

DISTRIBUTION CARDS FOR THE ENTOMOLOGIST¹

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Anyone with a serious interest in entomology soon finds that he is spending as much or more time working with the specimen data as was spent in actual field work making collections. Resident collectors soon find it desirable to have a ready source of information available regarding local distribution of species, their flight times, and other useful information such as food plants, habits, etc.

My own field is the family Geometridae of the Lepidoptera, but the data cards that I am using could work just as well with almost any group of insects. I keep records for the state of Missouri, using a two card (fig.1) system expanded from one proposed by Richard Heitzman (1963 Jour. Lep. Soc., 17(1):44-46). Card size is 5" x 8" The map card gives known spatial and temporal distribution of the species at a glance. The information card carries the actual records and any other information that is known regarding the species. If extra data cards are needed, I use regular 5" x 8" narrow lined file cards. In the upper left hand corner, I put the McDunnough *Check List* number and file the cards in that order for easy reference. By using an X for a marker, I can show the distribution of up to five forms involved. In other respects, I think the cards are self-explanatory. I have found this an effective system in my case, and hopefully it may be of use to other workers in similar or altered form.

ABSTRACT—A new form of distribution card is given with an example. A two card system is proposed to utilize other important information regarding the species involved.

Descriptors: Insecta, distribution cards for species; Distribution cards, state-wide, data utilized, example.

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