A Revised Bibliography of the Psocoptera (Arthropoda: Insecta)

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ABSTRACT. This bibliography includes about 2600 references to literature on the insect order Psocoptera. It is intended to be a working document which will make it unnecessary for students of these insects to make time consuming searches for the literature, some of which, especially in the case of earlier papers, is difficult to locate.

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The insect order PSOCOPTERA is a relatively small one, there being about 3500 described species. It is sometimes inappropriately referred to as a 'minor' order. In recent years there has been an increase in taxonomic work on these insects and there is now a substantial body of published work on their phylogeny, ecology and various aspects of their biology. They are not spectacular insects and they are frequently overlooked because of their small size. Although not of economic significance in general, in agriculture they can be important pests of stored products and some species are of medical interest in that they have been shown to be responsible for allergic reactions in Man. It is possible that they could be important in the transmission of some sheep parasites. They cause damage to neglected collections of botanical and zoological specimens. As extensive grazers of microepiphytes, they are ecologically very important in making basic resources available to other organisms in the food web.

There is no modern monograph of the entire order

but a species list (Smithers, 1967a), a synopsis of genera (Smithers, 1972c) and keys to the families and genera have been published (Smithers, 1990a). The literature on these insects, especially in the case of earlier papers, is somewhat scattered and sometimes hidden away in infrequently encountered and hard-to-find journals. It is clear that an earlier bibliography (Smithers, 1965d), containing some 1300 references, went some way towards alleviating the difficulties thus created. Since then there has been an increase in the rate of publication on the group but it is still not an easy task for a student to obtain the background information necessary to make a contribution to knowledge of these insects and there has been a significant increase in references to them in ecological literature.

This paper is an attempt to bring the previous bibliography up-to-date so as to assist psocidologists to find the significant papers without each having to repeat the same extensive search. It is too much to hope that the list of about 2600 references which follows is