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the first half of the twentieth century and involvement in the transmission of leishmaniasis, which appeared during the early part of the century, there was barely any landmark study. The first to make major contributions in this knowledge of the flea fauna was the work of F.C. Breaker (1904b, 1905). Although many species were included in them, but the emphasis was on the North American taxa, and his studies provided the foundation for all subsequent studies of the fauna of the following century. Almost four decades later came the work by Irving Fox (1940a) on the fauna of the eastern United States, quickly followed by the work of C.A. Hubbard (1947) on the western fauna and that of G.R. Heald and J.W. Edwards (1951) on the fleas of Canada. The latter, in revised and expanded form, appeared again in 1983.

Although dealing with the world fauna, the Hopkins

treated all the families except the Psylloidea, which was treated by Mardon (1981), and the Malacopsyllidae and Rhopalopsyllidae, treated by Smith (1987). The large family Ceratophyllidae was dealt with by Tranah et al. (1983) but employed a different format that made it much less useful in integrating its contents with the catalogue series. Its key to the world genera by Smith (1983) and the distributional and host data sections are most useful, and particularly the key to the genera and subgenera is unequalled in the modern literature. Other sections in the volume contain much useful information, but appear almost as afterthoughts to the main reason for publishing the volume. The book was published privately by the two main authors and subsequently distributed by the Academic Press Inc. (London). It, and the catalogue series, are all now out of print.