

50 years of taxonomical leafhopper studies and some proposals for the future in the palaeartic zone

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The family Issidae in Palaearctics has 230 species, after NAST 1972 check list. This family is not yet known in its full range. In my up-to-date list, there are 344 spp., including some adjacent southern and southeastern territories. Of these, 78% we know in strictly limited areas only, provisionally we may say endemics. About 25% are arboricolous only, and about 36% prefer higher mountains, up to the Alpine zone. More than 92% are xerothermophilous, and only 2% live in wet conditions. These characteristics reveal their ecological requirements in regions excluding the tropical zone and a large part of the unrecorded eremic zone. If some Issids enter the milder zone, they prefer mountain steppes, wooded steppes, but also semi-deserts as well as deserts in transitorial zone to Eremial; but they live in an extremely restricted number only in the Eurosiberian arboreal zone. Their active mobility is also very limited: 82% are wingless, only 17% have fully developed hind wings, and 1% have both forms.

Taxonomical studies and studies of types in Issidae have informed me of the true state in collections, literature and in our present knowledge. Many years ago, in 1936, when I started my Homoptera studies, there were not as many useful manuals to help identify our findings. We now have much better conditions for Palaearctics. Unfortunately, a large number of unrevised types still exist, as well as old, unrevised synonymised species, and many faunas are poorly recorded. We need to develop alpha taxonomy in many territories. Larval and female morphology were badly neglected up to now. We need entomological expeditions, programmed field work, and to receive all taxa in numerous records. In future, stricter specialisation is necessary, as well as publications in monographically revised form.

In summary, I present the following for deliberation at our meeting:

1. to organize better distribution of records to the specific specialisations of taxonomists
2. to accomplish the publication of all necessary drawings together with revised diagnoses of all types
3. to publish the types revision of old synonyms, in which the in-depth study of inner morphology was omitted and the synonymisation procedure may be wrong
4. not to publish only vague names, where elucidation according to points 2 or 3 with good illustrations is still wanting
5. to ensure the publication of drawings of sufficient size and clarity (not only for sibling species).

Fifth Auchenorrhyncha meeting in Davos, Switzerland August 28-31, 1984

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