
IMMS' GENERAL TEXTBOOK OF ENTOMOLOGY

TENTH EDITION

Volume 2: Classification and Biology

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LONDON

CHAPMAN AND HALL

A Halsted Press Book

John Wiley & Sons, New York

*First published, 1925
by Methuen and Co., Ltd.
Second edition, revised, 1930
Third edition, revised and enlarged, 1934
Fourth edition, 1938
Fifth edition, 1942
Sixth edition, 1947
Seventh edition, 1948
Eighth edition, 1951
Ninth edition, revised by
O. W. Richards and R. G. Davies, 1957
Tenth edition published in two volumes, 1977
by Chapman and Hall Ltd.,
11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P 4EE
© 1977 O. W. Richards and R. G. Davies*

Filmset in 'Monophoto' Ehrhardt 11 on 12 pt. by
Richard Clay (The Chaucer Press), Ltd., Bungay, Suffolk
and printed in Great Britain by
Fletcher & Son Ltd., Norwich

Volume 2 ISBN 0 412 15220 7 (cased edition)
Volume 2 ISBN 0 412 15230 4 (Science Paperback)

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Distributed in the U.S.A.
by Halsted Press, a division of
John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Imms, Augustus Daniel, 1880-1949.
Imms' General textbook of entomology.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

I. Entomology. I. Richards, Owain Westmacott,
1901- II. Davies, Richard Gareth. III. Title.
IV. Title: General textbook of entomology. [DNLM:
1. Insects. QX500 1338]
QL463.157 1977 595.7 76-47011
ISBN 0-99123-2 (v. 2)

PREFACE TO THE TENTH EDITION

In the twenty years that have elapsed since our last complete revision of this textbook, entomology has developed greatly, both in extent and depth. There are now over 8000 publications on the subject each year (excluding the applied literature) and the difficulty of incorporating even a fraction of the more important new results has occupied us considerably. We have nevertheless retained the original plan of the book, especially as it has the merit of familiarity for many readers, but we have made a number of appreciable changes in the text as well as innumerable smaller alterations. We have decided, with some reluctance, to dispense with the keys to families that were formerly given for most of the orders of insects. These are increasingly difficult to construct because specialists tend to recognize ever larger numbers of families, often based on regional revisions and therefore applicable with difficulty, if at all, to the world fauna. Our revision of the text has also entailed extensive changes in the bibliographies, which have been brought more or less up to date. In doing this we have had to be rigorously selective and we have tended to give some emphasis to review articles or recent papers at the expense of older works. We recognize that this has sometimes done less than justice to the contributions of earlier authorities, but the immense volume of literature left little alternative and we apologize to those who feel our choice of references has sometimes been almost arbitrary.

Every chapter has been revised in detail, many of them include new sections, and some have been extensively rewritten. In a few groups such as the Plecoptera and Heteroptera the higher classification has been recast; more often we have made smaller amendments in the number and arrangement of families so as to bring the scheme into broad but conservative agreement with modern views. The general chapters now include some information on ultrastructure and we have retained and tried to modernize the physiological sections; as non-specialists in this field we owe a great debt to the textbooks of Wigglesworth and of Rockstein. Inevitably the book has grown in size with the development of the subject. It may, indeed, be argued that the day of the general textbook has passed and that it must be replaced by a series of special monographs. We believe, however, that there are some advantages in a more unified viewpoint and it is our hope that the new balance we have reached between the various aspects of entomology will

seem as appropriate now as the original balance was when Dr A. D. Imms' textbook was first published over fifty years ago.

There are 35 new figures, all based on published illustrations, the sources of which are acknowledged in the captions. We are grateful to the authors concerned and also to Miss K. Priest of Messrs Chapman & Hall, who saved us from many errors and omissions, and to Mrs R. G. Davies for substantial help in preparing the bibliographies and checking references.

London
May 1976

O.W.R.
R.G.D.

Part III

THE ORDERS OF INSECTS

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