

1 Introduction

Holarctic insects occurring in North America—adventive as well as indigenous species—merit attention for disparate reasons, ranging from utilitarian to the more academic and theoretical. For applied purposes, regulatory personnel responsible for protecting agriculture from the threat of exotic pests must be aware of invading species because of their unpredictability in an alien environment. Biological control workers need to know the origin of adventive pests targeted for the introduction of natural enemies. For reasons less pragmatic, a systematist is likely to be interested in the composition and origin of species in his own group. As Gagné (1989) pointed out, recent immigrants in a group need to be recognized so that natural distribution patterns are not clouded. And a biogeographer might want to analyze the distribution of a particular Holarctic taxon to see whether it fits a pattern common to other insect groups or perhaps shows evidence of long-distance dispersal.

Mainly because of economic reasons and public attention, the exotic component traditionally has been emphasized. Interest even in adventive insects, however, grew slowly. The early colonists, of course, had brought with them human ectoparasites, species associated with domestic animals, and those that infested stored products. A few other early immigrant species, e.g., the Hessian fly, *Mayetiola destructor* (Say), and the codling moth, *Laspeyresia pomonella* (L.), had become important agricultural pests before 1800 (Sailer 1978, 1983).