

# The Entomological Society of Stockholm

1879—1948.

By

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The Entomological Society of Stockholm was founded on December 14th, 1879, through the initiative of the Professor of Pharmacology at the Royal Caroline Medico-Surgical Institute, Oskar Theodor Sandahl. Its chief purpose was the publication of a journal of entomology. The project was received with great interest, and the very first year the new Society was able to number among its members not only Government entomologists but also representatives of the other branches of zoology as well as many amateurs.

For nearly 15 years Sandahl was the leading force in the Society. With never-failing interest and vast energy he laid a firm foundation for the economy and further development of the Society. In 1894 Sandahl died. Professor Christoffer Aurivillius, Keeper of Entomology at the State Museum of Natural History in Stockholm was then elected as president and he guided the destinies of the Society for the next 34 years. Upon his death in 1928 the writer of these lines was elected President.

According to the statutes revised and adopted in 1937, the main object of the Society is to further entomological studies and »to promote a fruitful co-operation between the devotees, friends and patrons of entomology». During the 69 years that are now almost at an end, the Society has endeavoured to carry out these provisions in various ways. The connecting link has undoubtedly been the Journal of Entomology (»Entomologisk tidskrift»), whose first year's issue appeared as early as 1880. In the Journal have been published not only valuable scientific papers on the taxonomy, life-history and ecology of Swedish insects in particular, but also a considerable number of longer and shorter contributions to the knowledge of insects in and outside our country. Space has also been found in it for articles on arachnids as well as myriapods. The Society's publications have not, however, been exclusively confined to the Journal. When the study of economically important insects became more adequately organized in our country, the Society brought out another series entitled »Applied Entomology» (Uppsatser i praktisk

entomologi»), in which information was collected about the biology of pests and control measures for combating them, a publication that was maintained for 23 years. For the benefit of young people especially, the Society published in 1888 an «Entomological Latin-Swedish Dictionary» («Entomologisk latin-svensk ordbok») and since 1917 it has brought out two important series «Swedish Insect Fauna» («Svensk insektfauna») and «Swedish Arachnid Fauna» («Svensk spindelfauna»), of which the former in particular has a wide circulation. These two publications as well as the Journal have for some years received grants from the government.

Next after the publications, the meetings of the Society have been of paramount importance for the promotion of Swedish entomological research. In accordance with the statutes, four ordinary general meetings shall be held annually, but during the last few years the number has been doubled. At these gatherings the business of the Society is attended to, lectures are held, discussions arranged and new, interesting finds demonstrated. Each year one or two excursions are also organized to interesting localities in the surroundings of Stockholm.

The Society has attached particular importance to stimulating young people to undertake entomological research. With this purpose in view, a fund was established already in 1892 on the initiative of Colonel Claes Grill, an enterprising and energetic member of the Society, the annual interest of which is used as a kind of «travelling scholarship» for some school-boy interested in entomological research. The Society has besides recently formed a special, so-called youth club, at the meetings of which popular lectures are given to interested entomologists. The club also arranges excursions led by members of the Society. To stimulate the interest of school-masters and school-mistresses in entomology, the Society has on various occasions organized courses for their information.

At an early date a library was constituted in the interests of Swedish entomological research; with the passing of the years this has now reached a considerable size owing to private donations and, above all, exchange of publications. This library has, since its origin, been housed in the Department of Entomology of the State Museum of Natural History in Stockholm. During the 1880's the Society was presented with several collections of insects. The donors perhaps thought that these collections might form the nucleus of a research centre for the Society. It was soon evident, however, that the bulky collections would soon require considerable funds for accommodation and maintenance, so that as early as 1896 the Society decided to present them unconditionally to the State Entomological Institute. A proposal for the establishment of an institute whose primary aim would be to study the living conditions of the insects affecting plant cultivation and to find means of combating them, was put forward on the tenth anniversary of the Society in 1889 by the Colonel Grill to whom we have referred. Through his energetic campaign

for this scheme, the project was realized in 1897 by the establishment of the State Entomological Institute mentioned above. This, through the initiative of the authorities, has since undergone two metamorphoses, being in 1907 incorporated with the Agricultural Experiment Institution (Centralanstalten för jordbruksförsök) as its Department of Entomology, and 25 years later being transferred to the Swedish Institute for Plant Protection (Statens Växtskyddsanstalt) as its Department of Zoology.

As a means of furthering the endeavours of the Society to spread to the general public a knowledge of the vast practical and economic significance of insects for mankind, the Society opened in the Technical Museum with contributions from Swedish State institutions and from firms dealing in insecticides as well as from donors, an exhibition in 1944, called »Insects and Man». Judging from the attendance, this exhibition is likely to have substantially furthered the aims of the Society.

Finally, it may be mentioned that in 1923 the Society took the initiative of organizing the Scandinavian Conferences of Entomologists by inviting entomologists from Denmark, Norway and Finland to meet in Stockholm on the 29—30 June for an exchange of information and for discussion of mutual business. This Conference has been followed by similar ones in Copenhagen in 1926 and 1939, in Helsinki in 1930 and 1946, in Oslo in 1933, and in Lund in 1936.

The present officers of the Entomological Society of Stockholm are: Professor Alb. Tullgren, President; Professor I. Trägårdh, Vice-President; Fil. dr. Carl Lindroth, Secretary; Professor O. Lundblad, Editor; A. Olsson, Elementary Schoolmaster, Treasurer; and Fil. dr. F. Nordström, Fil. lic. O. Ahlberg, Fil. dr. L. Brundin and Fil. mag. B. Tunblad.

At the beginning of this year the Society numbered 430 members.

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