

## BOOK REVIEWS

Oman, P. W.; Knight, W. J.; Neilson, M. W.; 1990: *Leafhoppers (Cicadellidae): A Bibliography, Generic Check-List and Index to the World Literature 1956-1985*. C.A.B. International Institute of Entomology, Wallingford, Oxon, U.K., 368 pp ISBN 0-85198-690-0. Price UK£49.50.

This book is another in the series of publications from C.A.B. International in Great Britain. The authors, P. W. Oman (Oregon State University) W. J. Knight, (Natural History Museum, London) and M. W. Neilson (Brigham Young University), are to be congratulated on the result of their many years of painstaking work. Their publication supplements both the Bibliography of the Cicadelloidea (Metcalf 1964) and Fascicle VI of the General Catalogue of the Homoptera prepared by Z. P. Metcalf and V. W. Burnside (published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service) which dealt with leafhopper literature over a 200 year period up to December 1955.

Since that date, approximately 1100 new genera and 8000 new species names have been published and 55 new family-group names have been proposed. The present publication covers this new literature, reviews the 1942-1955 literature and lists publications covering a broad range of leafhopper studies including fossils, classification, biogeography, biology, behaviour, morphology, interaction with plants and pest status.

This publication consists of the following sections; introduction; bibliography of more than 7000 titles from 1956-1985; index to bibliography on specified subject matter fields; a complete check list of genera and family group names used in Cicadellidae; and a subject and taxonomic index.

The introduction (4 pp) includes the review of the 1942-55 literature in which the greatest proportion of works listed deal with various aspects of crop production and the role of leafhoppers as pests or as vectors of virus diseases. Descriptions and faunal studies form the next greatest proportion of papers listed, with lesser numbers of publications dealing with ecology, bionomics, host-plant studies and resistance, morphology, behaviour, predators and parasites. The subjects least covered are: phylogeny, anatomy, developmental studies, physiology, genetics symbiosis, techniques for study and pesticide resistance.

The bibliography (166 pp) covers the period 1956-1985, also including references omitted from Metcalf's bibliography and sourced from current literature as well as 6 abstracting journals. All fields relevant to the taxonomy and biosystematics of taxa are covered including behaviour, biogeography and insect collecting. The references are annotated to include the number of new genera and sub-genera at the end of each entry if the number of new taxa is 5 or less; otherwise a general statement is given.

The check-list of generic and family-group names (89 pp) comprises all generic and sub-generic names published up to the end of 1985, including fossil genera. Also included are suppressed, misspelt and invalid names with appropriate comments and cross-referencing. Generic names of taxa other than cicadellids, which are in the Zoological Record under Cicadellidae, are listed prior to the check-list. Explanatory notes are given at the end of some entries. Those genera for which a type species has not been designated are annotated accordingly.

In the absence of an acceptable up to date classification of the Family Cicadellidae—to serve as a reference base for the world fauna—the authors have adopted changes from Metcalf's system in their provisional list of subfamilies and tribes, but stress that this is not an attempt to provide a revised scheme.

The index (24 pp) is to publications from 1956-1985, as in the bibliography and is divided into subject matter categories and sub-categories.

The taxonomic index (81 pp) is listed by genera, with annotations of published new species descriptions and records, all cross-referenced to the bibliography.

The text is arranged in double columns, well-spaced with bold type liberally used to make the volume easy to find ones way around, although some readers may find the

print too small. Much care has been put into explanations of the process and the methodology adopted in the text. The book is attractively bound with a hard cover.

This comprehensive publication provides ready access to literature not only on every aspect of leafhopper taxonomy, biology and pest status but also to newly acquired ecological and biogeographical knowledge concerning the Cicadellidae and the management of leafhopper—transmitted plant pathogens. As such it will be an indispensable aid to insect taxonomists, ecologists, plant pathologists, applied entomologists and quarantine personnel world-wide.

### REFERENCE

- Metcalf, Z. P., 1964: General Catalogue of Homoptera, Fascicle VI. Cicadelloidea. Bibliography of the Cicadelloidea (Homoptera: Auchenorrhyncha). U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service. 730 pp.

C. F. Morales  
Systematics Group, DSIR Plant Protection,  
Mt Albert Research Centre, Auckland, New Zealand