

BOOK REVIEWS

DELOYA LOPEZ, A. C. (ed). 1997. *La Sociedad Mexicana de Entomología: pasado, presente y futuro*. Sociedad Mexicana de Entomología; Xalapa, México. Paperback, v + 202 p. ISBN 968-7801-01-8. Available from: Sociedad Mexicana de Entomología, ATTN. Cuauhtémoc Deloya, Apartado Postal 63, 91000 Xalapa, Veracruz, MEXICO (US\$15 + \$5 packing and shipping to addresses in the USA).

Hallman et al. (1992) *American Entomologist* 38: 22-32 give thumbnail accounts of entomological societies in the Americas south of the USA. To the best of my knowledge, none of these societies has ever produced such a comprehensive account of its history and current activities as has the Sociedad Mexicana de Entomología (SME, the Mexican Entomological Society).

Founded in 1952, SME includes in its 10 principles (Chapter 1) the study of insects and related arthropod taxa of the Mexican fauna by Mexican nationals and foreigners, comprising the taxonomy, zoogeography, ecology, and biology of these taxa, and methods for the control of pest species among them. Chapter 2 is a brief sketch of past-presidents (each of whom served for two years), honors awarded by SME, the founding in 1962 of the journal *Folia Entomológica Mexicana*, the production of newsletters, meetings (an annual congress was inaugurated in 1975), and the existence of regional delegations.

Chapter 3 details the organization of meetings, the composition of the governing board, and the actions of organizing committees. Chapter 4 explores the production of *Folia Entomológica Mexicana* and other publications. Chapter 5 examines attendance at annual congresses, and the sub-disciplines of the participants. Chapter 6 looks at the direction followed by SME and compares it with other societies in the Americas south of the USA.

Chapter 7 has a directory of active members in 1995-1996. It explains SME's much larger total directory which, it is planned, should become searchable by internet early in 1998. Chapters 8 and 9 deal with the library maintained by SME at the Instituto Nacional de Diagnóstico y Referencia Epidemiológicos (INDRE) in Mexico City, the agreement establishing the housing of this library, and a detailed list of the journals that it holds by exchange with other societies nationally and internationally (the list is impressive) and a few books and theses. Chapter 10 is an analysis of editorial standards of *Folia Entomológica Mexicana* by its editor. Chapter 11 has three indices of the contents of that journal. The first is an author index. The second is a subject index using such headings as "medical and veterinary entomology", "behavior" and "physiology", and "economic entomology" subdivided by agricultural crop. The third is a 39-page author/title index subdivided taxonomically at the levels of order and family.

The final 6 chapters (12-17) contain the current statutes, the rules for organization of meetings and activities, the rules for organization of national meetings, the rules for awarding prizes to students for theses and dissertations, and function of two special delegations to SME.

What other entomological society from Florida southward could now recount its history in such detail? This book is a challenge to the other entomological societies from Florida to Argentina to do as adequate a job before their historical records are lost or damaged.

J. H. Frank
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