight, dispersal, and seasonal wind systems are discussed. Sex ratios and polymorphism, life cycles, body structures, phylogeny, family classification, habitat association, and collecting, as well as microscope slide preparation, are included in the introduction.

There are excellent illustrated keys to suborders, New World families, genera, and to many of the species. Information on their biology and identification is provided for 92 genera of Terebrantia and 135

genera of Tubulifera. The number of species-group names listed is 1669, of which 217 are listed as synonyms. Newly described taxa include 3 new genera and 49 new species. Twelve generic names are placed in synonymy, and 48 new specific synonyms are recognized. Synonyms, if any, are listed under each genus. New records are recorded under the species. A complete bibliography is given, including references not listed in the text. The illustrations are well done. On page 445, Fig. 273 is omitted in the illustrations but is found in the caption as *Aleurodothrips fasciapennis*.

Illustrations of the dorsal and ventral views of adult Thripidae and Phlaeothripidae, with labeled body parts, and some of the setae, are given. A glossary of other setae such as, aa, am, pa, etc. would be helpful for students in countries that are without library resources. References are made to these setae in the text and they should be depicted with illustrations.

A list of feeding associations of Thysanoptera in Costa Rica and Panama, and an index to species group names are provided and are most helpful. This is particularly true for countries that are engaged in developing agricultural crops for export. Some agricultural products are restricted from entering other countries based on host-pest association.

This publication is important and highly recommended to all students interested in thrips, particularly those interested in identifying New World Thysanoptera.

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