

A Bibliography of Imported Fire Ants and the Chemicals and Methods Used for Their Control

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CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Bibliography	3
Index of authors	25
Index of subjects	30

A Bibliography of Imported Fire Ants and the Chemicals and Methods Used for Their Control

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INTRODUCTION

The red and black imported fire ants, *Solenopsis invicta* Buren and *Solenopsis richteri* Forel, have invaded more than 52 million hectares of land in the southern United States since they were inadvertently introduced some 30 to 60 years ago (Lofgren et al. 1975). These ants have been variously judged as a serious economic and public-health menace, as a minor nuisance, as totally innocuous, and even as beneficial. Organized control programs have been directed against these insects for nearly two decades, first with heptachlor (1,4,5,6,7,8,8-heptachloro-3a,4,7,7a-tetrahydro-4,7-methanoindene) or dieldrin (1,2,3,4,10,10-hexachloro-6,7-epoxy-1,4,4a,5,6,7,8,8a-octahydro-1,4-*endo-exo*-5,8-dimethanonaphthalene), and since 1963 with mirex (dodecachlorooctahydro-1,3,4-metheno-1*H*-cyclobuta[*cd*]pentalene). During this interim, much research has been conducted to find better control methods and to assess the impact that the ants and the techniques of control have had on the environment. A large number of scientific papers and some popular articles have been published. Because of the continuing interest in imported fire ants and their control, we have compiled a bibliography of these papers and articles.

All scientific papers concerned in any way with imported fire ants are included in this bibliography. We manually searched both the Life and the Agricultural, Food and Veterinary Sciences editions of Current Contents published by the Institute for Scientific Information, Dissertation Abstracts, the Bibliography of Agriculture, and Abstracts of Entomology. In addition, we utilized the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Current Awareness Literature Service provided by the Lending Division, National Agricultural Library. This service is a computerized search of Biological Abstracts, Bio-Research Index, and Chemical Abstracts. We also visited the libraries of land-grant colleges and universities where we knew work had been done on imported fire ants to check theses and dissertations that might not have been included in Dissertation Abstracts. To our knowledge, all articles in popular magazines are included, but no attempt was made to include newspaper articles. All papers dealing with mirex—its residues and

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so forth—and with control of fire ants are included. Papers on ants which did not specifically deal with fire ants or with the use of mirex to control other ants, other Hymenoptera, or Isoptera were excluded. The literature search for this bibliography was completed in July 1977.

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X, Y, Z

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INDEX OF AUTHORS

A

Abraham, R., 1, 123, 124, 231, 232
 Abston, P. A., 2–4
 Adams, C. T., 5, 6
 Adams, D. J., 451
 Adkins, H. G., 7
 Adler, V. E., 397, 398
 Adrouny, G. A., 8, 9, 577
 Aerial Applicator, 10
 Aga, A., 609
 Agricultural Aviation, 11
 Agricultural Chemicals, 12
 Ahrens, E. H., 79, 740
 Alexander, S. D., 13, 14
 Allen, G. E., 15–17, 112, 363
 Allen, R. H., 18
 Allen, R. S., 290
 Alley, E. G., 19–23, 103, 335
 Almon, R. R., 744
 Andrade, P., Jr., 24–26
 Andrews, E. K., 668
 Anthony, D. W., 29
 Applegate, H. G., 37
 Arant, F. S., 27, 28, 202, 283
 Atkinson, J. B., 168
 Avery, S. W., 29

B

Baetcke, K. P., 30
 Baker, M. F., 31–35, 151

Baker, R. C., 36
 Baker, R. D., 37
 Banks, W. A., 5, 6, 29, 38–46, 131, 348, 349, 384, 385, 397, 399, 400, 404, 406, 408, 601, 608, 731–735
 Barlin, M. R., 47, 89
 Barnes, C. S., 48
 Barnett, J., 337
 Baroni-Urbani, C., 49
 Barthel, W. F., 44, 50, 51, 398, 408, 468, 484
 Bartlett, F. J., 52, 401–404, 407, 408, 605
 Bass, J. A., 53–55, 476
 Bates, R. R., 330
 Bay, D. E., 610
 Begin, J., 337
 Begum, A., 56
 Bellinger, F., 57
 Bellomy, M. D., 58
 Bennett, A. G., 59
 Bevenue, A., 60
 Bhatkar, A. P., 61–63, 505, 507, 697, 698
 Bigley, W. S., 64, 65
 Biros, F. J., 207
 Bishop, P. M., 245, 247–251, 406, 602, 603
 Blake, G. H., Jr., 66–69
 Blasingame, W. E., 70
 Blocker, H. D., 565
 Blomquist, B. J., 410

Blum, M. S., 47, 71–78, 89–91, 129, 293–295, 350, 425–428, 445, 480, 560, 620
 Blum, R. R., 610
 Bollar, S. J., 435
 Bond, C. A., 79, 458, 740
 Bong, R. L., 80, 81
 Bonner, F. L., 258, 326–329
 Boock, O. J., 82
 Bookhout, C. G., 83–85
 Borthwick, P. W., 86–88
 Bossert, W. H., 720
 Bowden, J. A., 287–290
 Braendlin, H. P., 194, 420
 Brand, J. M., 47, 75, 89, 90, 91, 428
 Brauer, B., 92
 Brazzel, J. R., 93, 360
 Brewer, R. N., 198, 533
 Brian, M. V., 94
 Briozzo-Beltrame, J., 573
 Brooks, G. T., 95
 Broome, J. R., 96–100, 572
 Brown, L. L., 101, 102, 376
 Brown, L. R., 103
 Brown, R., 104
 Brown, W. L., Jr., 105, 721
 Bruce, W. G., 106
 Bruch, C., 107
 Bryant, H. E., 336, 337
 Buckmaster, V., 108
 Buffkin, D. C., 109, 110
 Burch, A. D., 352

Burchfield, H. P., 695
 Buren, W. F., 15, 16, 63, 111, 112,
 425, 731, 736
 Burke, J. A., 113-115, 528
 Burns, E. C., 277
 Buschman, L. L., 116
 Butler, G. C., 570
 Butler, P. A., 117-121
 Butler, R. D., 122
 Byard, J. L., 123-125

C

Cain, C. E., 393
 Cain, J. D., 30
 Cain, S. N., 126
 Callahan, M. F., 97-99, 127
 Callahan, P. S., 63, 76, 78, 128, 129
 Campbell, T. E., 130
 Cancienne, E. A., 412
 Carbonell-Bruhn, C., 572-576
 Carlson, D. A., 26, 131, 132
 Carlson, E., 201
 Carlisle, T., 63, 736
 Carneiro-Riberio, J. H., 133
 Caro, M. R., 134
 Carroll, C. R., 135
 Carroll, J. F., 136, 384
 Carson, R., 137
 Carter, W. G., 138
 Cassista, A. J., 139
 Cavill, G. W. K., 140, 141
 Chadwick, R. W., 142
 Charpentier, L. J., 143
 Chau, A. S. Y., 153
 Chemical Marketing Reporter, 144
 Chen, P. R., 461
 Chernoff, N., 145, 564
 Cherrett, J. M., 146
 Chiu, Y. J., 147, 384, 385
 Clark, D. R., Jr., 148
 Clark, D. V., 140
 Clark, E. R., 434
 Clarkson, M. R., 149
 Clawson, S. G., 150, 151
 Clemmer, D. I., 152
 Clower, D. F., 154, 679
 Coarsey, J. M., Jr., 106
 Coburn, G., 538
 Coburn, J. A., 153
 Cochran, J. H., 565
 Cockerham, K. L., 154
 Cohan, R. H., 540
 Cole, L. K., 155
 Coleman, W. P., 600
 Collins, H. L., 156-159, 439-442,
 444, 447-449, 452, 453, 455, 515
 Comba, M. E., 275
 Concienne, E. J., 292, 412
 Cook, D. W., 103
 Cook, G. H., 86
 Cooley, N. R., 160
 Coon, D. W., 161
 Coons, L. B., 36

Cope, O. B., 162-164
 Corley, C., 51
 Costa, M., 322
 Costlow, J. D., Jr., 83, 84
 Cottier, G. J., 198, 533
 Couch, J. A., 165
 Coulston, F., 1, 123, 124, 232, 742
 Cowperthwaite, W. G., 166
 Cox, D. C., 345
 Cox, J. H., 179-181
 Crabtree, D. G., 630
 Craig, C. H., 245, 248-251, 253, 602,
 603
 Crance, J. H., 167
 Crawford, R. L., 168
 Creighton, W. S., 169, 170
 Cripe, C. R., 171
 Crisci, C., 572-576
 Crittenden, J., 393
 Cromroy, H. L., 147, 386-388
 Crump, W. D., 172
 Cuevas, M. J., 157
 Culpepper, G. H., 106, 173-175
 Cupp, E. W., 176, 177, 410, 624-626
 Curl, L. F., 178
 Cutkomp, L. K., 743
 Cypher, R. L., 634

D

Davis, D. R., 544
 Davis, J. R., 158, 159, 435, 439, 447
 Davison, K. L., 179-181
 Davison, R. B., 415
 DeBraun, M. C., 617
 Dekle, G. W., 182, 506
 De la Cruz, A. A., 183-185, 492,
 493, 534, 535
 deMenezes, M., 16
 Denmark, H. A., 186-188, 507, 698
 Dennis, V. C., 189
 Derbes, V. J., 9, 134, 351, 352, 577
 Desai, D., 190, 191, 365-367, 743
 DeWitt, J. B., 192, 193
 Dillier, J. H., 440, 443-445, 454,
 455, 726
 Dilling, M. L., 195
 Dilling, W. L., 194, 195, 420
 Dingle, H., 196
 Dirks, T. F., 432, 632, 633
 Dobson, R. N., 412
 Dollar, A. M., 345
 Dollar, D. A., 20
 Dorrough, H. W., 197, 243, 335-337
 Dozier, R. M., 540, 541
 Draper, S. W., 233, 234
 Driggers, D. P., 338, 339
 Driver, D., 198
 Duke, T. W., 85, 87, 414
 Dunham, C. W., 199
 Durlach, N. I., 722
 Dyer, R. E., 57
 Dykstra, W. W., 200
 Dyrland, R. A., 599

Dzuik, L., 675

E

Eads, J. H., 723
 Eads, R. B., 729
 Earl, R. H., Jr., 422
 Eaton, P., 201
 Eden, W. G., 27, 67, 68, 202, 203
 Eisenberg, R. M., 204
 Eisner, T., 205, 724
 Ellender, A. J., 206
 Eller, L. L., 668
 Enos, H. F., 207
 Ettershank, G., 208

F

Fabacher, D. L., 209
 Fales, H. M., 90, 425-427
 Falk, H. L., 330
 Fancher, C. C., 210
 Farrier, M. H., 320, 321
 Favorite, F. G., 211
 Ferguson, D. E., 212-214
 Fick, J. O., 611
 Fields, M., 462
 Fincher, G. T., 215
 Finley, M. T., 416
 Fishbein, L., 330, 461, 462
 Fleet, R. R., 161
 Florida Department of Agriculture,
 216, 217
 Florida Fruit and Vegetable Asso-
 ciation, 218
 Ford, J. H., 219, 278, 279, 446-448
 Ford, T., 220
 Forel, A., 221
 Forester, J., 88, 160, 302, 683
 Fortune, I., 222, 419
 Foster, J., 223
 Fowler, J. F., 258, 326, 329
 Frank, J. H., 224
 Fraser, R. R., 225
 Frazier, C. A., 226-228
 Freal, J. J., 142
 Friday, D. F., 695
 Friedman, D., 229
 Frye, O. E., 230
 Fulfs, J. C., 231, 232
 Fuller, G. B., 233, 234

G

Gabba, A., 235
 Gaines, J. F., 236
 Gaines, T. B., 237, 238
 Galbreath, E. H., 239
 Gallai, O. S., 355
 Gallo, D., 701
 Galyen, J. A., 599
 Gardner, D. T., 207
 Garrett, F. E., 203
 Gart, J. J., 330
 George, J. L., 240, 241

Georgia Market Bulletin, 242
 Gerding, H., 746
 Gibson, J. R., 243, 337
 Gilbert, E. E., 244
 Giolito, S. L., 244
 Glancey, B. M., 38, 245-253, 399, 601-604
 Glasgow, L. L., 254, 255, 590
 Glick, B., 256, 537
 Goetsch, W., 257
 Goldberg, L., 1, 123, 124, 742
 Good, E. E., 687
 Gowdy, W. P., 234
 Graeb, S., 56
 Graha, C. K., 180
 Graves, J. B., 258, 326-329
 Graves, J. L., 375
 Green, H. B., 259-269, 323, 324, 360, 676
 Greene, G. L., 477, 698
 Griffin, G. W., 270
 Griffin, I., 625
 Grissell, E. E., 736
 Grodner, R. M., 375
 Gross, H. W., Jr., 271, 272
 Grothaus, R. H., 273
 Guarino, A. M., 531

H

Haeussler, G. J., 274
 Hallett, D. J., 275
 Hanisch, R. C., 389
 Hare, H., 628
 Harris, W. G., 276, 277
 Hart, E. R., 330
 Haskins, J. R., 273
 Hawes, M. L., 372
 Hawthorne, J. C., 219, 278, 279, 446-448
 Haygood, J., 326
 Hays, K. L., 28, 68, 280, 281, 284, 343
 Hays, S. B., 54, 55, 282-284, 306, 307
 Hazard, E. I., 363
 Heath, R. G., 285
 Heitz, J. R., 97-99
 Hemenway, R. C., 116
 Henderson, D. K., 286
 Henderson, J. A., 449
 Hendrickson, C. M., 287-290
 Hensley, S. D., 291, 292, 497-500, 538
 Hermann, H. R., Jr., 293-295, 318, 445
 Herzog, D. C., 296
 Hicks, D. M., 39, 40, 732
 Hill, E. P., III, 35, 297, 298
 Hill, S. O., 445, 450
 Himel, C. M., 632, 633
 Hirschmann, W., 299
 Ho, I. K., 190
 Hodges, C. S., 347

Hodgson, E., 36, 209
 Holden, C., 300
 Holldobler, B., 301
 Hollister, T. A., 302, 683
 Holloman, M. E., 303
 Holman, J. R., 307
 Holmstead, R. L., 304
 Horton, D. E., 338, 339
 Horton, P. M., 305-307
 Howard, D. F., 308, 309
 Howard, F. W., 310
 Hubbard, M. D., 311
 Hughes, D. L., 434, 599
 Hume, W. E., 312
 Hung, A. C. F., 313-317, 609
 Hunt, A. N., 295, 318
 Hunter, J. E., III, 319-321
 Hunter, P. E., 322
 Hussein, M. Y. B., 296
 Hutchins, R. E., 265-269, 323, 324
 Hyde, K. M., 258, 296, 325-329
 Hylin, J. W., 60

I

Idol, J. D., 421, 422
 Impson, J. W., 326
 Innes, J. R., 330
 International Agency for Research on Cancer, 331
 Irving, G. W., Jr., 332
 Isensee, A. R., 333
 Iverson, F., 334
 Ivie, G. W., 197, 243, 335-337

