Acknowledgments

Many people have been of valuable help through the development of this project. I thank Ralph W. Holzenthal for encouraging me to become his student early during my masters program, for his support, and for showing me the highest standards in systematics research. I also thank William Miller, Roger Moon, John Beatty, and Elmer Birney for agreeing to be on my Ph.D. advisory committee. Their suggestions for my academic improvement and their encouragement are greatly appreciated. Phil Clausen, curator of our museum, was an unconditional source of help in all manner of taxonomic practice and my daily work, as well as enthusiastic company during long hours in the laboratory. I am deeply indebted to all the curators who entrusted to me large series of specimens for a few (or even several) years. To all of them, too many to name individually here (but see sources of specimens in the Materials and Methods section), I express my sincere gratitude because their loans were the foundation for my study. For their hospitality, I would thank the following people who made my work possible during visits to their institutions: Oliver S. Flint, Jr., Nancy Adams (NMNH); David Furth, Stefan Cover (MCZ); Patricia Schefter (ROM); Stephen Brooks, Peter Barnard (BMNH); Kurt Günther, Isolde Dorandt (ZMHB); M. Dorn, Joachim Händel (MLU); Jean Legrand (MNHP); O. Escolá (MZBS); Angel Solis, Fernando Muñoz (INBIO); Humberto Lezama, Paul Hanson (UCR); Róger Blanco, Ruth Tiffer (Guanacaste, Costa Rica); Joaquín Bueno Soria, Rafael Barba (IBUNAM); and Humberto Quiróz (UANL). Several persons were very kind by hosting me at their homes during visits to their countries to study museum specimens: Luis Cervantes Peredo (England); Sergio and Eugenio Calsamiglia, the Imbert family