Insects of Micronesia. Introduction¹
(A Review)

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This is the first publication in a projected series of 20 volumes which will treat in detail of the terrestrial arthropods of Micronesia. That geographical area includes, as defined for the purposes of this survey, the islands commonly considered under that name (the Mariana, Caroline, Marshall, Gilbert, Ocean, Nauru and Wake Islands), and, in addition, Marcus, the Bonin and the Volcano Islands. The survey is based primarily upon collections financed by the United States Office of Naval Research, and made under the auspices of the Pacific Science Board (National Research Council). Later the project was taken over by the Bishop Museum with the aid of grants from the National Science Foundation.

In this interesting volume Dr. Gressitt describes the environment in the various parts of Micronesia, particularly with reference to the insect fauna. The geography and vegetation of the various island groups are described in detail, with briefer treatment of their geology and climate. Then follows a short discussion of the insect ecology on the atolls and on the high islands. A useful list of the insects of economic importance is given, because, in the author's words: "... these have not been brought together before. ..." An extensive gazetteer of Micronesian place names, and a good index conclude the volume.

Without attempting to analyze in detail the fauna or its origins, Dr. Gressitt points out the problems involved in their consideration. He has presented a clear and detailed background on which to project the volumes to come, and has set a high standard for the authors who will prepare them. Dr. Spoehr sums it up well in his "Foreword" when he says that Dr. Gressitt's "... Introduction is more than a technical preface; it presents a comprehensive survey of the natural history of Micronesia that will be of interest to a wide audience."