J

Jackson, H. B., 376
 Jackson, S. C., 273
 Jacobs, R. L., 338, 339
 James, F. K., Jr., 338, 339
 Janzen, D. H., 135
 Jenkins, J. H., 340
 Johnson, A. S., 341, 342
 Johnson, A. W., 343
 Johnson, C. P., 624-626
 Johnson, E. L., 344
 Johnson, J. M., 345
 Johnson, O., 346
 Johnson, W. G., 373
 Jones, A. S., 347
 Jouvenaz, D. P., 29, 38-41, 348-350, 386, 735
 Jung, R. C., 9, 134, 351, 352, 577

K

Kaiser, K. L. E., 353
 Kaiser, T. E., 509
 Kannowski, P. B., 49
 Kapoor, I. P., 463
 Kearney, G., 177
 Kecher, R. M., 354, 355
 Keil, J. E., 376
 Keltner, J. M., Jr., 160

Kendall, M. W., 356
 Kennedy, D., 357
 Kennedy, M. V., 303
 Kennedy, M. W., 358, 525
 Khan, A. R., 359, 360
 Khera, K. S., 361
 Kimbrough, R. D., 238
 King, R., 57
 Kinter, W. B., 531
 Kirk, J. K., 362
 Kirkpatrick, R. L., 689, 690
 Klaas, E. E., 509
 Klein, M., 330
 Knell, J. D., 363
 Kobylinski, G. J., 364
 Koch, R. B., 191, 365-367, 743
 Koeman, J. H., 616
 Koenig, C. C., 368
 Koepke, U. C., 1, 123, 124
 Komarova, L. I., 354
 Konyha, K. D., 132
 Korte, F., 56
 Krafchick, B., 369
 Krause, R. T., 370
 Kreitzer, J. F., 371
 Kricher, J. C., 139, 372
 Kutz, F. W., 373

L

Ladner, C. M., 98
 Lane, R. H., 374, 375
 Law, J. H., 681
 Lawrence, R. S., 376
 Layton, B. R., 20-23, 303
 Learmonth, G. S., 377
 Lee, B. J., 378
 Lee, J. H., 379, 380
 Leffler, C. W., 381
 Leiby, R. E., 274
 Leifer, K. N., 540
 Lennartz, F. E., 112, 382
 Leposky, G., 383
 Leppla, N. C., 116
 Levy, R., 147, 384-388
 Lewis, L. A., 98
 Lewis, R. G., 389
 Lewis, T., 146
 Life, 390
 Lind, N. K., 391
 Linder, R. E., 145, 564
 Lindig, O. H., 99
 Livingston, B. P., 392
 Livingston, R. J., 364
 Lloyd, F. A., 393
 Lockey, R. F., 394
 Loding, H. P., 395
 Lofgren, C. S., 6, 38-45, 50, 52, 348, 349, 396-409, 484, 601, 605, 733-735
 Loftis, C. D., 278, 447
 Lok, J. B., 410
 Lombardo, P., 201, 229

Long, E. J., 411
 Long, W. H., 292, 412
 Longcore, J. R., 413
 Lordello, L. G. E., 82
 Lovett, J. W., 297
 Lowe, J. I., 85, 414, 415
 Lowry, H. E., 236
 Lu, P. Y., 463
 Ludke, J. L., 416
 Lue, K. Y., 417
 Lund, H. O., 215
 Lusk, C. I., 418
 Lusk, L., 416
 Lyle, C., 419

M

McBee, E. T., 194, 420-422, 501
 McCluskey, E. S., 423, 424
 MacConnell, J. G., 90, 350, 425-428
 McCorkle, F. M., Jr., 429, 430
 McCormick, W. J., 143, 292
 McDowell, L. L., 519
 McEachern, D. M., 431
 McFarlane, J., 432
 McKenzie, M. D., 433, 435
 McLane, M. A. R., 148, 434
 Macleod, K. E., 389
 McMahan, M. L., 296
 Mahood, R. K., 435
 Mailman, R. B., 36
 Mannix, D. P., 436
 Marak, G. E., 437
 Markin, G. P., 43, 156-159, 177, 219, 278, 279, 438-455, 512-515, 596, 726
 Marsh, G. A., 597
 Marshall, G. P., 132
 Martin, B. B., 248-251, 602-604
 Mason, G. L., 456
 Mast, J., 393
 Mathes, R., 143
 Matthews, H. B., 461, 462
 Mauffray, C. J., 451
 Maxwell, F. G., 457
 Mays, D. L., 116
 Medley, J. G., 79, 458, 740
 Mehendale, H. M., 190, 459-462
 Menzie, C. M., 192
 Metcalf, R. L., 463
 Micks, D. W., 464
 Middaugh, D. P., 435
 Mills, H. B., 465
 Minton, S., 466
 Minyard, J. P., Jr., 20, 22, 23
 Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, 367
 Mitchell, I., 330
 Mitchell, J. A., 253
 Mitchell, W. G., 51, 468
 Mollenhauer, H. H., 181
 Morrill, W. L., 469-478
 Moser, J. C., 479, 480
 Mrak, E. M., 481

Mulhern, B. M., 413
 Muncy, R. J., 482
 Murphree, C. E., 519
 Murphree, L. C., 483
 Murphy, R. T., 51, 484
 Murray, R. W., 545

N

Naber, E. E., 485
 Narahashi, T., 745
 Nash, C. E., 379, 380
 Nash, L., 361
 National Audubon Society, 486-489
 Nature, 490
 Naves, M. A., 491, 505
 Navqi, S. M., 183, 492, 493
 Neal, T. M., 494
 Negm, A. A., 495-500
 Newcomer, J. S., 501
 Newman, S. M., 563
 Newsom, J. D., 326
 Newsome, L. D., 296, 412, 502
 Newsweek, 503
 Nickerson, J. C. E., 504-506, 697
 Nielson, R. J., 507
 Nilakle, S. S., 296
 Norment, B. R., 14, 100, 570, 737
 Norstrom, R. J., 275
 Norton, W. N., 314
 Novak, A. F., 77, 78

O

Oberheu, J. C., 87, 508
 Ogata, J. N., 60
 Ohlendorf, H. M., 509
 Olive, A. T., 510
 Oliver, A. D., Jr., 482, 727, 728
 Olson, J. K., 610, 611
 O'Neal, J., 176, 177, 441, 452-455, 511-515
 Onuska, F. I., 275

P

Padget, L. J., 516, 517
 Page, N. P., 634
 Paget-Clarke, C. D., 518
 Palar, H., 56
 Pallatta, A. J., 330
 Panaia, J. R., 701
 Panopio, L., 361
 Parr, J. F., 519
 Parrish, H. M., 520
 Parrish, P. R., 414
 Pass, B. C., 521
 Passannanti, S., 225
 Patrick, J. M., Jr., 86, 87
 Pavan, M., 235
 Pence, H. L., 338, 339
 Pest Control, 522, 523
 Peters, J., 330
 Petrucelli, L., 330
 Pierce, N. W., 45, 46, 397

Pimentel, D., 524
 Pittman, K. A., 125, 358, 525, 526, 699
 Plapp, F. W., Jr., 527
 Platt, R. B., 57
 Plumley, J. K., 5, 6, 39, 732-734
 Poe, W. E., 30
 Porter, J. E., 188
 Porter, M. L., 528
 Prather, E. E., 529
 Price, A. K., 270
 Prins, H. J., 530
 Prithcard, J. B., 531
 Progressive Farmer, 532
 Putnam, E. M., 533

