

COMMENTS ON BOOK REVIEW

A kind notice of the book, "Beetles of Northeastern North America" (BONENA) reviewed by J. Howard Frank, appeared in volume 79 p. 471-473. A few statements were made, however, that are generally misunderstood. I am pleased to have the opportunity to make the following comments because I believe there is a general misconception about these topics.

Copyrights

All literary work is now copyrighted in the United States, United Kingdom, and all countries recognizing the International Copyright Laws. It makes no difference whether this is or is not so stated in the work. If you plagiarize someone else's literary work, you are subject to possible lawsuit. The same holds true if you copy (=print) someone else's work and offer it for sale. Printing can be done by photocopy or by any mean of duplication. Therefore, all books, journal articles, booklets, class materials, etc., are "copy righted" whether or not so stated on the publication. There is no way not to copyright such a document. If you register your copyright with the Library of Congress, all you do is receive a certificate that establishes the date your work was published. What does this do? If someone "copies" your work as is, and you can prove that, by their so doing, your means of livelihood was infringed on, you have a case for regaining your losses, if a court so rules. It means nothing else! Please note statement on the copyright page of BONENA: "It should be understood that scientific data contained in this publication are not covered by this copyright and remain public property." This is true, of course, whether or not such a statement is made.

I do have plans for future editions of my several books. This is provided for by a separate corporation known as "The American Insects Project, Inc." The reviewer, Dr. Frank, is a board member of that project. Revisions will be made by new sponsors and revisors under the control of AIP, thus providing for the continuation of these works.

Illustrations

Originally, Downie and I planned to include about 4,000 illustrations in the work. That was before we really knew how large such a work would be. I wrote to many authors and publishers for the use of drawings. Most wanted anywhere from \$45.00 each up to \$175.00 each for their use. We used many illustrations whose owners did not wish for these fees. This included state and federal publications, with or without copyright statements. However, we realized that many hundreds of these would be figures of male genitalia, and hundreds of these would be tiny, 1-2 mm structures. Our pre-publication sales indicated that the book was of interest primarily to non-specialists, ecologists, or general collectors, those who would not bother to make genitalia dissections. Instead, they would either go to the special literature cited in the bibliography, or to a specialist for help. By eliminating these descriptions, characters in keys, and illustrations, we saved hundreds of pages and many dollars in costs for the consumer.

Identifications

Many persons wishing to make insect identifications rely on habitus illustrations and make "guessifications." This is so easy; no knowledge of key characters is needed; no need to read lengthy, detailed descriptions; if it looks like it, it must be it. Many serious identifiers can use keys, do read descriptions, and do recognize what can be iden-

tified with a general work such as BONENA, and when it is time to turn to monographic works, hundreds are referred to in BONENA. When all else fails, turn to the specialists! Most important, however, is to be able to recognize the ever present limitations of all works designed as identification aids. Picture keys, colored photos, line habitus drawings, and key characters are of limited use. *Caveat emptor!*

Due to Dr. Downie's illness, we hurried up the work, hoping to complete it in time for him to see it. Thus we missed using many illustrations that might otherwise have been available to us. Actually, other than genitalia illustrations, there are relatively few habitus drawings available that were not used. Notable exceptions are Coccinellidae, Cerambycidae, and Hydrophilidae. All of the drawings in Hatch's five volumes are available for use. Few were suitable for BONENA.

Few specialists have purchased this book for the very reasons given above; they have little use for it. As specialists they write the keys and descriptions and don't need this kind of book. Those who do want it, need to make identifications either for their collections, or for ecological use. Even so, only a few sets of the original printing of the book remain for sale.

Incidentally, when "Beetles of the United States" (BOTUS) first came out in loose-leaf, by design, not by mistake as one recent reviewer in this journal alleged, it was too easy to photocopy it. Not many photocopy machines were in use in 1960. When the American Entomological Institute took it over in the 1970s photocopying was widely used. Some people copied the book even though it cost, then, only \$35.00, and when it went out of print, many photocopied editions were sold at high prices. Unauthorized photocopying is a form of thievery, as is shop lifting. Both cause the high price of books and other goods.

Copy Editing

BONENA was a very difficult book to edit. Bob Woodruff, Gene Gerberg, my wife, various specialists, and I read and reread it. Randy Lundgren, who, like the reviewer, specializes in Staphylinidae, has since gone over it very carefully. You won't believe this, but nearly 50% of the mistakes he found are in the family Staphylinidae! It was proofread by a professional specializing on Staphylinidae on a World basis. It seems this relatively poorly known family is still a difficult group to study. With the help of the users of this work, I hope to find all of the errors and typos.

Corrigenda & Addenda

I plan to publish corrections and additions from time to time in *Insecta Mundi* and also make these available at no cost to those who have purchased the book. Those who bought through dealers may write to the publisher for these.

CD-ROM

Many readers may think that a CD-ROM edition costs less to produce than a hard copy edition. Actually, the quotations we received from manufacturers of CD-ROM disks were nearly twice that of our printing bill. CD-ROM master manufacturers don't work for nothing. The same electronic diskettes must be produced (1721 pages of this, plus illustrations, index, etc. takes the same amount of time as the production of camera ready copy, and often more time, depending on the degree of sophistication of the search ability desired, e.g., just by index works, or by host plant, distribution, etc., items not in the index). The production of the CD-ROM master takes the same

amount of time as setting up a press to print from plates. Authors don't like to work for nothing, even if they are expected to do so. (Journal article authors not only work for nothing, but are expected to pay page charges too.) The advent of the personal computer merely transferred "type setting" from the printer to the author. If the author does this for nothing, it is because he is expected to do this as part of the terms of his employment. My experience with such "camera ready copy" for *Insecta Mundi* has shown that it is better to produce a typescript, and leave the typesetting to the few who know how to use typefaces, and make up pages. There is no magical transformation from a diskette sent in by an author, to the printed page produced by the printer (or the CD-ROM producer). Someone who knows how has to do it, and it takes time. The equipment to produce these items is not cheap, and does not exist in the ordinary professor's office. Then there is the problem of the user. Very few of those who own copies of BONENA would find it convenient to use a CD-ROM disk to make identifications of beetles; most do not have the equipment, including Dr. Frank. If you have priced both hard copies of books (various technical publications) that also have CD-ROM editions, you will see that the CD-ROM edition is much more expensive, reflecting the difference in production cost.

On-line

Writing articles, guides, and books, and putting the results "on line" for free use is an entirely different matter. This is cheap and convenient for the consumer, at least for those who have computer equipment. It may be done by anyone, with or without peer review; one never knows! However, I believe, since many universities hardly recognize book writing as a step toward tenure, few will bother to use this channel for book production.

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