

PORCELLI, F.¹; GARONNA, A.P.²

¹*Istituto di Entomologia Agraria, Facolta' di Agraria-Campus, Universita' degli Studi di Bari, Via Amendola 165/A-70126 Bari, Italy*

²*Dipartimento di Entomologia e Zoologia agraria, Università di Napoli "Federico II", Portici, Italy*

A MULTI-CONTRIBUTORS DATABASE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE BIOLOGY AND CONTROL OF THE DIASPIDIDAE.

ABSTRACT

A MULTI-CONTRIBUTORS DATABASE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE BIOLOGY AND CONTROL OF THE DIASPIDIDAE.

The difficulties of studying the Diaspididae from an Agricultural Entomology point of view are recognized by the authors. A "multi-contributors" database, which includes all aspects of biological control, host-plant interactions, world distribution and taxonomy, is submitted for the attention of researchers engaged in the control of armoured scale insect pests. The database will be available before the end of 1999 by a link on the Scale Insect Forum (<http://193.204.185.103/scaleinfo/scale.htm>).

DISCUSSION

The need to access a database containing information about the Diaspididae and related arguments arose from the application in Agricultural Entomology. It was quickly realised that neither researchers nor field scientists could know everything about the Diaspididae, covering such diverse knowledge as the host-plant name, the taxonomy of parasitic *Septobasidium* and the ultrastructure of diaspidid spermatheca. It is therefore proposed to make a database where it will be possible for specialists not only to check information but also to correct old data and introduce new records and other information.

The Catalogue by Borchsenius (1966), the Annotated List by Morrison & Morrison (1966) and the Selected Bibliography (third supplement) of Kosztarab & Kosztarab (1988) are lists of reference papers available to every coccidologist. The Catalogue contains mainly taxonomic, biological (via the host plants) and zoogeographical data, while the Annotated List contains mainly taxonomic data. The Selected Bibliography has brief comments about each of the included references. The structure of these publications follows the ideas of each author, but basically they are species- or publication-related books. The ScaleNet database (see elsewhere in this volume) uses the facilities of the computer to speed the searching of data and, moreover, allows greatly improved cross-searching between topics, greatly increasing

the ease of use and importance of the database. Unfortunately for Agricultural Entomologists, all these sources need a previous identification of the pest insect before they can access the information. The proposed multi-contributors database is intended to also allow the adding of data, either as text or pictures or both, by researchers. The newly added data will be submitted to a committee who will access the database by Internet and can reject or accept the new entry.

The database will be available before the end of 1999 by a link on the Scale Insect Forum (<http://193.204.185.103/scaleinfo/scale.htm>).

REFERENCES

- BORCHSENIUS, N.S., 1966 - A Catalogue of the Armoured Scale (Diaspidoidea) of the world. Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. Zoological Institute. 449pp.
- KOSZTARAB, M.; KOSZTARAB, M.P. 1988 - A Selected Bibliography of the Coccoidea (Homoptera) Third Supplement (1970-1985). *Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin*, 88(1): 1-252.
- MORRISON, H.; MORRISON, E.R. 1966 - An Annotated List of Generic Names of the Scale Insects (Homoptera: Coccoidea). *United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Station Miscellaneous Publication No. 1015*: 1-206.