

DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE OF THE ICIPIUE AND URBAN ENTOMOLOGY

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Abstract—Household and structural insect pests will continue and increase in their importance as the world population becomes more urbanized. The discipline of urban entomology will continue to serve society through teaching, research, and public service programs, but future contributions will be linked to an increased level of organization and more effective means of communication. The two-tiered administration of the International Conference on Insect Pests in the Urban Environment (ICIPUE): Executive Committee, and the Conference Organising Committee, is based on a formal constitution. The recognized communication of the ICIPUE is the published Proceedings. It is recommended that the ICIPUE increase its level of organization to become an informal society and adopt the ICIPUE constitution as the framework. Increased communication among urban entomologists will be accomplished by the establishment of The International Journal of Urban Entomology, which is scheduled for publication in 1996.

INTRODUCTION

The social, medical, and economic importance of household and structural insect pests has been firmly established in the 20th century, and their impact on the quality of life will be an important issue in the 21st century. The increase in awareness and importance of insects in the domestic and peridomestic environment has redirected the research and discovery emphasis in industry and academia around the world. However, much remains to be done before the demand is adequately met. Ten years ago urban entomology emerged from a period of development to begin serving the needs of the urban audience. At that time the discipline had a scientist base and a growing body of knowledge, a fledgling conference for the exchange of ideas, and a rapidly growing audience. Today it has a broader base, another conference, and the daunting prospect that in a few years the urban audience will represent the majority of the world's population.

The recognition achieved by urban entomology in the last ten years is the result of several factors, but not the least is the level of cooperation between industry and academia, and the general organization of meetings and conferences. The shared research projects and financial support that characterize the link between industry and academia have benefited both the scientist, citizen, and pest control professional. And regional, national, and international meetings have brought scientists together and increased communication. The future status of this discipline will be linked to its level of organization and communication.

I think the twin issues of increased organization and a more effective communication are critically important to the future of this discipline, and we must consider them now. Consequently, the two objectives of this discussion are to review the current organization of the International Conference on Insect Pests in the Urban Environment (ICIPUE), and make recommendations for increasing the level of organization; and to recommend a means to increase the level of communication for this discipline.

ORGANIZATION: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INSECT PESTS IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

The history of the International Conference on Insect Pests in the Urban Environment (ICIPUE) is short, and need only a brief review. The first Conference grew out of a need for an international forum for scientists and pest control professionals; it was the first such endeavour. While the success of the 1st (1993) ICIPUE in Cambridge, UK provided the interest and modest financial foundation for ICIPUE II, there was clear understanding that more organization, planning and financial

support would be needed to meet a long-term commitment. To effectively administer the ICIPIUE a two-tier administrative structure was established: the Executive Committee, and the Conference Organising Committee. The duties and responsibilities of each formed the basis of the structure.

ICIPIUE Executive Committee

The responsibilities of the six members of this committee are divided along the lines of secretariat, finances, conference planning, conference proceedings, publicity, and administration. The basic responsibilities of the Executive Committee are the present status and future direction of the ICIPIUE, including management, business affairs, conference site selection, and the appointment of the Chair of the Conference Organising Committee. Members of this committee may serve through several ICIPIUE conferences.

Conference Organising Committee

The primary responsibility of this committee is the organisation of the current ICIPIUE Conference, and the members serve for approximately three years. The responsibilities of the members of the Committee parallel those of the Executive Committee: secretariat, finances, fund raising, publicity, conference program, proceedings, venue coordinator, and administration. Members of this Committee are selected by either the Committee Chair or the Executive Committee.

ICIPIUE Constitution

A constitution was drafted by the Executive Committee to better define the mission of the ICIPIUE, the duties of individuals on the two committees, and to provide an overall structure for administration. This document was designed, debated, and finally adopted by the Executive Committee in 1995. It now awaits suggested improvements and approval of the Conference participants. With this document in place, the ICIPIUE will have an administrative structure that will provide long-term stability.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF URBAN ENTOMOLOGY

There is a worldwide network of scientists and pest control professionals that would benefit from being a part of an informal society centered around the ICIPIUE. Establishing a society around the existing structure of the Conference is the most logical first-step in the process. Already in place is an audience of several hundred people representing diverse research, teaching, and public service interests of the discipline. These people have demonstrated their interest in the broad aspects of this discipline and the Conference. In addition, there is a conference mailing list that can serve correspondence, and there is a limited amount of funds to pay for some initial expenses.

By beginning as an informal society there is an opportunity to move cautiously in the direction of regional representation, an equitable dues structure, a newsletter, and matters of governance. The current ICIPIUE Constitution would serve the administration of the society until such time as it needs to be expanded and amended. An informal beginning will provide the opportunity to grow at a pace and in a direction that best meets the needs of the discipline at the international level.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF URBAN ENTOMOLOGY

In the last ten years there has been a steady increase in basic and applied research in urban entomology and closely related fields. Concurrent with this increase and value of the research is the need to channel the information generated to the audience that can evaluate and implement it. Certainly, the overall significance of urban entomology should not be measured by the size of the knowledgebase it develops, but by the amount of the knowledge it shares between scientists and practitioners, by the pieces collated into effective programs, and by what it transfers to society.

Applicable here is the adage, "knowledge is not power, communication is"; the discipline of urban entomology needs a higher level of communication.

There is justification for a scientific journal dedicated to urban entomology. It would have an international focus, and serve as a forum for researchers and practitioners to present their work and learn from others. The traditional dissemination of urban entomology research papers and articles to a variety of multidiscipline and multi-language journals does not accommodate the time constraints and interests of the growing audience, nor does it stimulate interchange and discussion of pertinent ideas and data. The short-term benefits of a journal for this discipline will be the opportunity to stimulate communication between these two groups, with the prospect of bringing laboratory theory closer to practical reality. The long-term results will be a more centralized knowledgebase and increased interdisciplinary communication.

The International Journal of Urban Entomology will bring together scientific research papers, reviews of topical subjects, and incisive articles dealing with the basic and practicalities of arthropod pest management and integrated control strategies, insecticide resistance and remediation programs in the urban environment. The journal format and coverage will endeavour to meet the need for interface between basic research and applied technology in industry and academia. There will be regional editors to serve and encourage participation worldwide. Publication is expected to begin in 1996 with perhaps one or two issues, the long-term goals are four to six issues per year and a close association with the ICIPUE.