

PREFACE

The birth of *Insect Science and its Application*, a journal devoted to all aspects of scientific research and education on tropical insects and related arthropods, comes at an opportune time. Growing populations of the tropics cannot continue to tolerate the toll that insects exact of yield from their most important food and fibre crops and of damage to animals and man either directly or as vectors of disease. Entomologists have coped well in the past with certain major tropical insect pests—those of rice, sugar cane, cotton, and cacao. They have also successfully combatted several major vectors of diseases of livestock and of man. Recently they have made excellent progress in developing practical pest management programs for those insects attacking basic food crops such as maize, sorghum, millet, beans, and cassava. But, as the demands for food stuffs, fibres, and animal products rise, so must the effort and the efficacy of pest management intensify.

Tropical entomology requires scientific excellence in its own right. In addition it must continue to rely on the scientific research and the expertise of the entomologists from the temperate regions of the world. But the special farming systems, insect pest problems, and economics of insect control which characterize the tropical band of the world make the need urgent for an entomology serving directly this important ecological zone.

The multi- and inter-disciplinary breadth that *The International Journal of Tropical Insect Science* will possess in subject matter is welcome. Such emphasis coupled with a drive for excellence should encourage graduate students and well-established professionals of the many new universities and research institutes in the tropical regions of Africa, Asia, and Latin America to probe into the whys and wherefores of insect-plant and insect-animal relationships and to apply their findings to the practical problems of crop and animal production in the tropics.

The entire community of entomologists will welcome the publication of *Insect Science and its Application* as a forum for the exchange of ideas and as an organ for the stimulation of research in an area of the world too often neglected.

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