

Preface and Acknowledgment

This is a sequel to Peter W. Claassen's classic book *Plecoptera Nymphs of North America*, published as a Thomas Say Foundation volume in 1931 (Claassen 1931). We have attempted to bring together knowledge of the morphology and biology of North American stonefly nymphs and present new nymph descriptions, illustrations, and keys covering all of the 99 genera recognized through August 1987. We began the project about 12 years ago and traveled many thousands of miles during field expeditions to streams throughout most of North America, particularly in Alaska, the western mountains of Canada and the United States, the eastern Ozark, Ouachita, and Appalachian mountains, and the Gulf Coastal Plain. Many type localities were revisited, and special streams in relatively remote areas were collected in attempts to rear species representing genera whose nymphs have remained unknown or poorly known. The logical continuation of this work will be to comparatively study the morphology of species within important genera, with the ultimate goal of developing keys and illustrations for the identification of nymphal Plecoptera at the species level.

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