

Catalog of Hymenoptera in America North of Mexico

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BOOK REVIEW

Catalog of Hymenoptera in America North of Mexico

This three-volume Catalog was published by the Smithsonian Institution Press during 1979-1980 under the direction of Karl V. Krombein, Paul D. Hurd, Jr., David R. Smith and B. D. Burks.

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This Catalog is an updated, revised edition of the highly successful *Hymenoptera of America North of Mexico-Synoptic Catalog*, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1951, including first and second supplements (1958, 1967).

The new edition, by use of computer technology*, provides a printed version as well as a computer-queriable data base of the basic systematic, biological, and morphological information on the order Hymenoptera as it occurs in America north of Mexico. It contains the 17,429 valid species and the 2,014 valid genera, and lists numerous new synonyms and new combinations, and many new status.

In comparison with the original catalog, the new Catalog includes more complete listings of hosts, parasites, prey, predators, and pollen and nectar sources, in addition to annotations on the content for the biological, taxonomic, and morphological references. Dr. Krombein et al. say, in the Introduction, that "Since unquestionably a catalog is indispensable in the support of systematic and other biological research, no effort has been spared toward making this catalog as useful as possible to all of the scientific community interested in these fascinating insects." Indeed, this Catalog is a very useful reference book.

This Catalog also serves as a fine textbook of Hymenoptera. Explanatory or descriptive comments presented for the taxa above the generic rank, which are appeared under the name of each taxon, are highly valuable and interesting.

In this Catalog, the suborder Symphyta are divided into four superfamilies, i.e., Megalodontoidea (including Xyelidae), Tenthredinoidea, Siricoidea (including Orussidae), and Cephoidea, and the division Apocrita (Parasitica) into 8 superfamilies, i. e., Ichneumonoidea, Chalcidoidea, Cynipoidea, Evanioidea, Pelecinoidea, Proctotrupoidea, Ceraphronoidea and Trigonoidea, and the division Apocrita (Aculeata) into 7 superfamilies, i.e., Bethyloidea, Scoliidea, Formicoidea, Vespoidea, Pompiloidea, Sphecoidea, and Apoidea. This higher classification of Hymenoptera differs from that adopted by the original catalog, but may be acceptable as the one reflected the authors' systematic conclusion.

Volume 1 (pp. 1-1198) contains Symphyta (sawflies) and Apocrita (Parasitica) (bracconids, ichneumonids, chalcidoids, proctotrupoids, and others).

Volume 2 (pp. 1199-2209) contains Apocrita (Aculeata) (ants, wasps, and bees).

Volume 3 (pp. 2211-2735), Indexes, presents separate indexes to the taxa of Hymenoptera and to their hosts, parasites, prey, predators, and pollen and nectar sources, in addition to the list of taxonomic and nomenclatural changes.

The individual volumes may be purchased at \$30.00 (Volume 1), \$28.00 (Volume 2), and \$ 20.00 (Volume 3), from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402, USA.

This is really a wonderful and welcome publication. (Y. H.).

* Krombein, K. V., J. F. Mello and J. J. Crockett. 1974. The North American Hymenoptera Catalog: A pioneering effort in computerized publication. *Bull. Ent. Soc. Amer.*, 20(1): 24-29.