

GORDH, G., AND D. HEADRICK. 2001. A dictionary of entomology. CABI Publishing; Wallingford, UK. ix + 1032 p. Hardback. ISBN 0-85199-291-9. \$112.

In 1989 the New York Entomological Society published The Torre Bueno Glossary of Entomology [TBGE], compiled by Stephen Nichols with the help of 50 editorial contributors. That book is a thorough reworking and great expansion of J. R. de la Torre Bueno (1937) A Glossary of Entomology. It is a scholarly work with high editorial standards, and is now out of print.

CABI has filled the void with a new dictionary [GHDE]. GHDE is larger, with page size 6.5 × 9.5 inches (cf. 6 × 9 inches), with smaller font, 2 columns of text per page (cf. one), and 1032 pages (cf. 840). To calculate the difference in content, I counted the number of words on p. 478 of TBGE (418), and that in the left column of p. 478 of GHDE (360), this page chosen at random. Thus, I estimate that GHDE contains 212% of the words in TBGE. Unfortunately, I noticed 2 typographical errors in that left column of p. 478 of GHDE ("Myrmeleonidae" [should be Myrmeleontidae] and "conjunction"), whereas I noticed none in TBGE. This seems to me to typify the difference between the two: GHDE contains roughly twice the amount of information, but TBGE is much more carefully edited.

GHDE came about through three decades of note-taking by Gordon Gordh, greatly expanding Torre Bueno (1937). It is no way a "rip-off" of TBGE, indeed it omits some of the terms defined in TBGE, and some of the omissions are unfortunate. GHDE also has several other features that are not included in TBGE. First, it includes references to biographies and/or bibliographies of prominent deceased entomologists, for which the most complete source is a work by Pamela Gilbert (1977), endearingly known to entomologists as the "dictionary of dead buggists" or words to that effect. Second, it tries to include all family-level names of insects, which is a tall order given the recent spate of name changes (many the result of cladistic studies). Third, it includes very many "common" names of insects (see below). Fourth, it includes (p. 1011-1023) a list of the unabbreviated names of scientific periodicals consulted.

The list of scientific periodicals was given to aid readers in finding the references cited in the text, which there are given in abbreviated form. It would have been a more useful feature if a few more hours had been given to its editing—to eliminate typographical errors, to ensure that all names really are spelled in full (without any words omitted), and with insertion of all diacritical marks (accents) needed for correct orthography of Czech, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and other European languages. If those things had been done, it could have been used as a good partial source of unabbreviated names of entomological (and some other) journals.

Because more and more journals are requiring authors to cite unabbreviated periodical titles in references cited in submitted manuscripts, a convenient and accurate source would be useful. The World List of Scientific Periodicals was last published in 1964. No other list is even close to its adequacy. No more recent list includes all of the newer periodicals that include works in entomology. The lists that include current "standard abbreviations" (that is, standards used in the USA) are no better than third-rate because they ignore periodicals that have ceased publication and, in general, they ride roughshod over orthography of any language but English.

Inclusion of English-language "common" names also is a tall order. In my view a "common" name is one that has arisen in the language of ordinary people, and is widely used (such as butterfly or dragonfly or ladybird). In general, insect orders have such common names, most insect families lack them, and extremely few insect genera or species have them. Most of those that exist are used in most English-speaking countries. I think that such "folk" names should be given precedence over later, invented names—and, if they have arisen in one English-speaking country, should be used in others to label the same insect species (assuming there is no similar "folk" name in the other countries). However, entomologists in some countries (USA, Canada) have established committees to decree what should be the "common" name in that country of an insect group (order, family, genus) or species. Among other actions, these committees have decreed names that, in my view, are not "common"—they are wholly invented and thus are "vernacular" (not Latin, but English) but are not "common" names because they are not commonly used (by most of the people). Here are just four examples:

*Spodoptera frugiperda* (Smith) (Lep., Noctuidae) is called "fall armyworm" in the USA. Perhaps this "common" name was decreed, or perhaps it arose as a folk name. However, *S. frugiperda* also occurs outside the USA in the Caribbean. Are Jamaicans forced to use the expression "fall armyworm" in their tropical country which has no autumn season (called "fall" in the USA), or are they free to use their own names "trashworm", and "ratoonworm" for this insect?

*Elasmopalpus lignosellus* (Zeller) (Lep., Pyralidae) is called "lesser cornstalk borer" in the USA, presumably by decree of some entomologist or entomological committee. In Jamaica, it is called "jumping borer" because the larva jumps when disturbed.

*Saccharosydne saccharivora* (Westwood) (Hem., Delphacidae) has been called "canefly" for hundreds of years in Jamaica. In the US litera-

ture, it has been labelled “West Indian sugarcane delphacid.” Are Jamaicans supposed to give up their true common name and adopt the cumbersome (and much later) name decreed by some committee in the USA? Should it not be the other way around?

*Pieris rapae* (L.) (Lep., Pieridae) has for a very long time been called “the small white butterfly” (“small white” for short) in England, part of its native range. However, after it arrived in the USA, its larva was labelled “the imported cabbageworm” by some entomologist. Which name should take precedence?

The senior author, Gordon Gordh, is sensitive to the issue of variant common names in various parts of the English-speaking world. There are about 50 countries outside the USA where English is an official language, and their combined population is much greater than that of the USA. This book might have fared less well in the hands of an author without substantial experience outside the USA.

Is this book worth its price? Absolutely. The authors quote a 19th century statement: “Terms are the tools of the teacher; and only an inferior hand persists in toiling with a clumsy instrument when a better one lies within one’s reach.” That statement is very appropriate—entomologists need this book no matter that they already own a copy of “The Torre Bueno Glossary of Entomology.” A CD-ROM version would be useful and should sell for a small fraction of the book price.

J. H. Frank

Entomology and Nematology Dept.

University of Florida

Gainesville, FL 32611-0630

#### REFERENCES CITED

- GILBERT, P. 1977. A compendium of the biographical literature on deceased entomologists. British Museum (Natural History); London, xv + 455 pp.