

Editorial

Primary types, i.e. holo-, lecto-, neo- or syntypes, embody the concept of, and therefore provide the reference for taxa in zoological nomenclature. Each family, genus or species of an organism is defined by a type that is usually housed in a scientific collection. Para- and paralectotypes, as additional parts of type series, provide information about intraspecific variation and differences between sexes in the respective taxon. Type material is therefore the most valuable part of zoological collections, and providing access to the specimens on which the concept of a taxon is based remains a core obligation of institutions housing such collections.

This special volume of the Bonn zoological Bulletin (BzB) contains type catalogues of the extensive arthropod collections housed at the ZFMK. These catalogues vary in the amount of detail provided per taxon as well as in the coverage of the respective sections within the arthropod collections. For example, the catalogues of non-hexapod arthropods, Hymenoptera, or Orthoptera, cover virtually all type material, including details about locality and collector. This has not been possible for the large Coleoptera and Lepidoptera collections, which contain hundreds of thousands of specimens and thousands of types. In the case of the Lepidoptera, the present catalogue is limited to certain groups within the collection, as much more work is needed before a full catalog can be prepared. Nevertheless, the current arthropod type catalogues will no doubt serve as an invaluable tool for specialists requiring access to and information about the relevant collections.

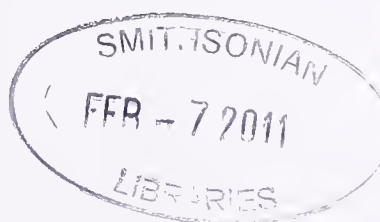
The publication of this volume is shadowed by the death of its initiator, Dr. Karl-Heinz Lampe (14 October 1953–14 September 2010). Karl-Heinz Lampe was the curator of Hymenoptera and the head of the biodiversity informatics initiative at the ZFMK. With the goal of making biodiversity data available to the public, he initiated the joint publication of the ZFMK type catalogues as a comprehensive volume in the BzB. His colleagues and friends who were involved in the present publication dedicate it to “Kalle”, in memory of his mission of making collection data accessible to the scientific and general community, his everlasting enthusiasm about nature, and his friendship.

The second, following special volume of the BzB will contain the type catalogues of the vertebrate collections in the ZFMK.



Fabian Herder (Editor-in-Chief, Fish Curator at ZFMK)

Bonn, November 2010



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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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