

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thankfully acknowledge Dr. T.N. Ananthakrishnan, Director, Zoological Survey of India who provided me all sorts of facilities of the Department at my disposal for the present study. I am greatly indebted to my supervisor Dr. T. Sen Gupta, who gave me valuable advice, necessary literature and material for the study. I will also like to thank staff of Coleoptera Section namely, Mr. A.R. Bhaumik, Dr. G.N. Saha, Mr. S.K. Saha, Mr. C.R. Basu, Mr. A.K. Mukherjee, Mr. P. Mukherjee, Mr. S.K. Chatterjee, Mr. D.N. Biswas and Mr. S.K. Halder for their help and sincere co-operation. I am grateful to Dr. D.G.H. Halstead of Pest Infestation Control Laboratory, Slough, Bucks, U.K. for constant advice, providing several xeroxed copies of old literature, confirming identification and loaning several species; similarly to Dr. E. Ratti of Museo civico di Storia Naturale, S. Croce, 1730, 30125 Venezia, Italy for his valuable suggestion, some literature and confirmation of Airaphilus serricollis Reitter. Thanks are also due to Mr. R.D. Pope of British Museum (Nat.Hist.), London, U.K.; Dr. R. Dazoj of Muséum National d'histoire Naturelle, Paris, France; Dr. W. Wittmer of Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel, Switzerland; Dr. I. Löbl of Muséum d'histoire Naturelle, Genève, Switzerland; Dr. Z. Kaszab of Termeszettudományi Museum, Budapest, Hungary; Dr. R. Gaedike of Deutsches Entomologisches

Institut, Eberswalde, E. Germany for sending their collections. Dr. S. Hisamatsu of Ehime University, Matsuyama, Japan identified Psammoecus harmandi Grouvelle, and Dr. R.B. Madge of Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, U.K. who helped me regarding few references cited in the work are also duly acknowledged.

Finally, I am grateful to my parents, teacher Prof. B. Das Gupta, friends and colleagues namely, Dr. M. Datta and Mr. A.K. Datta for their constant encouragements, without which the work could not be completed. This manuscript has been typed by the efficient typist Mr. N.C. Dey Sarkar, whom I also like to thank.

This project has been financed by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi.