

*Records of the Hawaii Biological Survey for 2019*. Edited by Neal L. Evenhuis. *Bishop Museum Occasional Papers* 129: 1–2 (2020)

## Twenty-Five Years of the *Records of the Hawaii Biological Survey*<sup>1</sup>

NEAL L. EVENHUIS

*Hawaii Biological Survey, Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817-2704;  
email: NealeE@bishopmuseum.org*

In 1992, the State of Hawaii designated the Hawaii Biological Survey (HBS) as a program of the Bishop Museum. The Survey is an ongoing natural history inventory of the Hawaiian Archipelago and was created to locate, identify, and evaluate all native and non-native species of flora and fauna within the state and maintain the reference collections of that flora and fauna for a wide range of uses. As the primary state repository for all specimens and objects, the Bishop Museum also maintains up-to-date databases of all groups of plants and animals that occur within the state boundaries. Additionally, as part of our effort in disseminating the latest information on updates to those databases, the Bishop Museum annually publishes the *Records of the Hawaii Biological Survey*.

In 1995, we published the first of these *Records* (for the year 1994) in two volumes (Articles and Notes). Those first *Records* contained a total of 29 papers by 32 authors. Some 105 species of plants and animals were newly recorded for the State, including 3 new species-group taxa. The success of those first *Records* bade well for the ensuing years, in which numerous observations have been published by our many colleagues in Hawai'i, the nation, and worldwide.

**Table . Twenty-five year summary of the *Records of the Hawaii Biological Survey*.**

year	animals			plants			grand total
	new state	new spp.	total	new state	naturalized	new spp.	
1994	48	3	51	11	43		54
1995	15	2	17	12	4		16
1996	39	5	44	25	1		26
1997	81	2	83	46	5		51
1998	24		24	8	20		28
1999	44	1	45	4	8	1	13
2000	43		43	7	24		31
2001-2002	152	21	173	24	24		48
2003	14	1	15	53	23		76
2004-2005	22	4	26	6	40		46
2006	5	8	13	2	12		14
2007	1		1	8	21		29
2008	2		2	19	24		43
2009-2010	4	6	10	11	9		20
2011	5	5	10	18	92		110
2012	5	5	10	65	8		14
2013	15		15	2	12		14
2014	2	7	9	4	3		7
2015	1	1	2	4	9		13
2016	2		2				2
2017	3	3	6	1			1
2018	1	1	2	1	1		2
2019	2	3	5	12	13		25
25-year totals	530	78	608	343	396	1	681
total non-native			530				680
							1210

1. Contribution No. 2020-011 to the Hawaii Biological Survey.

During the last 25 years, some significant observations have been made (Table 1). Seventy-eight new species-group taxa have been discovered and described, including some surprising finds from well-travelled trails on O'ahu, from ant-infested lowland areas, and from the Bishop Museum campus itself. There have been uplifting records of species thought to have been extinct or not seen for many years, but sadly also records of species thought to be not extant any longer. Although most records deal with new additions to the Hawaiian biota, here have also been corrections to our inventory and deletions of species thought to be here but were misidentified.

In its creation by the Hawaii State legislature, the Hawaii Biological Survey was tasked with undertaking a complete inventory of Hawaii's biota. As a result, a number of papers have been published giving summary accountings by taxonomic group including an initial count (21,383 total species; 8,759 endemic in 1995), subsequent periodic updates and, in 2003, a detailed assessment of the numbers of species for every taxon in the State of Hawaii (25,615 total species; 9,975 endemic). At latest count (2015) we have a total of 26,608 species occurring in the State of Hawaii. Although some other state surveys in the nation are much older, we are still the only state in the country with an accurate accounting of every plant and animal (native and alien) within its borders.

As we celebrate 25 years of the *Records of the Hawaii Biological Survey*, we take this opportunity to thank the many who have helped us in this endeavor. There is still much to be done and we welcome the assistance of our colleagues in our ongoing process of taking stock of what living things we have surrounding us every day in these Hawaiian Islands.