R

Rajanna, B., 184, 185, 534, 535
 Rankin, A., 536
 Rao, D. S., 537
 Read, G. W., 391
 Reagan, T. E., 296, 538
 Reiter, L., 539
 Rhoades, R. B., 540, 541
 Rhoades, W. C., 542-545
 Rice, C. P., 570
 Ricks, B. L., 546-549
 Riddiford, L. M., 629
 Robeau, R., 550, 674, 675
 Roberts, C. W., 421, 422
 Roberts, J. E., Jr., 77
 Roberts, W., 246
 Robertson, P. L., 141
 Roddy, L. R., 292
 Roe, R. A., II, 551
 Rogillio, G. J., 552
 Ross, H. H., 91
 Roth, L. M., 722
 Rouse, E. P., 689
 Ru, N., 116
 Ruckelshaus, W. D., 553
 Ruffin, W. A., 69, 554
 Russell, F. E., 109, 110

S

St. Romain, M. K., 252
 Sampson, R., 275
 San Martin, P. R., 555-559, 574-576
 Sannasi, A., 560
 Schafer, W. L., 540, 541
 Scheibla, S., 561
 Scherer, K. V., Jr., 636
 Schilling, P. E., 258, 837
 Schmid, W. H., 540, 541
 Schoor, W. P., 562, 563
 Schroeder, K. H., 608
 Scotti, T. M., 145, 564
 Senn, L. H., 565
 Serfling, R. E., 152
 Shannon, V. C., 566
 Shapley, D., 567, 568
 Sheppard, D. C., 296

Sherman, P., 463
 Shibinskaya, M. B., 355
 Shorey, H. H., 569
 Shuth, C. K., 463
 Sikka, H. C., 570
 Sikorowski, P. P., 100, 571
 Silviera-Guido, A., 17, 572-576
 Sims, G. L., 273
 Sinski, J. T., 577
 Smith, D. R., 578
 Smith, E. B., 581
 Smith, H. A., 579
 Smith, J. C., 580
 Smith, J. D., 581
 Smith, M. R., 106, 582-589
 Smith, R. D., 590
 Smith, S., 519
 Smittle, B. J., 116
 Snelling, R. R., 591
 Sonnet, P. E., 592
 Southern Plant Board, 593
 Sovocool, G. W., 389
 Spann, F. W., 192
 Spann, J. W., 285
 Speake, D. W., 28
 Spears, J. F., 594
 Spence, J. E., 595
 Spence, J. H., 246, 442, 447, 596
 Spink, W. T., 272, 502
 Spitsbergen, D., 435
 Springer, P. F., 121, 164, 193
 Squire, R. A., 634
 Stein, V. B., 597, 699
 Stein, V. M., 358
 Steinhaus, E. A., 598
 Stickel, L. F., 193, 434
 Stickel, W. H., 599
 Stokes, S., 329
 Storrs, E. E., 695
 Stratton, L. O., 600
 Stringer, C. E., Jr., 38, 42, 44-46,
 245, 247-251, 400-408, 601-605
 Stroud, R. H., 606
 Sukhoruchenko, G. I., 607
 Summerlin, J. W., 41, 43, 317, 608-
 611
 Sundarm, S., 612
 Swanson, C. R., 303
 Sylvester, J. R., 379, 380

T

Tagatz, M. E., 88, 613-615
 Tengan, L. S., 60
 Tennessee Farmer, 616
 Ten Noever, D. E., 617
 Terry, G., 361
 Texas Agricultural and Mechanical
 College Extension Service, 618

Theide, H., 393
 Thomas, R. C., 296
 Thompson, J. L., 619, 676
 Thompson, T. E., 620
 Thorne, T. D., 621
 Thwaite, D. G., 377
 Tice, J. E., 622
 Time, 623
 Tolstova, Y. S., 607
 Toom, P. M., 624-626
 Townes, A. W., 540, 541
 Treble, D. H., 525, 526
 Triplett, R. F., 627
 Trivers, R. L., 628
 Trivett, G., 361
 Troisi, S. J., 629
 Tschinkel, W. R., 309, 685
 Tucker, R. K., 630
 Turnipseed, G. D., 631

U

Uk, S., 432, 632, 633
 Ulland, B. M., 330, 634
 Ungefug, G. A., 636
 Urey, J. C., 372
 U.S. Agricultural Research Service,
 637-657
 U.S. Animal and Plant Health In-
 spection Service, 658, 659
 U.S. Department of Agriculture,
 660, 661
 U.S. Department of Agriculture,
 Office of Information, 662
 U.S. Environmental Protection
 Agency, 663
 U. S. News and World Report, 664

V

Valdmanis, I. A., 153
 Valerio, M. G., 330
 Vance, C., 192
 Van den Bosch, R., 665
 Vandenburg, M. K., 252
 Van Dresser, C., 666
 VanIngln, C., 617
 Van Middelem, C. H., 667, 735
 VanRinsvelt, H. A., 387, 388
 Van Valin, C. C., 668
 Vaughn, W. L., 669
 Vickers, L., 670
 Villeneuve, D. C., 361
 Vinson, S. B., 65, 314-317, 547-550,
 609, 671-676
 Vogelegang, R. W., 690

W

Waldo, E., 677

Walker, J. R., 129, 678, 679
 Walker, W. W., 680
 Wallace, J. B., 681
 Walsh, C. T., 682
 Walsh, G. E., 302, 683
 Walsh, J. P., 684, 685
 Ware, G. W., 485, 686, 687
 Warren, L. O., 688
 Warren, R. J., 689, 690
 Warter, S., 502
 Watts, A. B., 328
 Weidhaas, D. E., 38, 409
 Weisburger, E. K., 634, 635
 Weisburger, J. H., 635
 Wheeler, G. C., 691-693
 Wheeler, J., 691-694
 Wheeler, R. J., 695
 Wheeler, W. B., 25, 26, 132, 735
 Whitcomb, W. H., 16, 62, 63, 112,
 116, 478, 494, 505, 506, 696-698,
 701-703
 Wiener, M., 526, 699
 Wiersma, G. B., 373
 Williams, J. L., 700
 Williams, R. N., 16, 112, 425, 428,
 701-703
 Willis, G. H., 519
 Wilson, A. J., Jr., 85, 87, 414
 Wilson, E. O., Jr., 205, 681, 704-724
 Wilson N. L., 725-728
 Wilson, P. D., 414, 415
 Wilson, W. L., 729
 Wittig, H. J., 540, 541
 Wojcik, D. P., 39, 41, 131, 253,
 730-736
 Wolfe, J. L., 737
 Wolff, A., 738, 739
 Wolken, J. J., 437
 Wood, J. P., 207
 Woodham, D. W., 79, 458, 740
 Woodruff, R. E., 741
 Wubbena, P. F., 540, 541

Y

Yang, R. S. H., 742
 Yarborough, J. D., 2-4, 430
 Yap, H. H., 743
 Yates, P., 201
 Yeh, J. Z., 744, 745
 Yobs, A. R., 373
 Younger, R. L., 181

Z

Zaylskie, R. G., 132
 Zefirov, N. S., 354, 355
 Zipp, D. H., 746

INDEX OF SUBJECTS

Because of confusion over the taxonomy of imported fire ants in the United States prior to 1972, most entries for the ants are indexed under "imported fire ants," rather than under the species name. Publications subsequent to the 1972 taxonomic revision are also indexed under the appropriate species name.

