



Central File of Figures of Insect Types

THE problem of poorly described insect species recognizable only from type specimens has long been serious to taxonomists; it has been aggravated by the vulnerability of collections to destruction by modern warfare. To help disseminate information of types in normal times and preserve it in case of accident or disaster, a Central File of Figures of Insect Types has been established under the direction of the subsection on Figuring Type Specimens, Entomology Section, International Union of Biological Sciences. The activities of the subsection are directed by a committee of the following composition: B. P. Beirne, Ottawa, Canada; I. B. F. Common, Canberra, Australia; W. Forster, München, Germany; J. G. Franclemont, Ithaca, N. Y.; H. Inoue, Yokosuka, Japan; A. J. T. Janse, Pretoria, Union of South Africa; O. Lundblad, Stockholm, Sweden; E. G. Munroe, Ottawa, Canada; J. Oiticica Filho, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; P. W. Oman, Washington, D. C.; R. N. Orfila, Buenos Aires, Argentina; C. F. dos Passos, Mendham, N. Y.; N. D. Riley, London, England (*chairman*); R. Späreck, Copenhagen, Denmark; and P. E. Viette, Paris, France.

The file will consist of negatives of photographs depicting either type specimens themselves and their significant structures or drawings of such specimens and structures, whichever may seem more useful. Prints of these photographs will be distributed on a nonprofit basis to interested individuals or institutions. The file, at least initially, will be built up by voluntary contributions from individuals and institutions possessing or willing to prepare photographs of types. Although a complete file is the ideal ultimate aim, it is proposed to begin on a modest scale, with future expansions as facilities and interest warrant. For the present the file is located in Ottawa, Canada, but this location is subject to review by the subsection.

The first prints will be prepared for distribution in the near future. Meanwhile advice from interested zoologists, and particularly offers of negatives for the central file, are solicited. Correspondence should be addressed to the undersigned, from whom further information can be obtained.

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