

A Proposed Bibliography and Catalogue of World Formicidae.

For the past several years I have been working on a bibliography and catalogue of the Formicidae of the world. At present the bibliography contains ca. 6000 titles, which cover myrmecology from the earliest times to date. All titles found have been included, since it is my feeling that the function of a bibliographer and cataloger is to record everything and anything on his subject and leave matters of value-discrimination to the individual workers as they work on their special problems. An attempt on my part to select the "important" works would only result in a collection of titles with which all well-versed myrmecologists are acquainted, and furthermore would leave out for the most part works of varied value that have been overlooked for years.

Following the publication of the bibliography I plan to bring the 3 parts of the catalogue (1. taxonomic index, 2. subject index, and 3.

geographic and geologic index) up to date as rapidly as possible. The catalogue will presumably be published by the same agency which handles the publication of the bibliography, since it will depend on the bibliography for full citation of source.

In consideration of the time that will of necessity elapse before the bibliography proper is published, I have decided that upon the completion of my Ph. D. thesis (ca. 1949) I shall prepare a mimeographed copy of the bibliography proper (not the catalogue) and send a copy of it to each active myrmecologist known to me at that time.

The proposed bibliography and catalogue represent a life time of unremitting hard work, and without the active cooperation of all myrmecologists they will be very difficult of execution. In the past most myrmecologists once acquainted with my work have been most cooperative. It is my hope that by writing this brief advance notice about my project, I shall gain the active cooperation of a large circle of myrmecologists throughout the world.

The following types of assistance would be especially helpful to me and if each myrmecologist will take the time to grant as many of these requests as he can it will be greatly appreciated and will speed up my work on the bibliography and catalogue.

1) Kindly prepare a complete and accurate bibliography of your personal contributions to myrmecology, including not only papers which deal exclusively with ants but also papers which deal in part with ants or myrmecophiles. Please number the papers in this list and keep a carbon copy on file.

2) Please send me as complete a set of your reprints as possible. If you have already sent me some of your papers, I can inform you as to the papers which I lack by reference of the numbers of your bibliography. Please send me reprints of all future papers as they appear. In case you do not get reprints of any given contribution, kindly send me a bibliographic notice in place of the reprint.

3) Please send me any reprints of other authors which are no longer of use to you, e. g. duplicates or papers not duplicates which you are not using in your work and for which you do not foresee any future use.

Item 1 will make it possible to do a more accurate and complete piece of work on the preliminary mimeographed bibliography which is to be sent out to the workers several years before the publication of the bibliography in its final form. It is obvious that the preliminary mimeographed bibliography will not be complete nor accurate in all details, since I shall have to do the bulk of the work of checking and correcting titles for the final work after the mimeographed bibliography has been sent out.

Items 2 and 3 are aimed at building up my reprint collection. A large collection of reprints in my office will serve to decrease the amount of time spent in travel and in photo-copying. This represents a long range type of assistance, since having the reprints at hand plays a most important role in cutting down on the time necessary for preparing the 3 parts of the catalogue as well as making it an easy matter to check the accuracy of the bibliographic entries.

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