

Preface

In 2013, FAO issued a report "Edible insects. Future prospects for food and feed security". This report has been seemed to give considerable impact to mass media in many countries. Then, topics on entomophagy were taken up often by TV, newspapers or journals in various countries. It is said that in some countries, eating insects became a boom. Based on the enhancement of general people's interest to entomophagy, 140 companies dealing with insect foods have been reportedly established in France. Events such as exhibition, symposium, workshop, meeting for trial to eat insects, were held in many places. In Japan demand for insect foods is said to increase twice. The author has interested in human consumption of insects for long time, and published a book "Edible insects of the world" in 1984, in Japanese. Since then, he could collect information on entomophagy in fairly large amount. The compilation of the collected information was published in two volumes of books, "Complete World Entomophagy" and "Encyclopedia on the Culture of Entomophagy", both written in Japanese. Up to present, Bodenheimer's book "Insects as human food" is only one book generalized entomophagy in English. Information after this book has not been published as a monograph. DeFoliart collected enormous amount of information on entomophagy, and in 2002 opened his notes to the public on internet home page as "The human use of insects as a food resource: A bibliographic account in progress". Unfortunately, he could not complete this work and the information was not published. Then the author thought that it will be worthwhile to publish a book on generalized entomophagy of the world in English. This is the reason of the publication of this book.

The number of edible insect species is one of frequent questions about entomophagy. It is very difficult to answer for such questions, if not impossible. Because, there are many unidentified species including new species in inland of developing countries, where entomophagy is common. Also, most vernacular names of insects in such places do not correspond with scientific names. In many cases, a vernacular name covers several species which have different scientific names. A vernacular name, therefore, cannot be used for counting number of insect species. These factors make counting of edible insect species extremely difficult.

This book contains about 2,140 edible insect species which were identified with scientific names. However, actually eaten species is further more. In this book, species, whose genus name only was identified, is also included. For scientific names, there seems some confusion. There were some synonym. Also, there were some misprinting or misspelling, both of which had been used by several authors. For such cases, in this book both names are cited as they printed in original paper, because the present author could not determine which name or spelling was authentic. For counting species, the one only whose genus name was known were excluded. In other words, genus name plus sp. or spp. was not counted. When a single species was described with more than two different scientific names, description was made on one of them, and the name selected as representative was indicated with an arrow. The selected name is, however, not necessarily authentic one. Brief description was made about name of country or district in which insects are eaten, what kind of people eat insects, how to collect edible insects, how to eat the insects, and so on. However, information on these items was not sufficiently supplied. Readers, therefore, will find frequently an expression saying just "This species is eaten in this country". In this book, some medicinal insects, which are administered orally, are also taken in. For such insects, target disease or usage was described.

Many readers may be interested what kind of insects are eaten in some selected countries or districts. For such demand, lists of scientific names of edible insects are compiled by country or district in Part II.

For readers, who want to see original papers, cited literatures are listed in Part III. There were many literatures, which present author could not see directly. In these case, the literatures, which the author actually read and cited from, were indicated in [].