

Forest Insects of China
Committee Meeting
July 12, 2010
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Attendees:

Wu Jian	State Forestry Administration
Li Zhenyu	Beijing Forestry University (ret.)
Luo Youqing	Beijing Forestry University
Sun Jianghua	Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Wen Jin	China Forestry Publishing House
Liu Jialing	China Forestry Publishing House
Zhao Wenxia	Institute of Forest Ecology, Chinese Academy of Forestry
Stephen Clarke	USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection
Tom Eager	USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection
Gary Man	USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection

The objective of the book committee is the publication of the 3rd Edition of “Forest Insects of China”. The 3rd Edition of the book will include:

1. new knowledge,
2. high quality photographs,
3. new techniques for suppression, and
4. an English version.

The goals of the meeting were to discuss progress on the book and recommend methods to expedite publication.

Chinese Version

Liu Jialing distributed a spreadsheet listing the insect species that would be included in the new book. A total of 611 species are listed, and the Chinese team stated 482 are now complete, including 11 new species. There are two major tasks left: finishing the 100+ remaining entries and editing the ones they have received. They have had some problems with authors completing their assignments. A professor who is responsible for the sawflies has been busy with a student defense, but should be able to work on his entries soon. Another professor responsible for

Dendrolimus also has not finished. The Chinese team recently contacted Northeast University to inquire about their contribution. They responded they are still working on their entries, plus they plan to add a new species whose description was just published.

The Chinese team discussed the problems they were having finding experts to write some of the entries. For example, in Fujian, many of the former authors are old and are unable to update their contributions from the 1992 version. We responded that we would like the new version to include as many species as possible. If new authors cannot be solicited, the new edition could include the information from the 2nd edition.



(L-R): Gary Man, Wu Jian, Li Zhenyu, and Tom Eager

Professor Li has been busy editing the insect entries that have been received. While most are good, some lack important information, so there is still work to be completed. Around 200 species have photographs, and they believe the final copy will contain photographs for approximately half of the 600+ species. “Ornamental Insects of China” was just published, and they should be able to use some of the photographs from this book.

Wu Jian was interested in speeding up the editing process, and planned to push for a finish date for the Chinese version of August, 2010.

English Version

Just prior to our trip to China, Shi Juan sent me translations for 136 species. We learned at the meeting that the translations were the work of a professional translation service in Shanghai. The Chinese had previously used graduate students, but the students were busy and the quality of the translations varied considerably. The use of the translation service was designed to provide uniformity and speed the translation process.

There were some problems with the translations. First, the translators appeared to have trouble with the scientific terminology. To help facilitate the process, we will create a glossary listing the correct English term. For example, instead of propes, the appropriate term is prolegs. We will continually update the glossary and share it with the translators. The other major concern was that the translators working for the service lacked the entomological expertise to adequately translate some of the scientific passages. The group discussed three options:

1. Simplify the Chinese entries before sending them to the service;
2. Bypass the translation company and hire translators either in China or the U.S. with entomological backgrounds to translate the entries; or
3. Continue using the translation service and the U.S. team would hire or solicit help in editing the translations from Chinese and English speaking scientists.

We preferred option 3, as option 2 appeared to add an unnecessary step. If the translations we are getting from the service are bad, then we basically have to translate them again. The Chinese preferred option 2, as they had a contract with the service. After discussion, we agreed to reedit the translations we have received with the help of English speaking Chinese scientists. We would send the corrected translations back to the translating service so they could recognize trouble spots and learn to translate the entries correctly. The service would then translate 10 new entries and the U.S. team will judge if they have improved their work. Based on the results, the book team will decide whether to continue using the service for the remainder of the entries. We will try to have the corrected translations ready by the end of the year.

Budget

The original budget for the book was 1.2 million RMB. Due to the hiring of the translation service, the total cost should run 1.32 million RMB, so the Chinese currently are 120,000 RMB over budget. We will determine later if the FS has funding in the FY 11 budget to help cover all or a portion of this deficit.