Since insects constitute one of the largest groups of the soil fauna, they are an important factor in the soil environment. It has been stated that 95% of all insect species invade the soil at some period in their life. From surveys which have been made in many localities, it is known that every acre of arable farm land harbors millions of insects. Occurring in such enormous numbers, it is evident that they must be an important factor in many soil problems.

There has been a tendency to consider soil-inhabiting insects as beneficial, since they are important agencies in promoting soil formation, renovation, and maintenance. In a previous paper (9) an attempt was made to show that there is a reciprocal relation between the soil and its insect population. Insects utilize the soil for shelter, protection, materials of abode, food, moisture, air, heat, and as an avenue of travel. In return, the soil is benefitted through the interchange of soil, separation of soil particles, aeration, drainage, and the addition of organic matter.

The part which insects play in soil deterioration has been given very little consideration. It presents an excellent problem for cooperative work between the soil technologist and the entomologist. The economic importance of the relationship between soil-inhabiting insects and the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of the soil is far reaching in its application. Economic entomologists, and particularly those engaged in the study of the cereal crop insects, have found that a study of the soil is fundamental to the development of many control measures. Undoubtedly the agronomist likewise will find that a study of soil-inhabiting insects is necessary in formulating recommendations for cultural measures, crop rotations, and soil treatments. The agronomist is concerned primarily in the development of the best agronomic practices in order to secure the highest possible yields. Unknowingly he may be recommending certain measures conducive to the favorable development of some soil-inhabiting insect. Thus, soil entomology becomes an important factor in many agricultural problems just as soil technology is fundamental to insect control.