Catalog of North American State and Regional Freshwater Sponge References





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Cover Photo: An unidentified Wisconsin sponge, probably the widespread *Spongilla lacustris*. Photograph by Robert Korth, University of Wisconsin-Extension.

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Catalog of North American State and Regional Freshwater Sponge References

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Abstract: A catalog of North American freshwater sponge references published through 2007—many of which are missed by modern electronic indexing and abstracting services—is provided. This report follows up on a *Wildlife Action Plan* recommendation "to compile and make available catalogs of existing taxonomic and related references for Wisconsin invertebrate groups."

Introduction

Between 8,000 and 15,000 species of sponges occur worldwide, with fewer than 250 being represented in freshwaters (Hooper and van Soest 2002, Manconi and Pronzato 2008). Frost, et al. (2001) estimate that 27 freshwater species occur in North America north of Mexico. Biologists have occasionally treated these freshwater forms in local and regional reports that cover the taxonomy, distribution, and ecology of the species occurring in a given area. Such references are an important resource for better understanding the distribution, relative abundance, ecology, and natural history of individual species and local faunal assemblages, biological aspects that are particularly important for conservation planning. These references also provide an entryway into the local and regional literature, sometimes including the "gray" literature, and provide opportunities for resource managers and other investigators to compare their results and observations with research findings reported elsewhere.

Some of the most important work on freshwater sponge taxonomy and ecology has occurred in Wisconsin, yet when the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources undertook work on the state's *Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan* (now called *Wisconsin's Strategy for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need* or simply *Wildlife Action Plan*), biologists were unable to assess adequately the conservation status of sponges (Wisconsin DNR 2005, p. 2-70). The planners noted a combination of factors, including a lack of readily available reference materials (i.e. literature and specimens), as the cause of this situation. A general lack of taxonomic specialists working with freshwater sponges has also resulted in few organized listings of references that can aid planners and resource managers in their conservation work.

Nationally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed the status of several freshwater sponges for possible listing as endangered or threatened species in the mid-1970s. The Service removed the sponges from further consideration, however, because evidence received during their public input process suggested the sponges were more common than previously thought or did not appear to be facing particular threats to their continued existence (U.S.F.W.S. 1975, 1978). Although the limitations of existing knowledge were recognized during this earlier planning effort, U.S. conservationists have done little since that initial assessment to monitor or further evaluate the status of freshwater sponge species. To help address our information needs, I here provide a catalog of approximately 75 North American sponge references, some of which are missed by modern electronic indexing and abstracting services, published through 2007. This report follows up on the *Wildlife Action Plan* recommendation that "efforts should be made to compile and make available catalogs of existing taxonomic and related references for Wisconsin invertebrate groups" (Wisconsin DNR 2005, p. 4-1) and complements other ongoing scientific work with Wisconsin's freshwater sponges.

Organization and Content

A number of general principles define the scope of the included references. I try to list "complete" state faunas and exclude works covering only a small area of a state or dealing with only a limited number of species. There are, however, exceptions to this rule. I include works of a more limited scope if they provide information that fills significant gaps in our understanding of a state's fauna (e.g., the Poirrier [1978] reference listed under Louisiana, page 7). Generally, these have either been published after completion of a more comprehensive treatment of an area's fauna or remain the only works available for the area under consideration. For example, I leave out most minor distributional records, unless they represent the only significant reports for a given state (e.g., Sowka [1999] under Arizona and Duncan [1977] under Arkansas, page 5). Finally, my emphasis is on taxonomy, distribution, and ecology so I generally omit the numerous references dealing with morphology. physiology, biochemistry, biomechanics, developmental biology, paleobiology, and similar aspects of sponge biology even though some of these may contain important zoogeographic information. I simply could not review all of this extensive literature. This approach means that for a few states, like New Hampshire and Utah, where significant biological work has occurred with sponges, no references are listed. Again, the exceptions to this are when an item contains significant distribution information not otherwise available in the zoogeographical literature or if the item helps resolve taxonomic issues that might otherwise hinder understanding of the area's fauna (e.g., the references listed under Missouri, page 8, and South Carolina, page 10).

References are listed first alphabetically by author and then by year under individual state headings. Unfortunately, most states lack comprehensive references to their sponge faunas. Therefore, I have listed general references covering the North American fauna, or large portions thereof, prior to the state listings. These works tend to have useful bibliographies and often can be consulted initially to determine the likelihood of a particular species occurring in a given area. A listing of works dealing with the fauna of North American jurisdictions outside the United States follows the state-by-state listings.

I place a greater importance on utility than consistency and my goal in compiling the catalog is not to be all-inclusive, but rather to provide access to the most significant works for each geographic area. As such, I include some "gray" literature and web publications in the citations, occasionally with short annotations. Doing so will hopefully provide a helpful gateway for investigators newly tackling this group. Undoubtedly, my subjective determinations may result in omissions of a few important works. Hopefully, most of these will be found in the bibliographies of the more general works listed. Nonetheless, I welcome additions, corrections, and other comments that would improve the usefulness of this catalog. These can be sent to my attention at Bureau of Science Services, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921.

Most of the works listed can be obtained from public or university libraries directly or through interlibrary loan services. In addition to the references included in the catalog, the online *World Porifera Database* (van Soest, et al. 2005) contains a considerable amount of helpful taxonomic and distribution data that are continually updated.

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Nebraska

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Wyoming

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