

Preface

The genesis of this revision dates back to the late 1930's and early 1940's when David G. Hall accumulated material of Oestridae (s. lat.) with a view to preparing a work on this family after completion of his book, "The Blowflies of North America." After I came to Washington in 1946, it was decided to continue the project on *Cuterebra*, inasmuch as so many specimens had been brought together for study and there was need for improved identifications. Over the years since then, much more material has been accumulated, types have been studied, from time to time small advances in knowledge have been achieved, and a manuscript key was prepared and frequently tested and revised. Problems still exist, but I believe the time is ripe—perhaps long overdue—for presenting what is known of the group in a way that will form a basis for future research as additional material becomes available.

An author of a work of multitudinous details is inevitably indebted to many people for information, advice, and assistance in many ways with types, localities, and specimens. To the many friends, colleagues, curators, librarians, and collectors who have helped me, my warmest thanks. In particular, I acknowledge the assistance and encouragement of Craig R. Baird, E. Paul Catts, and Charles L. Graham, all deeply interested in the biology and ecology of *Cuterebra*, with whom I have spent happy hours discussing these interesting flies. The first two have critically read the entire manuscript, and I am deeply indebted to them and to reviewer Michael E. Schauff for many important and useful comments. For checking the mammalian names and host discussions, and for useful comments, I am indebted to Alfred L. Gardner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I thank the dipterists at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) for many kindnesses and information through the years. That museum's collection is one of the most important for Nearctic *Cuterebra*, thanks to the long interest of E.E. Austen and the discovery of the long-lost Clark Collection. Finally, I express gratitude to the many curators and institutions for their patience, or perhaps their oversight, in allowing the long retention of borrowed material, in extreme cases for nearly a half century. These are individually cited in Appendix I, Sources of Material.

I am indebted to artist Mrs. Linda Lawrence for the makeup of the maps and plates and for assistance with the drawings, and to Mrs. Helen Proctor for the typing of the manuscript.

References cited under each species are usually those for which the original (voucher) specimens have been verified or reidentified, plus generic or subgeneric assignments. Misidentifications have been indicated by enclosing specific names in quotation marks.

Abbreviations are few and standard: N, S, E, and W for north, south, east, and west, and combinations thereof; s. lat. and s. str. for 'in the