- Acheta domesticus*, effects of mirex on, 13
- Adinia xenica*
effects of DDT on, 368
effects of mirex on, 368
- Aedes aegypti*, biology of, 48
- Aedes triseriatus*, effects of mirex on, 13, 14
- Aerial application of pesticides, 10, 11, 19, 38, 144, 159, 161, 178, 242, 248, 286, 439, 442, 449, 518, 603, 609, 735, 737
- Algae
effects of mirex on, 302, 372, 631
residues of mirex in, 60, 302
- Allergies
to fire ants, 8, 101, 102, 134, 226, 227, 338, 339, 352, 376, 464, 520, 540, 541, 595, 627
to other insects, 226, 227, 464, 520
- Amblyomma americanum*, fire ant predation on, 276, 277
- Analytical methods
for heptachlor, 468
for Kepone, 632
for mirex, 21, 80, 81, 113-115, 207, 209, 275, 370, 389, 447, 528, 632
for miscellaneous pesticides, 153, 207, 229, 370, 528
- Anommatoris coleopteratus*, association of, with ants, 555
- Arenicola cristata*
behavior of, 563
effects of mirex on, 563
- Baits
heptachlor, 283
Kepone, 35, 52, 282, 283, 298, 580
mirex, 19, 32-34, 38-41, 43-46, 159, 239, 242, 246, 272, 276, 310, 325, 327, 349, 350, 396, 401, 402, 404, 407, 417, 439, 441, 442, 449-451, 453, 476, 568, 596, 605, 609, 735
miscellaneous pesticide, 52, 157, 282, 283, 384, 385, 406, 605, 733, 734
nontoxic, 253, 456, 619
- Beauveria bassiana*, pathogenicity of, to fire ants, 100
- Behavior
of *Arenicola cristata*, 563
of *Conomyrma insana*, 313, 504
control of fire ants by exploiting, 146
of fire ants, 49, 61, 63, 146, 305, 307-309, 311, 348, 437, 569, 600, 608, 716, 717, 722, 725-728
of *Gonodactylus bredini*, 196
of *Lasius neoniger*, 63
of miscellaneous ants, 511, 716, 717
of miscellaneous insects, 569, 716, 717
- Biological control. *See* Control of insects, biological
- Biology
of *Aedes aegypti*, 48
of *Euparia castanea*, 730
- Biology—Continued
of fire ants, 5, 7, 19, 28, 48, 53, 57, 58, 66, 105, 154, 173, 206, 215, 222, 240, 247, 251, 259-264, 305, 306, 314, 315, 317, 359, 360, 399, 419, 436, 440, 443, 444, 455, 465, 483, 512, 514, 521, 544, 551, 576, 585, 601, 620, 643, 717, 723
of *Myrmecaphodius excavaticollis*, 730
of other social insects, 717, 719
- Birds
effects of ants on, 31, 341, 342
effects of dieldrin on, 150, 151, 200, 240, 254, 255, 340
effects of heptachlor on, 150, 151, 164, 200, 254, 255, 340, 590
effects of Kepone on, 298
effects of mirex on, 32-34, 179-181, 285, 325, 328, 336, 599
effects of miscellaneous pesticides on, 137, 164, 240, 241, 524
residues of dieldrin in, 150
residues of heptachlor in, 150
residues of mercury in, 148, 371
residues of mirex in, 30, 60, 95, 113-115, 159, 275, 285, 336, 345, 371, 434, 442, 447, 486-489, 508, 509, 599, 680, 737
residues of miscellaneous pesticides in, 95, 105, 113-115, 148, 192, 193, 371, 413, 434, 509, 680
- Callinectes sapidus*, residues of mirex in, 562
- Carbofuran, estuarine organisms as affected by, 103
- Carcinogenicity
of mirex, 331, 481, 634, 635
of other chemicals, 331, 481, 635
- Chemical communication
among animals, 719, 720
among ants, 47, 65, 71-75, 94, 235, 250, 311, 348, 399, 479, 569, 682, 684, 685, 711-720, 722
among other insects, 71, 72, 74, 75, 479, 569, 713, 715, 717, 719, 720
- Chlamydomonas-Reinhardtii*, toxicity of pesticides to, 631
- Chlordane. *See also* Control of insects
ant foraging as affected by, 405
formulations of, 50
- Chlorella pyrenoidosa*
effects of methoxychlor on, 372
effects of mirex on, 372
- Circadian rhythm of ants, 423, 424
- Colony founding by fire ants, 48, 53, 211, 215, 222, 247, 260, 262, 264, 359, 360, 399, 440, 505, 586, 601, 717
- Conomyrma insana*
behavior of, 504
ecology of, 504
predation by, 505
scavenging by, 313

- Control of insects
 behavioral, 146
 biological, 96, 100, 494, 496, 497, 551, 573-576, 579, 646, 697, 701-703
 with chlordane, 27, 28, 50, 57, 58, 66-69, 202, 203, 222, 240, 259, 260, 264-266, 323, 397, 585, 618, 637, 642
 with chlorpyrifos, 472, 474
 cultural, 477
 with diazinon, 472, 474
 with dieldrin, 12, 27, 28, 57, 59, 66-68, 154, 202, 203, 240
 with heptachlor, 7, 12, 27, 28, 50, 57, 59, 67-70, 105, 137, 149, 154, 166, 186, 202, 203, 210, 240, 264-268, 291, 292, 342, 398, 399, 408, 412, 431, 436, 502, 516, 517, 542, 543, 545, 618, 640-642, 644, 645, 666
 with Kepone, 7, 52, 57, 263-266, 282, 283, 359, 396, 399, 400, 402, 406, 580, 605
 with mirex bait, 7, 10, 19, 33, 38, 39, 41, 43, 46, 57, 92, 93, 104, 108, 144, 161, 206, 213, 214, 217, 218, 242, 248, 300, 310, 332, 396, 399, 404, 407, 409, 441, 450, 452, 453, 465, 467, 476, 487, 490, 495, 496, 498, 503, 523, 532, 561, 567, 568, 605, 609, 611, 616, 623, 654, 664-667, 738, 739
 with other chemicals, 12, 27, 28, 44, 52, 59, 66-68, 97-99, 127, 133, 157, 186, 202, 203, 222, 260, 263, 264, 267, 268, 273, 282, 283, 323, 359, 384, 385, 396, 400, 402, 406, 456, 483, 495, 498, 605, 618, 623, 644, 733, 734
- Crawfish (or crayfish)
 effects of mirex on, 258, 327, 416, 493
 pesticide susceptibility of, 482
 residues of mirex in, 446, 492
- DDT
 control of fire ants with, 202
 crickets as affected by, 432
 distribution of, in fish, 531
 estuarine organisms as affected by, 381
 fish as affected by, 368, 531
 immunity as affected by, 256
 residues of, 30, 119, 126, 418
- Degradation
 biological, of mirex, 24, 25, 527, 531, 570, 597
 chemical, of mirex, 23, 304, 355
 of heptachlor, 51
 photo, of mirex, 20-23, 26, 37, 132, 171, 335, 417, 661
 thermal, of Kepone, 201
 thermal, of mirex, 303
- Diatraea saccharalis*, predation on, 495-497, 500, 501
- Diazinon. *See* Control of insects
- Dieldrin. *See also* Control of insects
 crickets as affected by, 432
 residues of, 118, 121, 148, 371
- Diseases
 of fire ants, 15, 17, 29, 96, 100, 363, 571, 598
 of shrimp, 165
 transmission of, by fire ants, 351
- Dispersal of fire ants, 7, 18, 38, 49, 53, 57, 66, 104-106, 174, 175, 206, 215, 222, 260, 262, 264, 382, 399, 419, 445, 469, 470, 476, 521, 544, 585, 643, 717, 723
- Distribution
 of DDT in fish, 531
 of fire ants, 7, 16, 18, 19, 49, 53, 54, 57, 106, 111, 112, 138, 154, 169, 170, 174, 175, 189, 204, 206, 211, 220, 221, 240, 253, 274, 280, 395, 399, 431, 436, 465, 480, 483, 510, 536, 551, 565, 578, 585-589, 591, 611, 638, 647, 649, 650, 658, 659, 667, 688, 698, 706, 707, 710, 723, 736
 of food among ants, 49, 205, 399, 608, 671, 724
 of mirex in animals, 337, 361, 531
 of mirex in plants, 185
 of other ants, 731
- Dyes
 toxicity of, to ants, 97-99, 127
 toxicity of, to boll weevils, 99
 used as tracers, 52, 396, 405, 445, 515, 608
- Earwigs
 ecology of, 272
 control of, 272
- Ecology
 of earwigs, 272
 of fire ants, 7, 16, 19, 28, 49, 105, 112, 143, 154, 174, 175, 240, 257, 259, 260, 263, 264, 280, 281, 419, 436, 491, 521, 585, 611, 643, 658, 717, 723
 of other ants, 135, 491, 504, 717
 of sugarcane borers, 496
- Economic importance. *See* Imported fire ants, economic importance of
- Electronic guidance of aircraft, 11, 217, 248, 286, 518
- Equipment
 for ant separation, 438, 602, 604
 for dye-tracer detection, 515
 for mound measurement, 471
 for pesticide application, 88, 449, 451, 603
 for pesticide sampling, 519
 for trapping insects, 478, 543, 732
- Eriococcus smithii*, association of, with ants, 506
- Estuarine organisms
 effects of carbofuran on, 103
 effects of mirex on, 83-85, 103, 171, 196, 381, 414, 415, 433, 435, 442, 613-615
 residues of DDT in, 119-121, 433, 435, 680
 residues of mirex in, 86, 87, 171, 196, 433, 435, 442, 448, 562, 680
 residues of other pesticides in, 117, 120, 121, 162, 163, 680
- Euparia castanea*
 association of, with ants, 730
 biology of, 730
- Feeding (ant)
 artificial diets for, 62
 food exchange during, 205, 399, 608, 671, 724
 food sharing during, 49
 habits, 7, 18, 27, 28, 57, 58, 82, 130, 136, 143, 168, 222, 236, 240, 260, 264, 272, 276, 277, 282, 284, 359, 399, 401, 403, 419, 456, 475, 495-500, 521, 546-548, 585, 610, 621, 643, 671-673, 698, 706, 723, 725, 727, 728
 stimulants, 619, 676
- Fish
 ant ingestion by, 167, 212, 269, 529
 ant toxicity to, 167, 269
 effects of DDT on, 368
 effects of mirex on, 329, 368, 415, 429, 430, 668,

