

Forest Insects of China
Committee Meeting
October 27, 2008
Beijing Forestry University

Attendees:

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| Wu Jian | State Forestry Administration |
| Li Zhenyu | Beijing Forestry University (ret.) |
| Luo Youqing | Beijing Forestry University |
| Sun Jianghua | Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences |
| Wen Jin | China Forestry Publishing House |
| Liu Jialing | China Forestry Publishing House |
| Stephen Clarke | USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection |
| Tom Eager | USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection |

The objective of the book committee is the publication of the 3rd Edition of “Forest Insects of China”. The 3rd Edition of the book will include:

1. new knowledge,
2. high quality photographs,
3. new techniques for suppression, and
4. an English version.

The goals of the meeting were to discuss progress on the book and recommend methods to expedite publication.

Project delays.

The Chinese acknowledged that progress has been slow and apologized for the delays. The project is at least one year behind schedule. The original book editor and his wife passed away since project initiation. Professor Li has taken over as chief book editor. Unfortunately he lacks the authority and resources to move the project forward, in part because he retired from the University. They have tried to respect the copyrights of the contributors to the 2nd Edition by asking them to update their entries, but many did not respond and some have died. They solicited volunteers to write new entries, but the results have not been as successful as they hoped. I responded that the U.S. team was

disappointed with the lack of progress, and that the delay had caused some problems. Some of the Chinese-speaking graduate students we had enlisted to help us with the translations had graduated. We would need to find new students to assist us, but we could not move forward unless we were certain new translations were forthcoming.

Current Status.

The introduction is complete. The entries for 203 species have been written, and photographs for 105 spp. have been reviewed and approved. Many of the 105 spp. with photos are not the same as the 203 spp. with entries. Twenty-three entries have been translated into English. We have received 12 of the translations, and 7 of the translations have been edited and finalized.

Expediting Progress.

The Chinese team spent quite a bit of time discussing methods to improve project efficiency. Based on their discussions, they made the following recommendations:

Entries. Rather than continue to ask for volunteers, they will begin to assign insects to experts. They will be given deadlines. Some insects may be assigned to students as graduation projects. They also plan to use graduate students to search for new information published since the release of the 2nd Edition. They also indicated that to speed progress they might not include all of the 600 spp. originally intended for the book and concentrate on the major pests. I responded that we wanted as many species included as possible. Many of the most injurious non-native insect species in the U.S. are not major economic threats in their native country. They agreed to include as many species as they could. If new information is not available for some of the minor pests, they would reuse the entry from the 2nd Edition.

Reviewing entries. Instead of Professor Li reviewing every entry, they would expand the list of reviewers to include experts, other professors, and graduate students.

Photographs. They made three recommendations for the photos.

1. ask specialists to contribute photos.
2. send instructions to pest control stations and designate which insects they should photograph.
3. use photos from books or other publications. Graduate students would be assigned to locate available photographs suitable for use in the book.

I agreed with their recommendations. Though the photographs should be an important aspect of the new edition, I did not want lack of photographs to slow progress. If necessary, photographs could be included later on updated CDs or DVDs or posted on a website when they become available.

Translations. Shi Juan, the former leader of the English translation team, is pregnant and probably will not continue on the team. In addition, some of the student members have graduated. They discussed disbanding the Chinese team and using Chinese students in the U.S. for the translations. I asked who would coordinate their work and if and how they would be paid. They finally decided to develop a new translation team and pay them to crank out the translations. The committee stated that they planned to have a large group of translations ready by next May for editing. In the past I had always asked that they send translations for editing as soon as they were available to avoid swamping the U.S. team with large numbers at one time. However, given the slow pace of the project to date and the need and potential loss of Chinese-speaking assistants to aid the U.S. editors, receiving large numbers of entries at the same time may prove beneficial. The U.S. team members must be prepared to handle the editing load when the translations arrive. The Chinese also requested a standardized format for each of 14 insect guilds to be included in the book. I responded that we had developed a format that could be used for all insects. However, they still insisted that a different format would be needed for each guild. I will get a list of the 14 guilds and work with the U.S. team to develop formats.

Tracking progress. I requested that we utilize a spreadsheet to track each step in the process for all insects in the book. The spreadsheet would include each insect, entry and photo contributors, editor, translator, and U.S. editor. The date each step was assigned

and completed would be recorded. The spreadsheet would be updated and distributed to committee members at least quarterly. The Chinese agreed and I will work with Dr. Sun to develop the tracking system.

Budget.

Mr. Wen stated that the current plan was to print 2000 Chinese copies and 1000 English copies of the book. The Chinese will also print an additional 200 copies of the English version at their expense for their use. The total cost for the book is estimated at 1.7 million yuan, with the U.S. share at 890,000 yuan (ca. \$130,000). He requested payment of the U.S. share within 2 years. I made no promises on the budget, as I was not previously involved in any discussions concerning funding of the book. I requested a formal budget that could be submitted to Rob Mangold for consideration. Mr. Wen promised to develop and deliver the budget.

Contacts.

Wu Jian will be Rob Mangold's contact on the budget or any other matters concerning the book.

Sun Jiangua will be my contact on tracking progress and other book issues.