Preface

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A committee was formed late in 1986 to organize and develop a volume of taxonomic papers on the Auchenorrhyncha, Homoptera to honor Dr. Paul W. Oman for his outstanding contributions in leafhopper systematics. This volume is the result of efforts by the committee and by contributors to the work. The 15 papers form not only a dedicatory treatise of Auchenorrhyncha systematics, but also a printed emblem of esteemed appreciation to Dr. Oman for his untiring efforts and many years of dedicated service in promoting leafhopper systematics in particular and the entomological sciences in general.

The biography of Dr. Oman, prepared by his long-time associate John Lattin, and a special review of the biology, morphology, and evolution of leafhoppers by the Australian taxonomist, John Evans, comprise part of the volume. The remainder consists of a selected group of 10 taxonomic papers on leafhoppers, three on planthoppers, and one on cicadas. The scope of these papers ranges from the description of a single taxon to a full taxonomic treatment of a higher category (subfamily). Each paper offers important data on the biogeography of the respective group. Others cover host plant associations and relationships, phylogeny, and numerical taxonomy.

Authors of the volume are long-time friends and associates of Dr. Oman, including a former graduate student, Dr. C. A. Viraktamath. A symposium organized by H. Derrick Blocker and Paul H. Freytag was held at the 1988 Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Louisville, Kentucky. The culmination of this symposium was the keynote address by Robert F. Whitcomb, the presentation of papers, and the presentation of a bound copy of this volume to the honoree by Mervin W. Nielson.

The committee expresses appreciation to Dr. Stephen L. Wood, editor of *The Great Basin Naturalist*, Brigham Young University, for his efforts in editing and preparing the volume for publication. We also acknowledge
Mrs. Terry Simmons and Mrs. Karen Jensen, Monte L. Bean Museum, Brigham Young University, for their invaluable assistance in typing those manuscripts that required conversion to the IBM WordPerfect system.

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