

## BOOK REVIEW

BORDY B.: COLÉOPTÈRES CHRYSOMELIDAE. VOLUME 3, HISPINAE ET CASSIDINAE. Faune de France 85. Fédération Française des Sociétés de Sciences Naturelles, Paris, 2000, 250 pp. ISBN 2-903052-21-2

This book is the second part of a four-volume treatise on the family Chrysomelidae for the Faune de France. The only subfamilies treated in the present volume are the Hispinae and Cassidinae. Although tortoise beetles are one of the most interesting groups not only for professional entomologists, but also for amateurs, there was until now no comprehensive monograph on the fauna of western Europe.

The book consists of two main parts: general and systematic. The general part begins with several introductory chapters, which briefly describe the history, the system development, the origin and the evolution of both subfamilies. These chapters contain accounts of the current knowledge about morphology and anatomy of both immature and adult stages. Subsequent chapters deal with life histories, predators and parasites. Economic importance of the French species is also briefly discussed.

The most important part of the book are the keys and the descriptions of species. Keys for the identification of adults, larvae and pupae are presented. The characteristics of all 42 species (2 Hispinae and 40 Cassidinae), including descriptions of larvae, pupae and adults (including sexual dimorphism), data on their bionomy, description of pupa and larva, general distribution and detailed distribution in France are presented. Furthermore, the synonyms of each species are listed. Both keys and descriptions are accompanied by a large number of good line drawings, showing aedeagus, apodeme of ejaculatory sac, spermatheca and the shape of pronotum of each species and some other morphological features (in all 229 drawings). In conclusion, erroneously or doubtfully recorded species from

France are listed and briefly annotated. List of references is an invaluable source of information on the relevant literature.

The book has four appendices, which increase its readability. Appendix 1 is the list of abbreviations used in the text. An alphabetical list of all the names of Hispinae and Cassidinae is in the second appendix. The names of host plants, parasites and predators are summarized in appendices 3 and 4.

As a part of this book, there is also an appendix for the previous volume (Doguet, 1994) devoted to the French Alticinae "Addenda-corrigenda au volume 2, Chrysomelidae Alticinae" by S. Doguet. This appendix summarizes the corrections and additions published since 1994, together with a list of relevant references.

The book ends with 35 maps of the distribution of tortoise beetles in the different districts of France and 78 excellent colour photographs of eggs, larvae, pupae, adults and host plants.

The volume is technically perfect, with both the original and redrawn reproductions and graphical arrangement of a very high quality. The author is a renowned specialist on morphology of cassidine genitalia and their significance for the taxonomy of this fascinating group. His great knowledge of this group makes this volume very authoritative. This very attractive book will enchant specialists and beginners because the keys are not only useful for identifying French Cassidinae but most of the European fauna. We look forward to the remaining two volumes dealing with Chrysomelidae, which are in preparation.

### REFERENCE:

DOGUET S. 1994: *Coléoptères Chrysomelidae. Volume 2, Alticinae. Faune de France 80*. Fédération Française des Sociétés de Sciences Naturelles, Paris, 694 pp.

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