

WOODRUFF, R. W., B. M. BECK, P. E. SKELLEY, C. Y. L. SCHOTMAN, AND M. C. THOMAS. 1998. Checklist and Bibliography of the Insects of Grenada and the Grenadines. Center for Systematic Entomology; Gainesville, Florida. Memoir 2, 286 p. ISBN 1-877743-28-3. Hardback. Price per copy \$58 (\$29 to members of CSE) plus \$2.00 postage and handling to USA addresses (\$5.00 abroad), from The Treasurer, Center for Systematic Entomology, P.O. Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100.

This is the second volume of the Memoir Series of the Center for Systematic Entomology (CSE). It is the product of a cooperative program between the FAO, Grenada's

Ministry of Agriculture, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The part of the product presented here is the result of a review of the literature about insects in Grenada.

The first thing I noticed about this book was its front and back covers which bear fine color photographs taken by the senior author of the flowers of *Delonix regia* and of Concord Falls respectively. Both are sights to be seen in Grenada, which is among the most scenic islands in the Lesser Antilles. The Grenadines are tiny islands extending northward, some of which belong to Grenada and some to St. Vincent.

Most of the pages of the book are a checklist of the scientific names of insect species, each with the citation (author, year and page number) of the original description. These names are arranged alphabetically within families, which in turn are arranged alphabetically within orders, and the orders themselves are arranged alphabetically. This arrangement just about eliminates the need for an index, so the book has only a 3-page index of family names. Against most of the species names is listed the distribution of that species in places other than Grenada, but more especially in the West Indies. Under many of the names of families is given the name of a specialist taxonomist who reviewed the included information for correctness before publication. Under the name of each insect order are a few paragraphs and some literature citations. Some of the family names also are followed by an even briefer text and similar citations. The bibliography occupies 75 pages, and some of the items are annotated. Despite its length, the authors admit that the bibliography is not exhaustive and, for example, does not include all of the references to accompany the author, year, and page of original descriptions of insects.

A 3-page introduction to the book gives a thumbnail history of entomology in Grenada. The checklist is incomplete because, unsurprisingly, some species are not yet recorded. In fact, part of the project in which the senior author was heavily involved was to make new collections of insects from Grenada and work toward their identification. Few publications have yet resulted from work on these collections, but many specimens are now available to specialists.

The most similar checklist of the insect fauna of a West Indian island is **Catalogus Insectorum Jamaicensis** by C. C. Gowdey, published in 3 parts in 1926-1928 by Jamaica's Department of Science and Agriculture. It includes brief new taxonomic studies of small parts of the fauna by three specialists (C. P. Alexander, C. H. Curran, and W. S. Fisher) and lacks a bibliography. In volume 13 of *Scientific Survey of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands*, published by the New York Academy of Sciences in 1970, G. W. Miskimen and R. M. Bond produced a checklist entitled **The Insect Fauna of St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands**. The most celebrated checklists are the heavily annotated and partially illustrated lists written by G. N. Wolcott to the insect fauna of Puerto Rico, first as **Insectae Portoricensis** (1924), and revised as **Insectae Borinquenses** (1936-1941). Those lists metamorphosed into a 748-page book, **The Insects of Puerto Rico**, by the same author, published in parts in 1950-1951 (actual dates) by the *Journal of Agriculture of the University of Puerto Rico*; this was no longer a checklist, but a work dealing with the natural history of Puerto Rico's insect fauna.

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