

anatomy to reveal tangible differences between members of the genus *Ariolimax* (Moerck) and some *Achatinidae* respectively. Mead found that not only did a careful study of the genital system reveal tangible differences between species and genera, but that the study was also valuable in arriving at an understanding of problems in phylogeny, taxonomy, and even physiology. He states, "to be absolutely sure of an identification of an immaculate specimen from a new locality, one must examine the genitalia." He placed a limitation on the area by stipulating a new locality, but I found in my study that positive identification of a specimen from any location is based upon an examination of the genitalia.

Anatomy of the reproductive tracts in taxonomy is not without its problems. Franzen (1963) states that, "the extent to which anatomical characters of species within a genus may be used successfully as a guide to systematic relationship is dependent upon sound knowledge of the nature and degree of variation that may exist among the members of a freely interbreeding local population, or among a disjunct population of the same species. Without information concerning the nature and degree of individual and geographical variation within a population or in a series of populations, anatomical data can not be employed in full confidence."

Despite the reservations that one must take in using and interpreting this sort of data, I am convinced that studies of this nature will help to clear up much of the chaos that exists within the taxonomic schemes of many classes. Boudreaux (1962) summarizes the use of reproductive data in systematics best in stating, "that reproductive data are objective, and may be put to excellent use in helping to decide the relationships of arbitrary taxa whose erection was based upon subjective interpretation. Even though reproductive data are impossible to secure for many cases of dubious classificatory procedures, these data nevertheless should be used if available because of their lack of arbitrariness."

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Association News

The forty-first annual meeting, held in Ellensburg, Washington, on 22 and 23 March 1968, was again one of the best on record. There were 285 registered in attendance for the 178 scheduled papers. These figures include the 53 students who were registered as giving a paper and thus received a free banquet ticket and a one-year membership. The student participation has been high for the past two meetings, which is what we have been trying to encourage. Five graduate students were awarded modest grants to help support their research this summer. The facilities and the hospitality at CWSC were both excellent. Comments heard from the attendees concerning the meeting were generally very favorable.

With another success to build upon, we are starting to work on next year's meeting in Cheney, Washington, on March 21 and 22, 1969. Have a good summer in the field or at the lab bench and plan to report your results in Cheney.

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