Book Notices

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One of the phases of insect taxonomy which has been greatly neglected is the study of the immature insect stages. In volumes I and II of "Larvae of Insects" the author has attempted to bring together all of the known material in one portion of that field. Volume I, published in 1948, treats in detail the larvae of Lepidoptera and Hymenoptera. Volume II, now just appearing in print, treats in a similar manner the larvae of Coleoptera and Diptera, and in less detail the larvae of Neuroptera, Siphonaptera, Mecoptera, and Trichoptera.

A discussion is presented of the larval characters of each order and the structures which differentiate the members of the different families. Following this, in all orders except the Siphonaptera and Mecoptera, a key is presented for identifying the larvae of the common families and an excellent set of figures to illustrate the characters used in the keys. In each group is a selected bibliography. The final portion of the publication contains a well planned glossary; a food, host, or habitat index for both Coleoptera and Diptera and a general index.

The compilation of material is exhaustive, the organization excellent, and the wealth of accurate illustrations is an outstanding contribution to this field of study. Several years of careful and meticulous work have been performed by the author in supplementing, with a large amount of original research, work previously published by others.

The text and its companion volume contain a complete summary of known larval types and larval characters and, in its present form, has been used by the author as a text for the study of insect larvae. The publication is an indispensable manual for any entomologist as it is the only up to date compilation of material in this field.

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