

Introduction

The *Bibliography of the Neuropterida* project (BotN or Bibliography below) is an on-going effort to comprehensively catalogue, index and provide centralized access to the global literature on the insect orders Neuroptera (lacewings, antlions, owlflies and their allies), Megaloptera (fishflies and Dobsonflies) and Raphidioptera (snakeflies) -- collectively the superorder Neuropterida. As a bibliography, the BotN documents and synthesizes bibliographic data on more than 11,800 distinct works, spanning more than 1400 years, that contain information on neuropterid insects. As a digital library, the BotN provides links to more than 7700 digital files, representing approximately 4300 distinct works and more than 58,400 unique pages of neuropterid-related text and illustrations. The current version of the Bibliography provides direct on-line access to digital representations of ca. 35% of the works it cites.

The Bibliography is presented here in an open-access, web-based, digital format. As has become clear in recent years, web-based publication, particularly of large synthetic works, has numerous advantages over publication in traditional print media, including the potential for regular updating, easy global access, capacity for integration with other digital resources, and rapid, targeted delivery of selected data through user-entered searches. Many of these advantages are implemented in the current version of the Bibliography, and its inclusion as a module within the overarching framework of the [Lacewing Digital Library](#) will help to enable its future integration with other developing digital resources for the Neuropterida.

To access the primary pages of the Bibliography, make a selection from the menu bar below, which is displayed on all BotN pages. Access to bibliographic data and linked digital files of cited works is provided through the [Simple Search](#) and [Advanced Search](#) pages. The BotN is episodically updated to add new content and/or functionality. Summary data on the versions of the Bibliography that have been produced to date, including information on data sets, release dates, delivery formats and functionality changes, can be found on the [Version History](#) page. Additional information on several aspects of Bibliography content and development is given below. For further information on the organization, content and detailed presentation of Bibliography pages and data, select [Help](#) from the menu bar.

Taxonomic Scope

The BotN has been developed primarily as a research tool to provide bibliographic and literature support for studies of neuropterid insects. Thus, its primary taxonomic emphasis is on the literature pertaining to extant, recent and fossil insect taxa that are currently placed in the orders Neuroptera, Megaloptera and Raphidioptera. To further aid historical and

