



Additions and amendments to “Aphids on the World’s Plants”

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Abstract

An annotated list is provided of the most significant errors and omissions from a series of books on aphids on the world’s plants. Some of the problems of ensuring the provision of accurate scientific information, both as hard copy and on-line, are discussed.

Key words: aphids, nomenclature, synonymies, host-associations

Introduction

Any author will know that the satisfaction gained from seeing the results of one’s labours in print is always tempered by the mistakes one immediately starts to find; the glaring errors that had somehow remained hidden from view in hours of manuscript checking but that now leap from the page, and the more subtle ones that gradually come to light over a period of years but have no less potential to misinform or mislead, and may even be quoted by other authors, thus perpetuating them for generations to come.

The series of books that we have published on aphids on the world’s plants (Blackman & Eastop 1984, 1994, 2000, 2006) are no less error-prone, and over the years since publication we have accumulated notes on many errors and omissions. In this paper we list the most serious and significant of these. It may seem rather late to be offering corrections to works published up to 25 years ago, but we believe that these books are still being used by entomologists throughout the world, who might wish to spend a short time making marginal annotations to their copies.

This cannot of course be a complete up-date; the addition of new aphid species and new host records and the changes to the keys that would be required to accommodate these would necessitate a much larger publication. We do however take the opportunity to draw attention to some key works that have been published subsequently, such as revisions of aphid genera, regional faunas, and relevant papers in the rapidly expanding work on aphid molecular systematics.

Aphids on the World’s Crops (Blackman & Eastop 1984), reprinted with some corrections 1985, and Second Edition, 2000)

The preparation of the second edition of this work gave us the opportunity to correct the errors in the first, although some still remained uncorrected. For example “*Macrosiphum* Oestlund” in both editions (p. 294 in the first and p. 289 in the second) should be corrected to *Macrosiphum* Passerini. We omitted Africa from the distribution of *Nasonovia ribisnigri* (Mosley), although this species has been in South Africa since at least 1969, and has also been reported from Burundi and Rwanda (Remaudière & Autrique 1985). We also reported in both editions (p. 236 in the first and p. 241 in the second) that *Aploneura lentisci* (Passerini) had not yet been found in North America, overlooking the fact that one of its synonyms is *Rhizobius poae* Thomas, described from Illinois in 1879 (see Footitt *et al.* 2006).

Inevitably new nomenclatural errors crept into the second edition: