

Literature

Block, William 1992: An annotated bibliography of Antarctic invertebrates (terrestrial and freshwater). — British Antarctic Survey, Natural Environmental Research Council, Cambridge. 263 pp. ISBN 0-85665-148-6. GBP 25 (softback).

In comparison with other regions, except for hot and dry deserts, the Antarctic fauna comprises only a small number of invertebrate taxa. Still, zoologists have participated in numerous expeditions to carry out investigations on this fauna. Results from these expeditions have been published in a diversity of periodicals. Difficulties in tracing the Antarctic literature on a particular topic caused William Block to build a card index system, at first for his own use, but now published for public use.

The present bibliography covers the period from the earliest South Polar Expedition (1822-1825) to the end of 1990. The geographical scope of the bibliography includes the continental Antarctic and the sub-Antarctic islands (excluding, however, Tristan da Cunha, Gough I., Amsterdam & St Paul Islands, Campbell I., Auckland I. the Antipodes, Bounty Is. and the Falkland Is.).

The main index is arranged alphabetically according to author. Each entry includes author, year of publication, title, name of periodical and a short abstract with information arranged in four sections: taxonomical group, ecology, physiology and systematics. Appendices 1, 2 and 3 list additional references, unpublished references and unexamined material. The bibliography comprises a total of 1431 entries. Indexes on classification,

taxonomy, species, author, subject, geography and expeditions make up the rest of the bibliography. Some 1300 names (species or forms) are included in the species index. A superficial counting of species (and forms) of the separate groups of Arachnida and Insecta is as follows: Acari 280, Araneida 22, Opiliones 2, Pseudoscorpionida 1, Collembola 80, Coleoptera 100, Diptera 75, Hemiptera 9, Hymenoptera 5, Lepidoptera 16, Neuroptera 1, Anoplura 8, Mallophaga 70, Plecoptera 1, Psocoptera 4, Siphonaptera 12 and Thysanoptera 4. The number of species, however, is only approximate, because variant spellings are listed as separate entries. Because the bulk of the species-list deals with the sub-Antarctic islands and a large number of introductions are also included, the number of true Antarctic species is much lower.

My brief random check of the reference list did not reveal any omitted references. The various indexes are of great help to anyone interested in the Antarctic. References dealing with a particular topic (taxonomy, species, sub-Antarctic island etc.) are easily and quickly traced. This bibliography will be most useful for entomologists dealing with Collembola, Coleoptera, Diptera, or with cold desert ecology and faunistics.

Larry Huldén