

Literature

Barbosa, P. & Wagner, M. R. 1989: Introduction to Forest and Shade Tree Insects. — 649 pp., 240 black-and-white illustrations, 119 tables. Size 14.5 × 23.0 cm. Academic Press, San Diego – New York – London. ISBN 0-12-078146-8. Price USD 75.

The forest is a complex biological system with high diversity in its flora and fauna. For example, the plants provide both food and shelter for the animals. Knowledge about this delicate ecological balance will enable us to understand and control pest species without disturbing this balance in the forest. This textbook gives a comprehensive introduction to the field of forest entomology.

The contents, comprising 27 chapters, are divided into four major parts: 1) A comprehensive introduction on insect–tree interactions, which thoroughly describes the subject, for example, the influence of food quality on the insects, various forms of tree damage dependent on the feeding method of the insects, host selection of insects, symbiosis between insects, microorganisms and trees, and the chemical defence of conifers. 2) The impact on the trees of the different feeding methods of insects, for example, if they attack the leaves, buds, shoots, stems, roots, seeds or cones. 3) The ecology of forest insects. Different types of insect communities are described. Various physical factors and the environment of the forest determine the many

different microclimates occurring. The growth of populations is described and the background for outbreaks of pest species. 4) The control of insect populations, from an early survey detection of pest species to various types of biological and chemical control. Differences between natural and cultured forests are discussed.

An appendix of general entomology is included for readers not particularly familiar with insects. The reference list contains about 1000 citations. A taxonomic and a systematic index is included.

This book is a good introduction to the field of forest entomology, and provides the readers with numerous examples. However, many of these are from North America, which might be a slight disadvantage for those of us in Northern Europe. The illustrations are of a high quality. To conclude, this is a good book, on an interesting subject, available at a reasonable price.

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