

BOOK REVIEW

INDIANTHYSANOPTERA

By

T. N. ANANTHAKRISHNAN

(Zoological Monographs No. 1, Publications and Informations
Directorate, New Delhi) 171 pages, 1966. Rs. 26.00

This slender volume is the first in the series of Zoological Monographs published by the CSIR. It contains a valuable summary of information on Indian thrips, written by the authority of the group in India. For the past twenty years Dr. Ananthakrishnan has been conducting his studies on Thysanoptera and he has presented to the biologists his own survey of the life of thrips of India,

After a brief introductory account covering aspects of history of the study of the group in India, phylogeny and methods of study, he gives an account of bionomics and taxonomy in two chapters. These chapters cover general aspects of ecology and host relationships, rhythms, and predatism in thrips, their enemies, and taxonomy. The key deals with Indian taxa upto genera. The next chapter gives an account of the morphology of Thysanoptera illustrated by simple (a little crude ?) diagrams. His original findings relating to morphic types — oedemerism and gynaecoidism — have been ably summarised in this chapter. His treatment of the structural diversity in natural populations is indeed valuable; the account compels the reader to appreciate the wide diversification and intergrades in populations. It drives home the point that the real taxonomic status of a species could be assessed only after a study of the populations and indirectly points the accusing finger at the practice in systematics to describe stray specimens or singled out forms as species new to science. The monograph as a whole is an attempt to place thysanopteran taxonomy on firm grounds and the author has succeeded in his attempt.

An appendix, which is a check list of Indian species, follows as the last section of the monograph. The references cite 337 titles and there is a useful index.

Dr. Ananthakrishnan's monograph presents all available information on Indian thrips in a usefully condensed form and as such is a valuable book to students of ecology, zoology, entomology and insect taxonomy.

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