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World Catalog of Symphyta (Hymenoptera)

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Abstract

The first complete World Catalog of sawflies (Hymenoptera, suborder Symphyta) for over 100 years is presented. It contains references to the original descriptions and provides brief distributional data for 803 genera, 8353 species (123 with two or more subspecies) and 161 subspecies in addition to the nominal subspecies. 15245 proposed names are treated, including replacement names, infrasubspecific names and nomina nuda, of which only 22 could not be checked in the original publications. Current taxonomic placement of genera and species and occurrence in zoogeographic regions are indicated. The list of names contains 31245 name combinations, variant spellings and family-group names. The authors attempted to consult all publications with taxonomic content referring to Symphyta that have appeared up to 31.12.2009. The 2960 cited references include all those that are known to contain original descriptions of taxa. Short biographical data and portraits of 168 symphytologists as well as images of representatives of extant sawfly taxa are included.

Key words: sawflies, Anaxyleoidea, Cephoidea, Karatavitoidea, Orussoidea, Pamphilioidea, Siricoidea, Tenthredinoidea, portraits

Introduction

In 1990, the first two authors started to work on a database capable of managing the highly scattered published information on taxonomy and distribution of the world fauna of sawflies (Hymenoptera: Symphyta). Reasons for creating such a database, together with an outline of its developmental history and some of its possible future roles were discussed by Taeger et al. (2005 [DOI:10.1007/s10841-005-9028-2](#); see below for method of citing literature). Since 2005, much of the captured information has been made freely available online as the Electronic World Catalog of Symphyta (ECatSym) (Taeger & Blank 2008 [DOI:10.1007/s10841-008-9028-2](#)). This facility has been greeted positively by a wide spectrum of users, as a means of accessing available knowledge on a fascinating but somewhat neglected group of insects. ECatSym has already greatly reduced the much lamented “taxonomic impediment” that hinders progress in research on the Symphyta.

Despite the obvious advantages of an online catalog, in particular the option to update it with new research results, we feel that there is now a need for the publication of a printed catalog. The electronic resource is by its nature impermanent and in a state of continual flux. A permanent, printed record should accordingly also be available. Furthermore, the present printed World Catalog is the first since the now largely obsolete works by Dalla Torre (1894 [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-00397-7](#)) and Konow (1905 [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-00980-0](#) [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-02894-0](#) [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-02895-7](#)). Catalogs published subsequently have treated a number of smaller groups worldwide (Klima 1937 [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-00830-0](#) [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-02896-4](#), Hedicke 1938 [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-02897-1](#) [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-02898-8](#), Guiglia 1945 [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-02899-5](#), Smith 1978 [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-02061-1](#), Schmidt & Smith 2006 [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-02900-0](#)), have focused on genus-group names (Pagliano & Scaramozzino 1990 [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-01514-4](#), Abe & Smith 1991 [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-00001-1](#), Pagliano 2008 [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-02901-7](#)) or dealt with geographically restricted areas (Smith 1979 [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-02064-4](#), Lacourt 1999 [DOI:10.1007/978-3-70-01091-1](#)). Particularly for the species-rich Argidae and Tenthredinidae, which comprise about 11% and 66% of known Symphyta