

BOOK REVIEW

LAWRENCE J.F., HASTINGS A.M., DALLWITZ M.J., PAINE T.A. & ZURCHER E.J.: BEETLE LARVAE OF THE WORLD: DESCRIPTIONS, ILLUSTRATIONS, IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION RETRIEVAL FOR FAMILIES AND SUBFAMILIES. CD-ROM, Version 1.1 for MS-Windows and Manual, CSIRO Entomology, Melbourne, 1999. ISBN 0-643 06554-7. Price USD 120.00.

This updated edition consists of an interactive identification key and information retrieval system using the program Intkey, descriptions, illustrations, references and much other important and useful information. It can be used to identify a beetle-larva, from any part of the world, to the family and subfamily, and in some cases also to tribe and genus.

It includes some corrections, new version of the Intkey, natural-language descriptions of the taxa and MS Word files.

The database is made up of 390 taxa (families, subfamilies, tribes and genera), each of which is coded for 174 characters with from 1 to 17 character states. Moreover it includes 6 additional text characters: geographic distribution, notes on general biology, synonymy, taxon images, acknowledgements and list of references. A few changes have been made to the classification and family-group names, following Lawrence & Newton (1995) and Opinion 1916 of the I.C.Z.N., 1999.

“The Beetle Larvae of the World” is an excellent package of the same high standard as all CSIRO publications. It is important for all students of larval morphology and taxonomy of beetles, and should be present as a basic item in all entomology libraries. The high standard of this package is guaranteed because the authors are the top world specialists in the taxonomy of Coleoptera.

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