

PREFACE

During the last hundred years large numbers of Chinese insects have been collected by foreigners residing in different parts of China, chiefly missionaries, medical doctors, post-office and customs officers and business people, all amateurs in natural history. The collecting was done sporadically and all the specimens were sent to different institutes, museums and specialists in Europe and America for determination. Very few of the cotypes and paratypes have been retained in China or returned. The descriptions of the species and the records of their occurrence are widely scattered in various journals and periodicals published in foreign countries. There is hardly anything available in China for a student in entomology to consult for a mere beginning. It is therefore very important to have a catalogue of all the species of insects that have heretofore been recorded from China with references to their descriptions, synonymy and distribution. Such a catalogue will serve as a foundation on which further work may be developed in the various fields of entomology and will also stimulate further studies of the Chinese insects on their morphology, taxonomy, life-histories, life habits, economic importance and methods of control.

In the years 1922 to 1929 the author devoted his spare time to building up lists of Chinese insects and a collection of reprints containing their descriptions. In 1929 the National Library of Peiping acquired a complete set of the Zoological Record and in the same year the author obtained from the China Foundation for the Promotion of Education and Culture a Science Research Fellowship, with which he secured the assistance of three graduate students in the Department of Biology of Yenching University for making a card catalogue of the Chinese insects listed in the Zoological Record. With the fellowship renewed in the following year, he was able to keep the service of these graduate students and to cover all the published volumes of the Zoological Record.

From 1930 to 1933 the author also received each year from the Rockefeller Foundation a local research grant, with which he was able to employ a full time clerk to sort the cards into taxonomic groups and to prepare from them a check list of the species. He was also able to secure the service of one graduate student to help checking through all the available literature which has been published in China, Japan, the Philippine Islands, and other countries. Some of these publications were obtained by loan from the National Library of Peiping and the Library of the National Tsing Hua University in Peiping. Others were obtained by the Department of Biology of Yenching University through purchase or exchange. Up to the end of May 1933 this Preliminary Check List of Chinese Insects contained a total number of 14164 species. It was then used as the basis for the preparation of the present catalogue.

The author is very grateful to the Rockefeller Foundation for a generous special grant which enabled him to take his sabbatical leave from Yenching University during the year 1933-34 and to give his full time to complete the Catalogue at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., U. S. A. He is also grateful to Cornell University and its Department of Entomology

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During the year the author also had the opportunity of visiting a number of museums in America and Europe where he obtained many additional records of Chinese insects. Grateful acknowledgements are due to the following institutions and individuals for their kind permission to use their museum collections and museum records and for their assistance in many different ways:

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This Catalogue is as yet the first attempt to bring together all the information regarding the whole insect fauna of China. It gives important bibliographies of the different orders, families and their subdivisions down to the species, with their synonyms cited in full and with the Chinese localities and general distribution given under each species. It gives an index to the genera and species as well as their synonyms at the end of each order or family, and it also gives a general index to all the genera and their synonyms at the end of each volume. To use the indices the readers are referred to the contents. It is intended to be as complete as possible for the known species from China up to the end of 1933 and it includes at present about 19,000 species which are distributed in twenty-four different orders.

Since the Class of Insects is so tremendously large and the literature so numerous and widely scattered, there must be some important papers which have been overlooked by the author. In regard to the systematic arrangement of the species in the catalogue, even specialists in the same group or order may have very different opinions, some of which are given in the foot-notes in the proper places. Since the author does not pretend to know all the groups of insects, he may have made some serious mistakes in arranging the species, in citing the bibliographies and synonyms, and in interpreting the different view-points of the specialists. Also the proof-reading of a publication of this nature is extremely difficult and although the author will have a number of people to assist him in this task, yet it is almost certain that there will be a number of typographic errors which will escape notice. He therefore holds himself responsible for all such mistakes and takes this opportunity to request those who use this Catalogue to communicate with him directly regarding such omissions and mistakes. Supplements to the Catalogue will then be issued from time to time to include the corrections and additions.

Finally the author wishes to express his sincere gratitude to the China Foundation for the Promotion of Education and Culture for a special grant to the Fan Memorial Institute of Biology for the publication of this Catalogue and to the Rockefeller Foundation for further grants to cover the expense in re-editing and re-typing different sections of the manuscript and in the preparation of the indices. He also wants to thank his numerous friends who have during the past years taken keen interest in this work and have given him encouragement and valuable assistance.

This Catalogue is to be published in six volumes at regular intervals during the years 1935 and 1936 and the contents of the different volumes will be as follows :

- Volume 1. Thysanura, Colembola, Orthoptera, Zoraptera, Isoptera, Neuroptera, Ephemera, Odonata, Plecoptera, Corrodentia, Mallophaga, Embiidina, Thysanoptera and Anoplura.
- Volume 2. Homoptera, Hemiptera and Dermaptera.
- Volume 3. Coleoptera, Strepsiptera, Mecoptera and Trichoptera.
- Volume 4. Lepidoptera.
- Volume 5. Diptera and Siphonaptera.
- Volume 6. Hymenoptera.

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