

Biennial Report of NDAC Insect Collection

By Richard L. Post¹

Since the last published report on the progress of the NDAC insect collection Post (1948), 3712 pinned insects, 138 microscope slides and six displays have been added to the collection. Gifts totaling 2662 specimens and valued at \$354.55 have been presented. The donors follow:

- Dr. C. P. Alexander, Massachusetts State College, Amherst, Massachusetts, one specimen each of the Dipterous families Tanyderidae, Ptychopteriidae and Trichoceridae (not previously in collection).
- Dr. William G. Bradley, European Corn Borer Research Lab., Akeny Field Station, Des Moines, Iowa, 50 assorted stages of European corn borer.
- Dr. S. W. Bromley, Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory, Stamford, Conn. 63 Asilidae including two Paratypes (specimens of the original series from which the species is described).
- Dr. Richard M. Bohart, Univ. of California, Berkeley, California. One pair *Stylops pacifica*. Order Strepsiptera. WITH THE ADDITION OF THESE SPECIMENS EVERY ORDER OF INSECTS IS NOW REPRESENTED IN THE COLLECTION.
- Dr. F. Gray Butcher, Univ. of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla. 25 insects including a rare Mantispidae and excellent examples of fluted scales.
- Dr. W. J. Chamberlin, Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon. One larva each of Bibionidae and Blepharoceridae.
- Dr. P. W. Fattig, Curator, Emory University Museum, Emory University, Georgia, 1543 pinned and determined insects representing several orders.
- Prof. C. Andresen Hubbard, Vanport College, Portland, Ore., 16 slides of fleas representing families and genera new to the NDAC insect collection.
- Dr. J. B. Hungerford, Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. Nine Hemiptera (Naucoridae, Hydrometridae, *Nepa*, Salidae and Hebridae). Families and genera not previously represented in the NDAC collection.
- Mr. Walter F. Mason, Escuela Agricola, El Vergel, Angol, Chile, 240 pinned Chilean insects.
- Dr. H. B. Mills, III, Natural History Survey, Urbana, Ill. Six preserved Neelidae (Collembola-springtails). Family not previously represented in NDAC collection.

¹Associate Professor of Agricultural Entomology, School of Agriculture and Curator of Insect Collection.

- Dr. C. F. W. Mussebeck, Div. of Insect Identification, Washington, D. C., 20 pinned and determined specimens of Hymenoptera (bees and wasps) representing four families new to the insect collection and two Blepharoceridae and 22 Psychodidae, including *Flebotomus* (small midges which are vectors of papataci or three day fever).
- Dr. L. D. Potter, NDAC Botany department, 305 specimens of named and pinned insects collected in Iowa.
- Dr. C. L. Remington, Yale Univ., New Haven, Conn., three Campodeidae (Thysanura).
- Dr. James A. Rehn, Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa., seven tropical earwigs showing the extreme orthogenetic development of caudal cerci and sexual dimorphism in this order, one Pseudophyllinae, sub-family of katydids.
- Dr. H. L. Smith, Div. of Golden Nematode Control, Hicksville, N. Y., two display mounts of golden nematode, including cysts embedded in plastic medium.
- Dr. O. A. Stevens, NDAC Botany department, 255 miscellaneous pinned insects, mostly Diptera and Hymenoptera and 87 pinned and determined native wild bees.

The major improvement in the insect collection during 1950 was the addition of four wall cabinets, each illuminated by a concealed fluorescent lamp. Two of these cases are in Morrill hall

