This is the first of three volumes. The others (regrettably some years away) will consider genitalia and other aspects of heteropteran morphology (scent glands, pregenital abdomen, trichobothria, pretarsi, etc.), and the author gives a brief preview of this work in 16 pages of the present volume. Another book, not in this series, also is promised, on the systematics of the Salticidae.

This volume, and its successors, will remain for many years among the definitive works of insect morphology. The books should greatly stimulate work in heteropteran comparative morphology, and in many ways they will provide a terminus a quo for such work. They will be read by all insect morphologists, and they will be used often by all heteropterists interested in establishing relationships and deducing possible phylogeny.

CARL W. SCHAEFER
Systematic and Environmental Biology Section
Biological Sciences Group
University of Connecticut
Storrs, Connecticut 06268


Students of North American Siphonaptera who have been unable to obtain these two classical works for their libraries over the past few years will certainly welcome the Hafner reprints. Fox was originally reviewed in the Journal of Economic Entomology 33: 422 (1940) and Hubbard was reviewed in the ANNALS OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA 40: 372 (1947), thus obviating the necessity of a detailed description of their contents. In summary, Fox includes a brief introductory statement devoted to instructions for the collection and preservation of fleas, their morphology and terminology, life history and control. The bulk of the text is concerned with a systematic consideration of the species known to occur east of the 100th meridian, excluding Texas. Each specific treatment usually includes a synonymy, description of both sexes when known, State records, host list, eastern localities, and type-information. Keys to the suborders, families, genera, and species are included. The work is concluded with a "synonymic index," host index, selected bibliography, index, and 31 plates including 166 figures.

The work of Hubbard treats the area west of the 100th meridian and is considerably more detailed. It is divided into three parts. Part 1 includes considerations of such diverse subjects as (1) students of Western American fleas and their contributions, (2) the medical importance of flies, (3) field and laboratory technique, and (4) the anatomy of fleas in relation to taxonomy. Part 2 deals with the systematics of western fleas and includes keys to families, genera, species, and subspecies. Treatment of each species includes information concerning diagnostic characters, size, range, host data, collection records, and medical importance, when known. Line drawings of the modified segments are included in the text for most species. Part 3 is composed mainly of a series of host indexes, including one for man, and concludes with a selected bibliography and indexes on synonymy, species, and authors in addition to a general index.

The production quality of these two volumes is excellent and in the case of Fox, superior to the original. Both are of great historical value and presently constitute, jointly, the most comprehensive study of the fleas of the United States. However, it must be pointed out that our knowledge of this group of insects has advanced measurably during the past 20 years and current ideas concerning classification, especially on the subordinal, family, and generic levels, are at variance with the system employed by these authors. In addition, several new species have been described from the United States since these books were originally published, thus reducing the value of the keys for accurate identification. However, when used judiciously with more modern sources, these two volumes still provide the only useful source of information about the fleas of the United States, especially to the non-specialist.

ROBERT E. LEWIS
Associate Professor
Iowa State University
Department of Zoology and Entomology
Ames, Iowa


It is fortunate that such a person as Kenneth Spencer, who is one of the leading authorities on the agromyzid leaf-mining flies and who was a close personal friend of Dr. Hering, could edit and annotate these letters. It is seldom that one so well qualified is able to perform this useful service to entomology while at the same time leaving a worthy memorial to a long-time friend.

On pages vii to xii is a short sketch of Dr. Hering's life. Pages 1-339 consist of the letters, mostly in German, but a few in English, in which language Dr. Hering was quite accomplished both in writing and orally, as I can confirm from a memorable visit with him and Spencer to the Isle of Wight at the time of the 12th International Congress of Entomology (London, 1964). Although this was only 3 years before his death, Dr. Hering had no apparent difficulty in clambering over a rather rough path and certainly did his share of the collecting.

The letters are followed by 139 annotations by Spencer, naturally largely relative to Agromyzidae. It is regrettable that this much could not have been done for the Tephritidae, in which family and in several lepidopterous families Dr. Hering was just as much an authority as he was in the Agromyzidae.

Appendix A lists the few more than 400 publications of Dr. Hering. It is unfortunate that this list is not more critical; although it is chronological, with subheadings of years, several items are listed for a year in which they did not appear. A couple of items are missing. No mention is made of the fact that until about 1939 Dr. Hering published under the name of "Martin Hering" or "M. Hering," changing to Erich Martin Hering at that time. I am indebted to Spencer for the information that this was done because of the appearance of publications by another entomologist of the same name. Items nos. 88 and 98 appeared as merely "par le Dr. Hering," no. 292 as by "F. M. Hering," and no. 296 as by Martin E. Hering, to mention a few variations I have come across.

Finally, and by no means least, Appendix B consists of keys for the identification of the palaearetic species of the genera Liriomyza and Phytomyza, and certainly did his share of the collecting.

There remains now only for some ambitious bibliographer to work up a critical list of the "2186 new species described below family level" by Dr. Hering.

GEORGE C. STEYSKAL
Systematic Entomology Laboratory
Entomology Research Division, ARS, USDA

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