- Fish—Continued
 effects of mirex on—Continued
 670, 743
 effects of miscellaneous pesticides on, 117, 118,
 121, 162–164, 279, 457, 606, 680
- Foraging (ant)
 behavior, 253, 264, 276, 277, 307, 399, 437, 475, 711,
 712, 725–728
 effects of chlordane on, 405
 effects of heptachlor on, 405
 territories, 726
 tunnels, 454
- Formulations
 of heptachlor, 50, 51, 398
 of Kepone, 35, 52, 282, 283
 of mirex, 19, 33, 38–41, 43, 45, 46, 397, 401–404,
 450, 453
 of miscellaneous pesticides, 52, 68, 282, 283, 456
 of nonachlor, 44
- Fustiger elegans*, association of, with ants, 557
Galleria mellonella, influence of ants on, 700
Gambusia affinis, effects of mirex on, 429, 430
 Genetics of ants, 315, 317, 628
Gonodactylus bredini, behavior of, 196
Gryllus pennsylvanicus, effects of pesticides on, 432
Gymnolaelaps shealsi, association of, with fire ant, 322
 Heptachlor. *See also* Baits; Control of insects
 analysis for, 468, 484
 ant foraging as affected by, 405
 birds as affected by, 150, 151, 164, 200, 240, 254,
 255, 340, 590
 degradation of, 51
 formulations of, 50, 51, 398
 residues of, 51, 254, 255, 292, 340, 484, 495–500, 502
 toxicity of to arthropods, 291, 292, 412, 495, 498,
 502, 542, 543, 545
 wildlife as affected by, 192, 193, 200, 230, 241, 254,
 255, 340, 590
- Hexachlorobenzene
 analysis for, 80, 81
 dealkylation by, 334
 erythrocyte binding of, 742
- Ictalurus punctatus*
 effects of mirex on, 552
 residues of pesticides in, 418
- Imported fire ants
 artificial diets for, 62
 behavior of, 49, 61, 63, 146, 305, 307–309, 311, 348,
 437, 569, 600, 608, 716, 717, 722, 725–728
 biology of, 5, 7, 19, 28, 48, 53, 57, 58, 66, 105, 154,
 173, 206, 215, 222, 240, 247, 251, 252, 259–264,
 305, 306, 314, 315, 317, 359, 399, 419, 436, 440,
 443, 444, 455, 465, 470, 483, 512–514, 521, 544,
 551, 576, 585, 601, 620, 643, 717, 723
 circadian rhythm of, 423, 424
 control of, 7, 10, 12, 19, 27, 28, 38, 39, 41–46, 50,
 52, 57–59, 66–70, 92, 93, 96–100, 104, 105, 108,
 127, 133, 137, 144, 146, 154, 157, 161, 166, 186,
 202, 203, 206, 210, 213, 214, 217, 218, 222, 240,
 242, 248, 263–268, 273, 282, 283, 291, 292, 300,
 310, 323, 332, 340, 359, 384, 385, 392, 396–400,
 402, 404, 406–409, 431, 436, 441, 450, 452, 453,
 456, 465, 467, 472, 474, 477, 487, 490, 495, 496,
 498, 503, 516, 517, 523, 532, 542, 543, 545, 561,
 Imported fire ants—Continued
 control of—Continued
 567, 568, 571, 585, 605, 609, 611, 616, 618, 623,
 640–642, 644, 645, 654, 664–667, 733, 734, 738,
 739
 diseases of, 15, 17, 29, 96, 100, 363, 571, 598
 dispersal of, 7, 18, 38, 49, 53, 57, 66, 104–106, 174,
 175, 206, 215, 222, 260, 262, 264, 382, 399, 419,
 445, 469, 470, 476, 521, 544, 585, 643, 717, 723
 distribution of, 7, 16, 19, 49, 53, 54, 57, 106, 112,
 138, 154, 169, 170, 174, 175, 189, 204, 206, 211,
 220, 240, 253, 274, 280, 395, 399, 431, 436, 465,
 480, 483, 510, 536, 551, 565, 578, 585–589, 611,
 639, 647, 649, 650, 658, 659, 667, 698, 706, 707,
 710, 723, 736
 ecology of, 7, 16, 19, 28, 49, 105, 112, 143, 174, 175,
 240, 257, 259, 260, 263, 264, 280, 281, 419, 436,
 491, 521, 585, 611, 643, 658, 717, 723
 economic importance of, 6, 17, 18, 28, 57, 58, 66,
 82, 122, 130, 133, 173, 206, 218, 240, 264, 280,
 390, 399, 436, 465, 536, 585, 621, 704, 706, 710,
 723
 feeding habits of, 7, 18, 27, 28, 57, 58, 82, 130, 136,
 143, 168, 222, 236, 240, 260, 264, 272, 276, 277,
 282, 284, 359, 399, 401, 403, 419, 456, 475, 495–
 500, 521, 546–548, 585, 610, 621, 643, 671–673,
 698, 706, 723, 725, 727, 728
 feeding stimulants of, 619, 676
 food exchange among, 205, 608, 671, 724
 food sharing among, 49
 foraging of, as affected by chlordane and hepta-
 chlor, 405
 foraging behavior of, 253, 264, 276, 277, 307, 399,
 437, 475, 711, 712, 725–728
 foraging ecology of, 135
 foraging territories of, 726
 foraging tunnels of, 454
 forced mating of, 177
 general information on, 7, 19, 104, 154, 182, 186,
 199, 206, 210, 211, 218, 223, 236, 240, 259, 264,
 274, 280, 312, 323, 324, 383, 390, 411, 419, 431,
 436, 465, 503, 536, 554, 561, 584, 593, 623, 637,
 638, 640–645, 652, 653, 655, 662, 694, 704, 706,
 709
 history of, 7, 18, 57, 706
 larvae of, 512–514, 691–693
 mating flights of, 28, 38, 167, 211, 215, 222, 240,
 260, 264, 399, 436, 445, 470, 476, 494, 505, 521,
 544, 551, 585, 643, 717, 723
 medical importance of, 101, 102, 134, 152, 211, 226–
 228, 339, 351, 376, 394, 436, 464, 466, 510, 520,
 540, 541, 581, 627, 729
 morphology of, 129, 293, 294, 369, 622, 678, 679
 myrmecophiles of, 156, 216, 224, 295, 299, 319–322,
 555–558, 572–576, 701–703, 730, 741
 other ants as affected by, 61
 parasites of, 107, 572–576, 646, 701–703
 pheromones of, 47, 65, 71, 72, 74, 75, 155, 235, 257,
 348, 479, 569, 682, 684, 685, 711–715, 717, 718–
 720, 722
 physiology of, 386–388, 410, 548, 549, 624–626
 polygyny among, 5, 245, 249, 656
 predation by, 116, 130, 136, 143, 272, 276, 277, 291,
 292, 343, 495–500, 610, 681, 696, 698, 700, 728

