

BOOK REVIEW

LYNEBORG L.: THE AUSTRALIAN STILETTO-FLIES OF THE ANABARHYNCHUS GENUS-GROUP (DIPTERA: THEREVIDAE). Apollo Books, Stenstrup (DK), 2001, 256 pp. 672 Figs. ISBN 87-88757-58-7. Price DKK 420.00

This new and comprehensive book presents a taxonomic revision of nearly one hundred species of Australian stiletto flies (Therevidae), which are temporarily assembled in the "genus group" *Anabarhynchus* Macquart, 1848. This species rich "genus" is probably a large paraphyletic ancient Gondwanan group distributed widely in Australia and several adjacent island groups in the southwestern Pacific area. The group occurs in variety of habitats from deserts to rain forests, but dry biotopes are probably preferred. This very interesting Gondwanan faunal element is especially characteristic of the fauna of New Zealand and previously revised by L. Lyneborg in a separate monographic publication in 1992 (Fauna of NZ 24:1–140).

This new monograph by L. Lyneborg deals only with Australian *Anabarhynchus* species and is divided into several parts: (1)

Introduction and historical outline of studies of stiletto flies in Australia, (2) Atlas and characteristics of morphological terms, (3) How to recognise an Australian *Anabarhynchus*, (4) Discussion of some character systems, (5) Check-list of Australian *Anabarhynchus*, (6) Key to Australian species of *Anabarhynchus* and (7) The basic and very comprehensive descriptions (with data on the investigated materials) of species groups and species of the "genus". The monograph concludes with a complete list of references, abbreviations for depositories and an index. Illustrations are very instructive. Such books are crucial for future taxonomic and biogeographical studies of the former Gondwana region (incl. South America). I wish Leif Lyneborg good luck in his future monographs on Therevidae from the "southern end of the world", which are badly needed, not only by dipterists, but also many biogeographers. The Entomograph Volumes published by Apollo Books is a series that is revealing the global biodiversity of insects.

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