

## TAIWAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE INSECT COLLECTION



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The Insect Collection at the Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) was initiated in 1903 by Dr. Tokuichi Shiraki, who collected insects from Taiwan and its adjacent regions, especially from oriental region. It was continued by several famous taxonomists, e.g., Prof. T. C. Maa, Dr. Shui Chen Chiu, Mr. K. S. Lin, and Dr. Liang Yi Chou, who maintained and developed the collection from 1945 to now.

The historical emphasis has been in the orders Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Thysanoptera, Hemiptera, Homoptera, and Lepidoptera, but our interests are now concentrated on the Thysanoptera, Homoptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, agricultural insects, and quarantine pests.

The collection contains approximately 1.8 million specimens from Taiwan and its adjacent regions, including about 14,000 identified species and 2052 primary types. Among them, 1.2 million were collected during 1980 through 1987, and about 1 million were pinned specimens. About 70% of these pinned specimens are Hymenoptera, and most of them are parasitoids. The evident reason for the great mass of parasitoids is an extensive Malaise-trapping program led by Mr. K.S. Lin. The material is for the most part sorted to family, sometimes to subfamily or tribe. However, about half of the ichneumonid specimens have been sorted to genus by Dr. H. K. Townes.

The importance of the Insect Collection of TARI can be measured by several parameters including the uniqueness and historical significance of its holdings, visitor use of the collections, and loans to specialists and so on. Records of loans to researchers indicates that utilization of the collection has been substantial, both in terms of annual loans and numbers of specimens. Most of these studies result in publications, demonstrating the scientific importance of the collection.

Taiwan abounds in insect diversity and about 17,600 species have been recorded, yet we may only know one tenth of them. We are willing to have as many specimens as possible determined. Taxonomists are welcome to visit our Insect Collection to study specimens of interest.