Imported fire ants—Continued

- predation on, 55, 494, 505, 511, 579, 697
- rearing of, in a laboratory, 360
- soil chemistry as affected by, 296
- sting of, 8, 129, 134, 581, 729
- taxonomy of, 111, 169, 170, 187, 208, 369, 559, 582, 583, 588, 591, 639, 705, 707, 708, 721, 736
- venom of, 76, 78, 89–91, 109, 110, 140, 141, 155, 225, 338, 339, 350, 352, 425–427, 560, 577, 592, 744, 745
- wildlife as affected by, 31, 167, 212, 240, 269, 341, 342, 529, 536, 585

Insect growth regulators

- fire-ant caste differentiation as affected by, 550
- fire-ant development as affected by, 674, 675
- fire-ant metamorphosis as affected by, 629
- fire-ant morphogenesis as affected by, 176
- fire-ant reproduction as affected by, 629
- metabolism of, by fire ants, 64

Insecticides

- laboratory evaluation of, 42, 157, 384, 385, 400, 406, 732, 733
- predatory insects as affected by, 607

Irradiation of insects, 128

Kepone

- birds as affected by, 35, 298, 580
- chemistry of, 422, 612
- chickens as affected by, 485
- control of fire ants with, 7, 52, 57, 263–266, 282, 283, 359, 396, 400, 402, 406, 580, 605
- cows as affected by, 580
- degradation of, 201
- mice as affected by, 145, 208, 686
- from mirex degradation, 488, 661
- photoproducts of, 22
- rabbit muscle as affected by, 287
- rat liver as affected by, 190

Labbauchena daguerri, parasitism of, on fire ants, 572–576

Labidura riparia

- control of, 271, 272
- ecology of, 271

Larvae

- crab, effects of mirex on, 83, 85
- of imported fire ants, 306, 512–514, 691–693
- of other myrmicine ants, 691–693

Lasius neoniger, behavior of, 63

Lepomis cyanellus, effects of mirex on, 429, 430

Malathion, crabs as affected by, 84

Mating

- flights of imported fire ants, 28, 38, 167, 211, 215, 222, 240, 260, 264, 399, 436, 445, 470, 476, 494, 505, 521, 544, 551, 585, 643, 717, 723
- forced, of imported fire ants, 177

Medical importance of imported fire ants, 101, 102, 134, 152, 211, 226–228, 339, 351, 376, 394, 436, 464, 466, 510, 520, 540, 541, 581, 627, 729

Mercury, residues of, 148, 172, 371

Methoxychlor

- crabs as affected by, 84
- fish as affected by, 379, 380
- seaweed as affected by, 570

Metopioxys gallardoi, association of, with ants, 558

Microtus ochrogaster, effects of mirex on, 566

Mirex

- Aedes triseriatus* as affected by, 13, 14
- algae as affected by, 302, 372, 631
- analytical methods for, 80, 113–115
- aquatic organisms as affected by, 183, 196, 333, 493
- Arenicola cristata* as affected by, 563
- arthropods as affected by, 310, 538
- ATPase as affected by, 189–191, 365
- baits, antioxidant, 349
- baits, control of fire ants with, 7, 10, 19, 33, 38, 39, 41, 43, 46, 57, 92, 93, 104, 108, 144, 161, 206, 213, 214, 217, 218, 242, 248, 300, 310, 332, 396, 399, 404, 407, 441, 450, 452, 453, 465, 467, 476, 487, 490, 495, 496, 498, 503, 523, 532, 561, 567, 568, 605, 609, 611, 616, 623, 654, 664–667, 738, 739
- baits, development of, 33, 52, 396, 401–404, 407
- baits, eradication trials with, 38
- baits, formulations of, 39–41, 43, 45, 46, 450, 453, 616, 735
- biological degradation of, 24, 25, 197, 527, 531, 570, 597
- birds as affected by, 32, 34, 179–181, 285, 336, 337, 599, 657
- cataractogenic properties of, 145
- chemical degradation of, 23, 304, 355
- chemistry of, 56, 194, 195, 244, 270, 354, 377, 420–422, 501, 530, 612, 632, 633, 636, 745
- chickens as affected by, 179–181, 256, 485, 533, 537, 657
- crabs as affected by, 83–85, 381, 433, 435
- crawfish as affected by, 258, 327, 416, 493
- crickets as affected by, 13, 432
- ducks as affected by, 328
- estuarine organisms as affected by, 83–85, 103, 171, 196, 381, 414, 415, 433, 435, 442, 613–615, 669
- excretion of, 197, 337, 699
- fish as affected by, 329, 368, 379, 380, 418, 429, 430, 531, 552, 668, 670
- honeybees as affected by, 246
- litter organisms as affected by, 378
- liver enzymes as affected by, 2, 3, 36
- marshes as affected by, 171
- mice as affected by, 123–125, 686
- Microtus ochrogaster* as affected by, 567
- miscellaneous ants as affected by, 452, 609
- monkeys as affected by, 232, 358, 525, 526, 699
- mouse livers as affected by, 1, 124, 209, 232
- Musca domestica* as affected by, 527
- NAD as affected by, 288–290
- persistence of, 347, 374, 599
- photochemistry of, 21–23, 389
- photo degradation of, 20–23, 26, 37, 132, 171, 335, 417, 661
- phytotoxicity of, 139, 534, 535
- plants as affected by, 139, 534, 535
- rabbits as affected by, 287, 689, 690
- rats as affected by, 2–4, 142, 172, 179, 181, 190, 231–234, 237, 238, 243, 356, 460–462, 539, 564
- regulation of, under FIFRA, 344, 553, 663
- residues of, in aquatic organisms, 158, 163, 183, 219, 279, 439, 493
- residues of, in arthropods, 131, 326, 439, 447, 609, 735, 737
- residues of, in beef, 79, 197, 219

