

## Introduction

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*Sure, He that made us with such large discourse,  
Looking before and after, gave us not  
That capability and godlike reason  
To fust in us unused.*

*Hamlet IV: 4*

This book is the first attempt to bring together the ideas of some scholars now studying the evolutionary relationships and higher systematics of Hemiptera (“looking before and after”). The taxonomy of the order has reached a level of maturity that allows broad questions to be asked, tentatively answered, and the answers to be intelligently discussed. This book contributes to that discussion and, I hope, will stimulate more of it.

Read individually, each chapter is an important and creative contribution to our understanding of a major hemipteran group, or of characters important in achieving such an understanding. And, taken as a whole, the collection of chapters presents to the reader both the latest thinking on hemipteran relationships and what problems remain. I have made no attempt to “integrate” the chapters, that is, to force agreement or consensus upon their authors; one author’s conclusions may very well conflict with another’s. This is as it should be—must be—in any gathering of ideas about so active an area of study as the phylogeny and systematic relationships of Hemiptera.