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BOOK REVIEW

A CLASSIFICATION ABOVE SPECIES LEVEL OF THE GENUS *LACHESILLA* WESTWOOD (PSOCOPTERA: LACHESILLIDAE). Alfonso Neri Garcia Aldrete. 1974. *Folia Entomologica Mexicana* 27. 88 p.

This publication represents far more labor than the 88 pages suggest. In order to attack the problem of higher classification in *Lachesilla*, Dr. Garcia Aldrete had first to differentiate all species available to him. There proved to be many. Smithers' (1967) catalogue of the Psocoptera of the World lists 61 species of *Lachesilla*. Garcia Aldrete lists 229 species, most of them still undescribed. The undescribed species are listed by letter-number combinations in the higher categories to which they are assigned.

It is evident from Garcia Aldrete's work that *Lachesilla* is one of the largest genera of Psocoptera. Eventually it may be desirable to divide this genus. Garcia Aldrete has chosen a compromise scheme, already employed by several other researchers of Psocoptera, in delineating species groups. This procedure allows preliminary classification above species level within a genus without the immediate need of formal recognition of taxa. He recognizes 18 species groups and three taxa at a higher level which he designates divisions. The latter term needs replacement due to its different use in plants. Each species group and division is diagnosed, but unfortunately no key is included.

Both sexes of *Lachesilla* generally show external genitalic features diagnostic of species. These structures are profusely and well illustrated, but the wide margins around the plates of figures suggest that these plates were reduced more than was necessary.

Garcia Aldrete relies almost exclusively on external genitalic characters in arriving at his classificational synthesis. It will not be surprising if use of additional characters will bring about changes in classification.

Distributional data are roughly delineated. All of the divisions and all but two species groups are represented in North and Central America. The two exceptional species groups are known only from Brazil. Not a single endemic species group is known from the Old World and only two of the species groups reach the Old World. Native *Lachesilla* species seem to be totally absent from Australia and Oceania.

Much work remains to be done on *Lachesilla*, including the description of many new species and the study of many more characters. The work of Garcia Aldrete will form an important milestone in the ongoing effort.

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