

Appendix A – Quick Start Instructions

Revised through 18 December 2006

Step 1: With sample in hand, go to the **Overview**.

Step 2: Starting at the beginning of the Overview, look for a character, or set of characters, in your sample that matches a description leading to a genus or **Group** at the right margin, i.e., work sequentially as you would do in a traditional dichotomous key.

Step 3: Go to the appropriate Group, and again work sequentially through the character options until a match is found between your sample and a presumptive **genus**.

Step 4: Note that the two letter abbreviations at the end of a descriptive line leading to a genus are **Geographic Distribution Abbreviations** (following Concordance).

For **perspective** on:

- the **Overview**, and efficiency for those familiar with the system, go to Appendix B, an **Abbreviated Overview**.
- which genera have taxa exhibiting a given **character**, go to the relevant **Skeleton** sub-guide.
- which Groups a given **genus** is found in, go to the **Concordance**.
- the **strategies** behind, and the **organization** of, the Guide, go to the **Introduction**. Some users may find it beneficial to read the Introduction first.

End.