

A Selective Review of Research on
Prostephanus truncatus (Col.: Bostrichidae)
with an Annotated and Updated Bibliography

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INTRODUCTION

The introduction of the larger grain borer, *Prostephanus truncatus* (Horn) (Coleoptera: Bostrichidae) to Africa, and its subsequent outbreak in the 1980s as a highly destructive pest of farm-stored maize, led to an upsurge of interest in this previously neglected species. As part of an international effort to provide a better understanding of this pest, two annotated bibliographies have previously been published (Wright & Spilman, 1983; Wright, 1986), as well as two major reviews of research (Hodges, 1982 & 1986). The present review concentrates on material published since 1986, or unavailable for previous lists. In an attempt to make this review as comprehensive as possible, a variety of sources other than peer-reviewed journals have been cited. These include conference proceedings and abstracts, student theses, technical bulletins and various unpublished reports. In all but a few cases (annotated in the bibliography), the authors have obtained and checked the original documents, copies of which may be obtained through the Postharvest Documentation Service of Kansas State University (see final page). However, inclusion of a citation does not imply a value judgement on the accuracy of its contents, and the users of the bibliography should bear in mind the possibility of errors, for example mis-identifications of study material.

The bibliography comprises some 420 citations, including 145 which were previously cited by Wright (1986). In view of the volume of activity which these publications represent, this review does not attempt comprehensive treatment of all topics. Emphasis is placed on biological and ecological research on the larger grain borer and reflects the widespread current interest in finding alternatives to dependence on conventional synthetic pesticides for control of the pest. However, to increase the value of the bibliography to users with other perspectives, all citations are annotated to provide an indication of the main subjects treated. An explanation of the annotations may be found in the section "Bibliography" which appears immediately before the list of citations.