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INSECT AND SPIDER COLLECTIONS OF THE WORLD

A new work entitled "Insect and Spider Collections of the World" is being compiled by Dr. Ross H. Arnett, Jr., Florida State Collection of Arthropods, and Dr. G. Alan Samuelson, Bishop Museum. The purpose of this is to produce a standard list of collections of insects and spiders located throughout the world. This work will be useful both for the location of specimens and, with the acronyms, a way to cite the location of specimens in publications.

Each collection will be described by giving the size of the collection either by citing the number of drawers, boxes, slides, and vials, or by the number of specimens they contain. The names of the curators will be listed, along with notes on special collections, the regions covered, and similar data. Each collection is assigned an acronym unique to that collection. This "coden" is standardized by containing four letters. By using four letters, neither less, nor more, each collection will have a distinctive acronym, and there are enough possible combinations of four letters to enable us to add collections as needed without changing any codens.

There have been several recent attempts to produce lists of acronyms for collections. The most comprehensive was published in 1969 (now out-of-print) for the collections of Coleoptera of North America. Another list for Lepidoptera covered the entire world but did not give addresses and created about 70 coden "synonyms." The present work will include all these acronyms and add many more.

We are eager to make this book as complete as possible. We also are planning for easy update by entering all data into a computer file. We hope these codens will be universally acceptable and usable in entomology.

The enclosed questionnaire has been and is being sent out to all known institutions with insect and spider collections in their care. This form may be duplicated and distributed to those in charge of any known collection including private collections. We will appreciate your help in distributing these and thereby saving postage.

Please note that we will not include any private collections unless they are registered with a public collection. The reason for this is apparent when our previous directory is examined and it is noted that most of the private collectors have moved during the past 15 years, many have given their collection away, or they have passed on. Users of the previous work are unable to find out where the collection is now located.

Several museums have offered to register private collections which enables us to include these collections in this directory. In these cases, we give the name and address of the museum besides the address where the collection is now located. Registering a collection with a museum does not commit the collection to the museum. It merely means that the museum has agreed to always keep a record of the location of the collection. Thus if it is moved, the museum is notified, and then anyone trying to reach the collector is able to find the new address, or if the collection is disposed of, it can be located through this service. Private collectors who have not registered their collection with a museum, but who were previously assigned an acronym will continue to be listed, but with the notation: "permanent address unknown," or "refused to supply permanent address."

The questionnaire should be returned by airmail as soon as possible. At present we hope to have the work printed early in 1985.

[Leave blank above line; for office use only]

Geo. Region:

Coden:

Date received:

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR "INSECT AND SPIDER COLLECTIONS OF THE WORLD"

Name of collection: _____

Mail address _____

_____ (Zip) _____ Country _____

Sponsorship of collection: Private institution []; Federal []; State or Province []; Other _____

Coden: _____ (Must be 4 letters; May be changed if not already in use but only if not duplicated by another collection).

Director (Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.) _____ Phone: _____

Professional staff: _____

(Please add additional professional staff on back of questionnaire, or send copy of your directory)

Description of collection (Include number of specimens in collection; see sample supplied; use reverse side or separate sheet for more space; we reserve the right to edit to save space if necessary):

Special collections:

Type of housing (drawers, boxes, etc.):

Publications sponsored:

Private collections of individuals affiliated (Individuals will not be included unless they give, in addition to their home address, a permanent address, e.g., University or Museum, where they may be reached if they change residence):

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN **DEC. 31, 1984** to: Dr. Ross H. Arnett, Jr., Florida State Collection of Arthropods, P.O. Box 1269, Gainesville, FL 32602, USA.