

AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

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In early 1968 a questionnaire was mailed to about 50 people professedly working in arachnology in North America. The number of replies was 32. While this is not large, it probably represents a satisfactory sample of the Americans (in the broad sense) now at work on arachnids other than Acarina. The appearance of this first newsletter is the result of the affirmative replies to the first question on the questionnaire, i.e. "Are you in favor of a newsletter for North American arachnologists?" Of those replying, 30 thought a newsletter a desirable form of communication, and all except 2 of these indicated they would give support in the form of written material.

The remaining questions dealt with a TITLE for the newsletter, FREQUENCY of issue, and the KINDS of INFORMATION to be included. Sixteen titles were suggested, some too restricted geographically or in coverage and some too silly (one abbreviated neatly to A.S.S.E.S.). The most frequently suggested title was simply "Arachnology" with variations like "Arachnologists' Newsletter" and "Arachnological News". The one at the head of your first issue was selected because it reflects this general desire, indicates the region covered, i.e. the Americas, and conflicts with no existing newsletter title.

Regarding frequency of issue most workers indicated that we should aim toward at least once yearly, and more frequently if material warrants. As to the kinds of material to be included, suggestions were almost as numerous as replies. The most wanted items were NEWS of current research in progress by the various workers, REQUESTS for specimens (living or dead), accumulations of unidentified specimens, areas

of needed research, reports of meetings, visits to museums and collecting areas, notices of coming CONFERENCES, and PERSONALIA like awards, obituaries, and new college degrees. Most people were cautious about newsletter HUMOUR, but notices and reviews of recent important LITERATURE were wanted provided these did not duplicate the C.I.D.A. releases. OPEN LETTERS were generally viewed as a desirable means of airing and perhaps achieving some much-needed agreement on various terms used in arachnid development, anatomy, and behaviour. ORIGINAL OBSERVATIONS were acceptable to 22 people, but only if consisting of notes too incomplete for formal publication.

The questionnaire brought to notice a growing group of araneologists in the southwestern U.S.A. They have a newsletter, a spidery emblem, field trips and mini-conferences, and tentative plans for formal organization. The development of this group will be of much interest to workers in other regions.

#### QUESTIONNAIRE NO. 2

At this point the editor would like to request from each worker a brief statement of the work on which he is now engaged (or is about to begin). A summary should make a useful second newsletter issue. Please do this now whether or not you completed the earlier questionnaire. The following are wanted: your name, address (if not given earlier), position, descriptive title(s) of work, year the work commenced, and any comments like requests for material, recent publications, theses completed, outlook for the future, or facilities (and funds) available to students. This should provide a view of the who, what, where, why, when, and how of current arachnological research in the New World. Every available reply is needed to make this succeed. Please also send in any pertinent news.

BOOK NEWS

Two valuable books, both much in demand and difficult to obtain, were made available this year. The 2nd Edition of Simon's "HISTOIRE NATURELLE des ARAIGNEES" has been xeroxed and bound in four volumes by University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and may be purchased from that firm for U.S. \$140.55 plus handling and shipping charges. The prime mover in this endeavour was Bea Durden, to whom thanks are due. The other book is Tome 1 of Bonnet's "BIBLIOGRAPHIA ARANEORUM", bound reprints of which are available from the Entomological Society of America, 4603 Calvert Road, College Park, Maryland 20740 for U. S. \$30.00.

IMPORTANT NOTE

If you wish to receive future issues of the newsletter please notify Dr. John D. McCrone, Department of Zoology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32601. Those failing to respond will be dropped from the mailing list.