

K. NOVÁK ET AL.: METODY SBĚRU A PREPARACE HMYZU
(METHODS FOR COLLECTING AND PREPARING INSECTS
FOR STUDY) (In Czech.) Academia, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences Publ.
House, Praha, 1969, 243 pp., 66 Fig.

This manual on the methods for collecting and preparing insects for study is a joint work of thirty-one foremost Czechoslovak specialists in entomology and allied disciplines, edited by Dr. K. Novák, CSc. It is divided into two sections, of which the first deals with collecting, preserving and preparing for study, the second with the study of insects itself. The first section (pp. 9—204), representing the basic portion of the publication, is subdivided into a general and a special part.

In the general part (pp. 11—86), besides the main principles and description of basic aids for collecting insects, various types of traps and light-traps and other techniques used in entomology are described. Also most various currently used methods for preparing insects, as well as some special techniques are described in detail. This part is very comprehensive and provided with many illustrations and literary surveys. However, a relatively small attention is paid to blood-sucking insects and therefore some current methods and collecting aids used in parasitology, for example the trap contrived by Skuf' in and artificial kerosine puddles for capturing horse flies, or various types of traps with live animal baits for capturing mosquitoes and other biting insects, have been essentially overlooked by the authors and are not included even in the special part. In surveys of mounting media for making permanent preparations polyvinyl alcohol media (PVA) are not mentioned.

The special part (pp. 87—204) contains well-organized divisions covering collection and preparation of 37 different insect orders and 4 orders of the subphylum Chelicerata. This part is comprehensively done and concerns the sites, collection, preservation and preparation of members of individual orders, with basic literature appended to each order. Also in this

part collection methods of parasitic groups are described inadequately or have been omitted altogether. For example no mention is made on collecting nasal mites by Yunker's flushing method, on collecting parasitic larvae of Diptera causing myiases or on collecting Diptera of the families Hippoboscidae and Nycteriidae etc. It stands to reason that in a publication of limited scope all collecting methods cannot be described in detail, but those less known insect groups and methods of collecting them could have been at least touched on. It is also questionable whether the title of the volume has been suitably chosen, considering the fact that in the special part also orders Pseudoscorpionidea, Opilionidea, Aranea and Acari are discussed which decidedly cannot be listed among insects (Insecta).

The second section called "From collecting to studying insects" (pp. 207—238) includes, besides principles of collecting and identifying insects, also important accounts of systematics, nomenclature, zoogeography, as well as instructions for using literature, and indicates the layman's possibilities of studying insects. This section is supplemented with basic literature and is in every way excellent. Its inclusion in the manual must be welcomed.

The volume under review appears to have been carefully edited, leaving but a few small inaccuracies in references to literature and in the names of authors (e.g. in the text on page 95 Nosek, 1953 is cited, while in the list of bibliography on page 100 the citation reads Nosek, 1954, or D. Macfarlane on page 100 is erroneously given as MacFarlane), or in the nomenclature (e.g. on page 130 the genus *Piagetiella* is given under its previous, now invalid name *Tetraphthalmus*). These rare faults, however, are minor compared to the high qualities of the book.

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