

**INSECTS
OF THE
YUKON**

Edited by

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and

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Insects of the Yukon

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Biological Survey of Canada
(Terrestrial Arthropods)
Canadian Museum of Nature

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FRONTISPIECE. Windy Pass, Dempster Highway, Ogilvie Mountains north of Dawson.

The photograph, taken from a hilltop east of the highway looking west towards Alaska, shows km 154 to 156 of the highway. A very large number of Yukon species have been collected from this locality. For example, Windy Pass is probably the most popular location for collecting arctic butterflies and moths in North America, and most species of Lepidoptera recorded from the Ogilvie Mountains in this book, including about 55 species of butterflies, occur within the range of this photograph. A large number of species endemic to Beringia—in this and many other groups—have also been collected here (chiefly reported as Dempster Hwy. km 155), including the spiders *Poecilonea petrophila* (Linyphiidae), *Walckenaeria fraudatrix* (Erigonidae) and *Pardosa beringiana* (Lycosidae), the weevils *Lepidophorus lineaticolli* and *Ceutorhynchus barkalovi*, the arctiid moth *Acsala anomala*, the pierid butterfly *Euchloe naina*, and the flies *Lasiopogon canus* (Asilidae) *Eutrichota woodi* and *Paradelia ogilviensis* (Anthomyiidae). Other chiefly Palaearctic species rarely collected in North America are found here too, such as the moths *Dodia kononenkoi* (Arctiidae) and *Lasionycta skraelingia* (Noctuidae). The area is even the type locality for some Beringian species, the carabid beetle *Pterostichus woodi* (described in this book), the moths *Neoarctia lafontainei* (Arctiidae), *Parrabarrovia ogilviensis* and *Trichosilia beringiana* (Noctuidae), and the sphaerocerid fly *Pullimosima yukonensis*. Photograph courtesy of James T. Troubridge.

Preface

The Yukon is an area of North America of key relevance in understanding the fauna of the continent, both in the Northwest and elsewhere. Unglaci­ated in Pleistocene time and hence a refugium for organisms, connected inter­mittently to Eurasia and its faunas whilst cut off by ice from the rest of the North American continent, and now with a relatively rich fauna for its latitude, the Yukon contains many taxa that can bring information to bear on important questions of evolution, dispersal and adaptation.

Consequently, the contents of this book will be of interest to a wide audience. Information here will appeal to zoologists, botanists, and others interested in biotas, especially in the North, whether their focus is on current biodiversity, on the historical development of faunas and ecosystems, or on adaptations to rigorous conditions.

The results reported in this book stem chiefly from a concerted effort by many cooperators under the auspices of the Biological Survey of Canada (Terrestrial Arthropods), which many years ago recognized the importance of the region in the context of the Beringian refugium, and the fact that its insect fauna was very little known. Most of the chapters here deal in detail with particular groups of insects and arachnids, providing the basic information for further analysis and study. These taxonomically arranged chapters are introduced by an outline of the development of the work and its scientific importance, and overviews of the current and past environments of the region. A concluding chapter draws some general lessons from the detailed analyses provided by the core taxonomically arranged chapters.

A book such as this one reflects the effort and collaboration of a large number of individuals and agencies. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the outstanding cooperation that brought the book to fruition, so establishing a baseline for further work on the Yukon fauna.

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H.V. Danks
March 1997

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