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The Frost Entomological Museum

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The entomological collection of The Pennsylvania State University has been officially designated the Frost Entomological Museum in honor of Dr. Stuart W. Frost, Professor Emeritus of Entomology. This collection was originated in 1937 and developed by the singlehanded effort of Dr. Frost, who served as curator of the collection until 1957. From 1958 to mid-1968 Dr. W. W. Boyle was in charge of the collection, and the author became curator in the summer of 1968.

The Frost Entomological Museum now contains approximately 180,000 pinned insect specimens, 5,000 vials and bottles of alcohol-preserved specimens, and a large arachnid collection. The general collection of pinned insect specimens is housed in about 830 U. S. National Museum drawers and 70 steel cabinets using the unit-tray system. The largest collections of the Frost Entomological Museum include approximately 40,000 specimens of Coleoptera, 20,000 Diptera, 11,000 Hymenoptera, 10,000 Homoptera, and 19,000 Lepidoptera.

The major portion of the collection has been accumulated through a project entitled "The Ecological Insect Survey of Pennsylvania" (Frost 1958). Numerous small collections have been received as gifts or purchased for the Museum. The Bureau of Plant Industry, Harrisburg, donated duplicated specimens of Lepidoptera from the Charles S. Anderson collection, and the Reading Museum donated duplicate Lepidoptera specimens, chiefly exotic material. Mr. C. A. Thomas turned over his collection of Coleoptera. The Museum has also acquired other material; namely, the J. O. Pepper collection of Homoptera and Hemiptera, and the W. W. Long collection of Lepidoptera, chiefly Sphingidae.

The Museum's collection is remarkably extensive and well curated. Material is being added at a very fast rate. Recently, Professor Emeritus John O. Pepper has donated his extensive aphid collection. Light-trapping of insects carried out by Dr. Frost for the past ten years has provided excellent additions of Florida insects to the Museum (Frost 1964 and 1966).

The primary objective of the Frost Entomological Museum is to accumulate, maintain, and conserve a documented record of insects and related arthropods for research and instruction. Documented records include col-

lections of insects and arthropods in terms of holomorphy, traces and remnants of insects, and the associated notes and papers. A continuous effort will be made to build up a working library of taxonomic literature and reference. This museum will play a unique role in educating the public and students on campus, and providing indispensable aid for accurate identification of insects and arthropods for the public, extension service, researchers, private industry, and State government. Major effort of the Museum will be placed on the fauna of North America, particularly Pennsylvania. The collections of particular groups will be continuously improved by the special interest of taxonomists associated with the Museum. For excellence of graduate training in insect systematics collecting efforts will be made from all major geographic regions for at least representatives of the characteristic groups of major regions of the world. A strong insect systematics program has been initiated through the Frost Entomological Museum. Several specialists are actively working in the Museum; J. O. Pepper (Professor Emeritus) on Aphididae (Homoptera), S. W. Frost (Professor Emeritus) on Agromyzidae (Diptera) and Florida insects, R. J. Snetsinger on Arachnida, S. G. Green on Oribatoidea (Acarina), and K. C. Kim on Sphaeroceridae (Diptera) and Anoplura.

Research on Anoplura includes taxonomic revisions of *Enderleinellus* and *Hoplopleura*, nymphal stages of *Anoplura*, and the synoptic catalog of the sucking lice (*Anoplura*) of the world. Materials from various parts of the world are being worked out in cooperation with Dr. K. C. Emerson of the U. S. National Museum.

We invite requests to the Frost Entomological Museum for loan of specimens and exchanges of entomological material by entomologists.

REFERENCES CITED

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