

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Agreement on the Biological Survey formalized

The National Museum of Natural Sciences and the Entomological Society of Canada recently approved the following Memorandum of Agreement about the Biological Survey of Canada (Terrestrial Arthropods), consistent with the museum's earlier general statement on the Natural History Survey of Canada (see the Newsletter 1(1): 2-3).

Memorandum of Agreement between the National Museum of
Natural Sciences and the Entomological Society of Canada

Advice of an expert Scientific Committee for the Biological
Survey of Canada (Terrestrial Arthropods)

Setting

1. The objective of the Biological Survey referred to herein is to promote knowledge of the insects and related arthropods of Canada, with respect to faunal composition and history, systematics, distribution, biological properties, ecological including environmental and economic significance, and how they are affected by the activities of man.
2. The permanent organization for such a program comprises a Secretariat constituted through the National Museum of Natural Sciences, and a Scientific Committee, an expert advisory group representative of relevant discipline areas, geographical regions, and organizations, constituted through the Entomological Society of Canada.

Roles of the Scientific Committee

1. The Scientific Committee is to provide expert advice as necessary to the Secretariat for the Biological Survey, and to the National Museum of Natural Sciences, on all aspects of the Biological Survey with respect to terrestrial arthropods, and especially to consider and advise on scientific needs from a national perspective.
2. The roles of the committee and its members therefore include the encouragement of Biological Survey effort through discussion and examination of policies and resources for systematic and faunistic work in Canada, and the facilitation of coordination and cooperation among individuals and institutions as amplified in the statement by the National Museum of Natural Sciences on the Natural History Survey.
3. These roles are to be effected through appropriate means, to include:
 - Two annual meetings of the full committee.
 - Submission to the National Museum of Natural Sciences, through the Secretariat, of the minutes of such meetings.
 - Submission to the National Museum of Natural Sciences of an annual report that summarizes project activities, and that provides a long-term perspective on the development of the biological survey objectives.

Composition of the Committee

The Scientific Committee will comprise: the director and one other member of the Secretariat; nominated by the Entomological Society of Canada, for non-concurrent 3-year terms, 15 expert individual scientists from across Canada active in the field, two of whom are to serve as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Scientific Committee for non-concurrent 3-year terms; in addition, the Director and one other representative of the National Museum of Natural Sciences,

the Director and one other representative of the Biosystematics Research Institute, and the President of the Entomological Society of Canada.

Basis of Cost

Expenses will be paid at actual cost for members of the Scientific Committee...

Roles of the Secretariat

1. The Secretariat will implement the objectives of the Biological Survey of Canada (Terrestrial Arthropods) in consultation with the Scientific Committee. The roles of the Secretariat therefore include:
2. The organization, with the chairman of the Scientific Committee, of twice-yearly meetings of the Scientific Committee, including participation in the preparation of agenda and background documents, and the preparation of minutes.
3. Maintenance of up-to-date registers of personnel, programs, facilities, collections, existing surveys, potential sites for survey-orientated fieldwork, and methods for faunal work.
4. Maintenance of contacts with entomologists across the country, by periodical travel to relevant institutions, to facilitate updating of the information noted in item 3 above, and to encourage cooperation and liaison.
5. Participation in the proposal of desirable projects to appropriate agencies, and in the development of appropriate mechanisms for various agencies to communicate their needs to the survey.
6. Conduct of scientific research, to include field or experimental participation, and preparation of scientific publications, especially those that synthesize available information relevant to survey goals.