

## Literature

Gilbert, P. & Hamilton, C. J. 1990. *Entomology: a guide to information sources* (2nd ed.). — Mansell Publ. Ltd., London & New York. 259 pp. ISBN 0-7201-2052-7. Price 30 GBP.

Today there exists a considerable amount of literature purporting to help entomologists trying to locate the particular reference needed on some special occasion. Large directories that cover all aspects of science are useful for locating institutions. Specialised directories may list entomologists specializing in a particular group of insects, or in a particular branch of entomology. Secondary journals, such as *Entomology Abstracts* or the *Zoological Record* help to discover what is being done by whom.

We have now at hand a book by Pamela Gilbert and Chris J. Hamilton that purports to give information on a multitude of subjects important to entomologists. It is in fact already in its second edition, so obviously it has filled a need. Basically this book is a bibliography with comments; in addition there is also a list of entomological societies from all parts of the world.

The book will undoubtedly be quite useful to those beginning a career in entomology. Since it includes references to other bibliographies it can also function as a stepping-stone to more advanced studies. Yet there are many occasions where it is so incomplete that there could be a real danger to uncritical users.

One section of the book gives a list of entomological journals. The list is fairly large, and seems to contain most of the important entomological journals (although recent changes naturally make the list occasionally out of date). Yet there is not even a warning to the unwary reader that a great many entomological articles are published in other zoological journals. So there is nowhere a mention of for instance *Annales Zoologici Fennici* or *Acta Zoologica Fennica*, or even such as *Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien*, *Annales de Limnologie*, *Archiv für Hydrobiologie*, *Freshwater Biology*, *Journal of Natural History*, *Oikos*, *Revue*

*Suisse de Zoologie* or *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology* — all journals with numerous entomological articles. Similarly among the omitted secondary journals for instance *Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts* has numerous references to papers on aquatic entomology.

When preparing a list of important books on various aspects of entomology the authors cannot avoid being subjective; so much has been written and only a small part can be included. Even so, the authors would have rendered their readers better service had they given a bit more attention to books written in languages other than English. There are, for instance, 41 titles under pest control, all of them in English. Among 67 titles on medical and veterinary entomology there are two in French, two in German and one each in Arabic, Russian, Spanish and Turkish. A similar parochialism can also be found in other sections.

The list of entomological societies is undoubtedly useful, but the question is, would it not have been even more useful to have additionally a list of entomological institutions? As for the list of societies, it gives only some; from Finland it mentions *Lepidopterologiska Sällskapet* (sic!) Finland and *Societas Entomologica Helsingforsiensis*, but leaves out *Suomen Hyönteistieteellinen Seura*, from Sweden only *Entomologiska Föreningen i Stockholm* is mentioned, while Norway has seven societies listed.

This book will undoubtedly be quite useful on many occasions, and its fairly reasonable price means that it can be afforded also by minor institutions, including those in developing countries. It must, however, be used with discrimination, and the user should remember that it only gives a selection of what could be needed.

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