

Preface

“How to Know the Insects” has occupied a unique niche as an early entomological handbook and its continuing use affirms the talent of Professor Jaques to create a book of great utility. Many changes have occurred in the classification of insects since the last revision in 1947 and the time arrived to revise the text and incorporate the changes.

This new edition is completely revised and provides a more complete account of insect natural history to accompany the keys and examples of species. The book may be used at three levels. The most elementary level includes the key to orders and the general information on the 29 insect orders. At the second level, collectors who wish to classify insects into families and learn more about them will find that the keys to common families and the descriptive biology of the families will serve these purposes. Other readers may have specimens they would like to identify to species, and the descriptions of selected common species will be of assistance at this third level.

I have added many features useful in the identification and natural history portions of a beginning or advanced class in college entomology. Teachers of high school biology classes and the layman interested in the world of insects will also continue to find the book a valuable source of reference in the classroom, field, or personal library. New and revised features include the following:

1. Revised keys to orders and common families. Keys to families are more accurate and usable and include additional common families.
2. Hundreds of new illustrations. All drawings are larger and improved in clarity. Many show the variance in insect form within families and others illustrate wing venation and various body features needed to use the keys.
3. A description of the basic biology of each order and of most families. Characteristics used to identify immatures are included for many orders and certain families.
4. A description of selected common species or genera in most families.
5. General literature references for future reading at the end of each chapter on the insect orders. References are also given for general textbooks in entomology and for books on rearing insects, and names and addresses are listed for biological supply companies.
6. Directions for finding, collecting, and preserving insects are rewritten and expanded. Chapters on insect classification, structure and development, and rearing, are new or revised. The glossary includes many additional terms used in the text.

Roger G. Bland