

the genetic structure of pest populations if we can move away from the use of terms such as biotype, which contribute nothing to the description of genetic relationships, and agree on some method for describing the observed variation which is in accordance with the hypothesis that superspecies or species complexes are involved. In particular, perhaps insect taxonomists could be more ready to use these categories for species groups involving agricultural pests, and even to name sibling species formally where there is judged to be sufficient evidence that separate gene pools exist with divergent functional (evolutionary) roles.

References

- Baum, D.** (1992) Phylogenetic species concepts. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* **7**, 1–2.
- Besansky, N.J., Powell, J.R., Caccone, A., Hamm, D.M., Scott, J.A. & Collins, F.H.** (1994) Molecular phylogeny of the *Anopheles gambiae* complex suggests genetic introgression between principal malaria vectors. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences U.S.A.* **91**, 6885–6888.
- Dobzhansky, T.** (1970) *Genetics of the evolutionary process*. New York, Columbia University Press.
- Dobzhansky, T.** (1972) Species of *Drosophila*. New excitement in an old field. *Science* **177**, 664–669.
- Gaston, K.J. & Mound, L.A.** (1993) Taxonomy, hypothesis testing and the biodiversity crisis. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* **251**, 139–142.
- Kim, K.C. & McPheron, B.A.** (Eds) (1993) *Evolution of insect pests. Patterns of variation*. New York, John Wiley & Sons.
- Masters, J.C. & Spencer, H.G.** (1989) Why we need a new genetic species concept. *Systematic Zoology* **38**, 270–279.
- Meglitsch, P.A.** (1954) On the nature of species. *Systematic Zoology* **3**, 49–65.
- Paterson, H.E.H.** (1993) *Evolution and the recognition concept of species: collected writings*. Edited by S.F. McEvey. Baltimore, John Hopkins University Press.
- Rosen, D.E.** (1979) Fishes from the uplands and intermontane basins of Guatemala: revisionary studies and comparative geography. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* **162**, 270–375.
- Simpson, G.G.** (1961) *Principles of animal taxonomy*. New York, Columbia University Press.
- Whittmore, A.T.** (1993) Species concepts: a reply to Ernst Mayr. *Taxon* **42**, 573–583.

© CAB INTERNATIONAL, 1995

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Readers are invited to submit articles or letters on issues that are relevant to the general readership and that merit discussion in an open forum. There are no strict guidelines such as page length but any contribution, whether it be an article or letter, must be signed, relatively short and concise and original. We will keep up to four pages of commentary in each issue to ensure flexibility and rapid publication, but the format within these pages will be formulated from your responses, perhaps to include two or more short articles or one long one. Contributions will be referred by an appropriate Board Member and we reserve the right to return any contribution unsuitable for publication, and to select only the most appropriate for contemporary debate.

Annette K. Walker
(Editor)