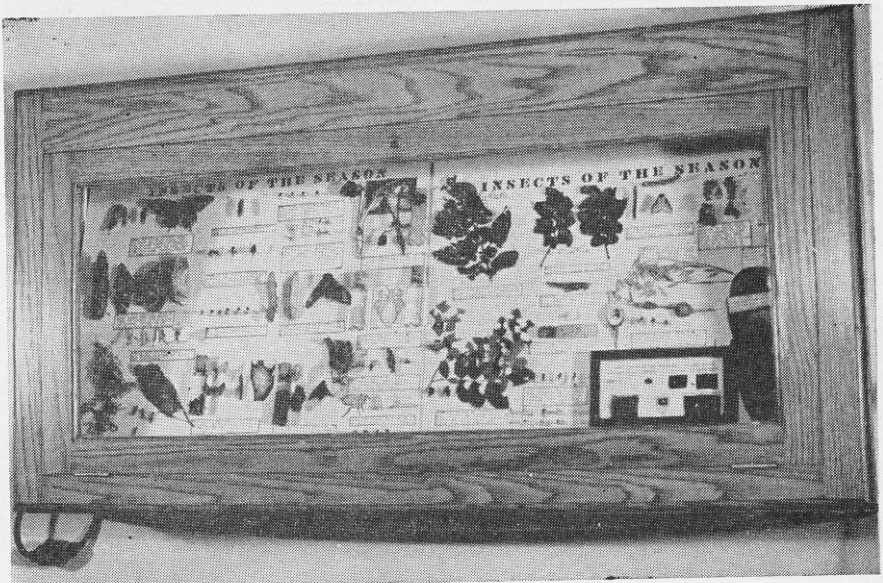


Fig. 1. An illuminated exhibit case displaying insects received for identification.

where insects and insect problems of current interest are on display. One of the cases features "Insects of the Season" (Fig. 1) in which actual specimens sent in for determination or for control recommendations are displayed. When the specimens are added, the collector's name is acknowledged together with information of interest and control recommendations. This has been the display attracting most interest. Visitors have been pleased to see their insects on display.

The two cases in Francis hall are used in connection with teaching where specimens and special displays are shown immediately following lecture periods. Success of this method of presenting educational material is demonstrated by the numbers of students observing the visual aids between classes. A display of this type (Fig. 2) in which the student can check his determination of numbered specimens with a key to the numbers in the background is used in the introductory course of entomology.

The unit tray system (Fig. 3) involves the placement of each species of insect in a separate cardboard tray. The trays are made in four multiple sizes to accommodate large or small specimens. Initial cost of this system is higher than pinning the insects directly in the wooden, glass-topped drawers. However, it is more economical in an active and growing insect collection, as it obviates repinning of insects as the drawers become crowded.

Total value of the insect collection including storage system, insects, microscope slides and display mounts is \$9,284.90.

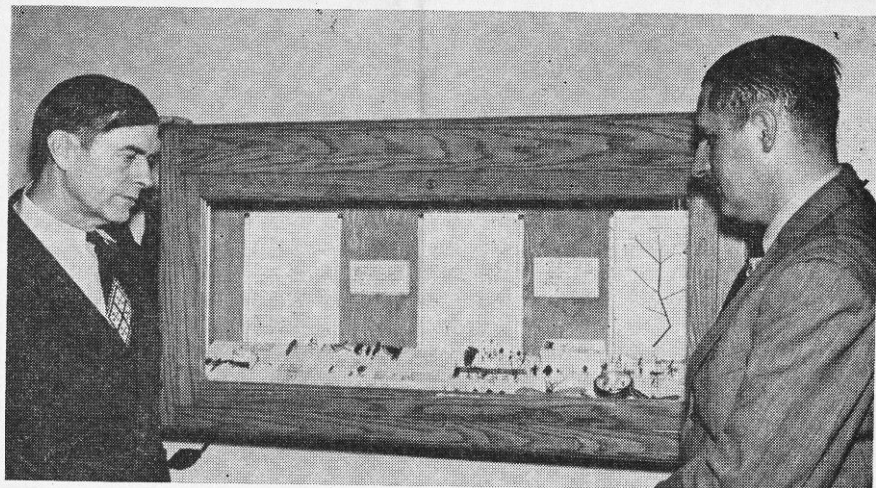


Fig. 2. Dr. J. A. Munro, left, and Dr. R. L. Post, right, examining the visual aid device used for assisting entomology students in insect identification.



Fig. 3. Here Dr. Post displays the unit tray system for storing insect specimens

REFERENCE

1948 Post, R. L. Insect Collection. N. Dak. Agr. Expt. Station. Bimonthly Bulletin **10** (4):136-137.