NORTH AMERICAN BEETLE FAUNA PROJECT

A series of 10 books will eventually result from a new cooperative venture called the “North American Beetle Fauna Project” undertaken by Dr. Ross H. Arnett, Jr. The purpose of the project is to produce 10 volumes of authoritative manuals for use in the study of the taxonomy and biology of the beetle species occurring in Canada, United States, Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies. These regional manuals are expected to be of particular use to ecologists and are specifically designed for the non-specialist.

The books, several of which are well underway, are being designed by a board of nine editors: Ross H. Arnett, Jr., general editor; George E. Ball, University of Alberta; Richard E. Blackwelder, Southern Illinois University; John A. Chemsak, University of California, Berkeley; N. M. Downie, Purdue University; Eugene J. Gerberg, Insect Control and Research, Inc.; Lee H. Herman, Jr., American Museum of Natural History; Edwin V. Komarek, Sr., Tall Timbers Research Station, and Charles W. O’Brien, Florida A&M University. In addition to these editors, invitations have been extended to approximately 150 collaborators to help write various sections of these works. Over 40 already have accepted and work has begun.

The project has begun to produce a checklist of the beetles of North America arranged by regions. The list is mimeographed and is mailed free to all collaborators along with an informal “Progress Report”. The checklist is produced in three stages: 1) a red version as a preliminary list compiled from the literature; 2) a yellow list, as a version checked in some detail by specialists, but still a preliminary list to be used with caution, and 3) a green list produced as a final version to be used in producing the regional volumes. The compilation of the checklist is aided by Donny L. Harris, entomologist, Tall Timbers Research Station. The production of the checklist is made possible by a small seed grant and by Tall Timbers Research Station.


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