

Preface to the second edition

More than 100 years have passed since C.V. Riley (1892) published *Directions for Collecting and Preserving Insects*. That work marked the starting point in North America of publications on the collection, preservation, and curation of insects and mites. Many of these works are now unavailable, and some of the concepts contained in them involve obsolete technology.

In 1986, *Insects and Mites: Techniques for Collection and Preservation* (Steyskal et al., 1986) was published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The book was written by George Steyskal, a research entomologist specializing in the taxonomy of Diptera; William Murphy, information specialist; and Edna Hoover, a materials processor for the Systematic Entomology Laboratory. Their avid interest in collecting and curating insects is contagious and much of their original work is reflected throughout this book. Michael E. Schauff published an electronic version of the original text together with several useful updates. We recognize his valuable contributions in the printed publication of this text.

In *Arthropod Collection and Identification Techniques*, we have updated information and techniques as well as added new material to make the information more useable and complete. This book describes effective methods and equipment for collecting, identifying, rearing, examining, and preserving insects and mites and for storing and caring for specimens in collection. It also provides instructions for the construction of many kinds of collecting equipment, traps, rearing cages, and storage units, as well as updated and illustrated keys for identification of the classes of arthropods and the orders of insects. Such information not only aids hobbyists and professionals in preparing insect collections, but it has become essential in documenting and standardizing the collection of entomological evidence in forensic as well as pest management sciences.

Insect Collection and Identification: Techniques for the Field and Laboratory second edition provides detailed and up-to-date taxonomic keys to insects and related arthropods given recent classification changes to various insect taxa. Revised preservation materials and techniques for forensic, molecular and genomic studies are also included.

We hope that this work will be a useful reference and resource for anyone fascinated by the world of "bugs."

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