Mirex—Continued

- residues of, in birds, 148, 275, 285, 337, 371, 434, 508, 509, 599
 - residues of, in butterfat, 81
 - residues of, in chickens, 198, 458, 740
 - residues of, in crawfish, 446
 - residues of, in eggs, 198, 375, 413, 740
 - residues of, in estuarine organisms, 117–121, 442, 448, 562
 - residues of, in fat, 80
 - residues of, in fish, 81, 86, 87, 126, 158, 279, 353, 364, 429, 442, 448, 457, 492, 736
 - residues of, in grass, 596
 - residues of, in human blood, 393
 - residues of, in human tissue, 373
 - residues of, in milk, 79, 197, 278
 - residues of, in miscellaneous invertebrates, 439, 442, 492, 735, 737
 - residues of, in plants, 184, 185, 462
 - residues of, in seals, 617
 - residues of, in sediment, 596
 - residues of, in soil, 60, 596
 - residues of, in vertebrates, 159, 275, 297, 337, 345, 358, 462, 735, 737
 - residues of, in water, 596
 - residues of, in wildlife, 30, 86, 87, 345, 508, 509, 598, 737
 - residue tolerances to, 362
 - soil micro-organisms as affected by, 347
 - synergism by, 142
 - synthesis of, 530, 636
 - structure of, 241, 746
 - Tetrahymena pyriformis* as affected by, 160
 - thermal degradation of, 303
 - wildlife as affected by, 239, 486–489, 669
- Mites associated with ants, 319–322
- Monitoring methods for pesticides, 447, 695
- Morphology
- of the imported fire ant alimentary canal, 678
 - of the imported fire ant poison apparatus, 129, 294
 - of the imported fire ant reproductive system, 293
- Mugil cephalus*, effects of mirex on, 379, 380
- Musca domestica*, effects of mirex on, 527
- Mutualism among insects, 506, 507
- Myrmecaphodius excavaticollis*
- association of, with ants, 730
 - biology of, 730
 - distribution of, 741
- Myrmecophiles of imported fire ants, 156, 216, 224, 295, 319–322, 555–558, 572–575, 643, 741
- Myrmecosaurus ferrugineus*, distribution of, in the United States, 224
- Myrmica*, brood recognition among, 94
- Necrophorism among ants, 308, 309, 722
- Neoblissus parasitaster*, association of, with ants, 556
- Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD), effects of mirex on, 288–290
- Onthophagus gazella*, effects of *Solenopsis invicta* on, 610
- Oplitis*
- association of, with ants, 299, 319–321
 - new species of, 299
- Parasites of imported fire ants, 107, 299, 319–322, 572–576, 646, 701–703
- Pathogens of imported fire ants
- fungi, 15, 96, 100, 571, 598
 - microsporidia, 15, 17, 363
 - viruses, 29
- Pheidole moerens*, distribution of, 731
- Pheromones
- alarm, 155, 235, 257, 718
 - brood, 65, 94, 250, 684, 685
 - chemistry of, 75
 - general information on, 71, 73, 74, 301, 479, 569, 713–715, 719
 - queen, 348
 - trail, 47, 235, 682, 711, 712
- Physiology of imported fire ants, 316, 410, 547–549, 624–626
- Pogonomyrmex badius*, poison apparatus of, 294
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's)
- excretion of, 459
 - mouse livers as affected by, 1
 - rabbits as affected by, 690
 - rats as affected by, 231
 - residues of, in aquatics, 160
 - residues of, in birds, 371
 - residues of, in duck eggs, 413
 - residues of, in water, 153, 160
- Polygyny
- among *Solenopsis geminata*, 5
 - among *Solenopsis invicta*, 5, 245, 249, 656
- Predation
- by imported fire ants, 116, 130, 136, 143, 272, 276, 277, 291, 292, 343, 495–500, 610, 681, 696, 698, 700, 728
 - on imported fire ants, 55, 494, 505, 511, 579, 697
- Procambarus clarki*
- effects of mirex on, 327, 482
 - effects of other pesticides on, 482
- Quarantine for imported fire ants, 188, 594, 647–650
- Radioisotopes, half-life in ants, 147
- Rearing of imported fire ants, 359, 360
- Regulation [Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)]
- of mirex, 344, 553, 663
 - of other pesticides, 651
- Repletes, imported fire ant, 251
- Reproduction of imported fire ants, 252, 293, 315, 317, 620, 622
- Residues. *See specific pesticide* (DDT, dieldrin, heptachlor, mirex, polychlorinated biphenyls, toxaphene)
- Rhizopora mangle*, pesticide translocation by, 683
- Solanum tuberosum*, damage to, by fire ants, 82
- Solenopsis aurea*, taxonomy of, 591
- Solenopsis geminata*
- pheromones of, 47
 - polygyny among, 5
 - taxonomy of, 169, 170, 187, 736
 - venom of, 89–91, 425–427
- Solenopsis invicta*
- behavior of, 49, 61, 63, 146, 305, 307–309, 311, 348, 608
 - biology of, 5, 48, 53, 247, 251, 305, 306, 314, 315, 317, 399, 440, 444, 470, 512–514, 551, 601
 - colony founding by, 48, 53, 247, 440, 505, 601
 - control of, biological, 697
 - control of, chemical, 39, 41, 43, 310, 384, 385, 453,

Solenopsis invicta—Continued

control of, chemical—Continued

611, 734

control of, cultural, 477

distribution of, 16, 49, 53, 54, 111, 112, 189, 253, 399, 551, 578, 611, 736

economic importance of, 6, 130

effects of insect growth regulators on, 64, 176, 550, 629, 674, 675

effects of ozone on, 386

foraging by, 253, 307, 475

foraging tunnels of, 454

horn flies as affected by, 609

larvae of, 512–514

Lasius neoniger as affected by, 63

male sterility in, 317

necrophorism among, 308, 309

Onthophagus gazella as affected by, 609

other ants as affected by, 61

pathogens of, 15, 363

pheromones of, 47, 65, 348, 684, 685

physiology of, 386–388, 624–626

polygyny among, 5, 245, 656

predation by, 116, 130, 343, 610, 696, 700

predation on, 55, 505, 511

radiotracer half-life in, 147

replete caste of, 252

soil chemistry as affected by, 296

taxonomy of, 111, 169, 170, 578, 736

venom of, 89–91, 338, 339, 425

Solenopsis richteri

biology of, 399

distribution of, 112, 399, 578

dye toxicity to, 97–99, 127

pathogens of, 17, 96, 100

physiology of, 410, 549

taxonomy of, 111

venom of, 89–91, 365–367, 420

Solenopsis xyloni

taxonomy of, 169, 170

venom of, 77, 89–91, 425–427

Surveys, insect, 106, 220, 274, 395

Taxonomy

of fire ants, 111, 169, 170, 187, 588, 591, 736

Taxonomy—Continued

of other ants, 370, 588

Telodrin, mice as affected by, 686, 687

Teratogenicity of mirex, 361

Thelohania solenopsae, in *Solenopsis invicta*, 363

Toxaphene, residues of, in fish, 126

Trinectes maculatus, mirex in, 364

Tumorigenicity

of industrial chemicals, 330

of pesticides, 330

Venoms

ATPase as affected by, 365–367

chemistry of, 9, 76–78, 89, 90, 109, 110, 225, 426–428, 577, 592

chemotaxonomic correlations of, 425

evolution of, 91

general information on, 140, 141, 559

guinea pigs as affected by, 318

houseflies as affected by, 560

humans as affected by, 134, 338, 339, 352, 394, 540, 541, 595, 627

neuromuscular transmission as affected by, 744, 745

pharmacology of, 109, 110

properties of, antibacterial, 350

properties of, antifungal, 155

properties of, biological, 76–78

properties of, chemotherapeutic, 155

properties of, insecticidal, 78, 155

rats as affected by, 391

of various arthropods, 72

Weather, ants as affected by, 261, 473, 544

Wildlife

effects of ants on, 31, 167, 212, 240, 269, 341, 342, 529, 536, 585, 677

effects of mirex on, 239, 325, 486–489

effects of other pesticides on, 192, 193, 200, 230, 241, 254, 255, 340, 486, 590, 630

residues of DDT in, 30

residues of dieldrin in, 148, 371

residues of heptachlor in, 254, 255, 340

residues of mercury in, 148, 371

residues of mirex in, 30, 86, 87, 345, 508, 509, 598, 737

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