

Introduction

During 20 yr of employment at The Natural History Museum in London, one of us (W.R.D.) compiled and refined an index to the nominal species of *Cimex*; that is, every trivial epithet known to have been used in combination with the nominal genus. An attempt also was made to establish the identity of each nominal species, in so far as original descriptions and published synonymies would allow. As the genus *Cimex* was being used by some authorities to cover all terrestrial Heteroptera as late as the end of the 18th century, this list has relevance to many currently recognized families.

Independently, D.A.R. and L.H.R. also began work on a catalog of *Cimex* names to check for cases of homonymy in the Pentatomidae in advance of publication of the pentatomid world catalog. This work was based on 20 yr of cataloguing the pentatomoid families by L.H.R., and an investigation of important literature, especially modern catalogs of various heteropteran families. D.A.R. and L.H.R. are very grateful for the help received from the library staffs at both Louisiana State University and North Dakota State University. Also, many heteropteran systematists have generously supplied needed literature.

The foundation stone of the W.R.D. *Cimex* catalog was the masterly work of Sherborn (1902, 1922—1933). The Zoological Record (1864 onward) and other abstracting journals were consulted for the years after 1850. Names that came to light during other work were added and catalogs by many authors were consulted. Every work cited has been consulted either in the original or, in a very few cases, in photographic copy. A great debt of gratitude is owed to the fine libraries of The Natural History Museum and the Royal Entomological Society of London, and to their library staffs. Dr. Ursula Göllner-Scheiding kindly provided photocopies of some references not accessible in London.

L.H.R. and D.A.R. contacted W.R.D., and after some discussion it was decided to combine the smaller D.A.R. catalog with the comprehensive W.R.D. catalog. W.R.D. also supplied commentaries on several early publications in which *Cimex* species were described. Because these publications were general entomological works, the discussions are relevant to taxonomists working with insects other than Heteroptera. To make both the catalog and notes more