

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Insecta Mundi

Center for Systematic Entomology, Gainesville,
Florida

March 1989

THE CENTER FOR SYSTEMATIC ENTOMOLOGY

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/insectamundi>



Part of the [Entomology Commons](#)

"THE CENTER FOR SYSTEMATIC ENTOMOLOGY" (1989). *Insecta Mundi*. 458.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/insectamundi/458>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Systematic Entomology, Gainesville, Florida at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Insecta Mundi by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

THE CENTER FOR SYSTEMATIC ENTOMOLOGY

The Center for Systematic Entomology, Inc., a non-profit scientific and educational foundation, international in scope, was formed April 2, 1986, chartered in the State of Florida. Its purposes are to seek financing and encourage other support for systematic entomology and to stimulate cooperation and coordination among interested agencies and individuals. Goals of the Center are pursued by a 9-member Board of Directors supported by the membership. The center strives to serve as a leadership organization for insect systematics.

Specific goals are to: 1) develop the finest systematic entomology resource possible; 2) provide a clearing house for grants and donation; 3) establish research and travel grants; 4) handle endowments for individuals, corporations, or institutions; 5) actively stimulate increased support for insect systematics, and 6) establish a liaison with the Association of Systematic Collections, National Science Foundation, Society of Systematic Zoology, and related organizations. All donations, including membership (individual \$15.00, sponsor \$100.00, patron \$500.00 and above) are tax deductible. Membership is subject to approval of the Board of Directors. Donations can be made with specific conditions by the donor.

While the Center operates independently from the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, it offers support to the FSCA as well as other groups of systematists. Priority objectives for the use of any funds managed by the Center includes the following: 1) auxiliary support of the arthropod collection for curation and facilities, including the library; 2) purchase of desirable collections to enhance museum holdings in recognized permanent repositories; 3) publication support of reports and scientific articles based on taxonomic studies; 4) grants to researchers and students for the study of arthropod collections at museums and other institutions for the completion of taxonomic research; 5) support of field expeditions for the collection of specimens to augment museum collections or specific taxonomic studies, and 6) support of other general objectives related to systematic entomology in its broadest interpretation.

The Center is beginning its fourth year of operation. A newsletter is issued to better inform members about CSE activities and to relate developments at the FSCA. The first issue of this irregularly published newsletter included a review of the history of the CSE and the allied Center for Arthropods

Systematics (CFAS) which is an agreement for cooperation between the three allied organizations, the University of Florida's Museum of Natural History and Department of Entomology, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the sponsoring organization for the FSCA. These three units have agreed to coordinate their activities in arthropod systematics. Under the direction of the head curator of the FSCA, Dr. Howard V. Weems, Jr., considerable expansion has taken place in the past few years, and curation plans for the next few years call for a major addition to the FSCA of a wing for Lepidoptera and Odonata, amounting to a doubling of current floor space. A two-phased project is planned: 1) refurbishing of the Diptera/Heteroptera Room with new cabinets and modified drawers (California Academy type), thereby doubling the drawer capacity of this area, plus an extension onto the current Coleoptera/Orthoptera/Hymenoptera/Neuroptera Room so a new area for the Arachnida, Diplopoda, and Chilopoda collections can be included, and 2) expansion northward for Lepidoptera and Odonata with a new wing of over 16,000 square feet. The new space will be large enough to allow the Florida Museum of Natural History to house the Allyn Museum of Entomology (now in Sarasota) and enable all the Lepidoptera collections to be properly curated. Several offices will be added for researchers and staff of the FSCA and the Allyn Museum, plus added space for visiting researchers, a preparation/sorting room, greenhouse and larval rearing room, new space for the immatures collection, a scanning electron microscope, additional computer terminals, and new areas for specialized Lepidoptera and Odonata libraries. The Allyn Lepidoptera Collection will remain in its compactor, although the compactor will be enlarged with added banks of drawers.

Other developments at the University of Florida include a new building for the Department of Entomology and Nematology which is now under construction. This new building will be located within easy walking distance of the FSCA and of the entomology research laboratories of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Also, the Florida Museum of Natural History will soon build a new exhibit building nearby, in connection with a joint effort of several Gainesville organizations.

The CSE hopes to enhance FSCA development as much as possible, as well as other projects.