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BOOK REVIEW

DANGERFIELD P., AUSTIN A. & BAKER G.: BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY & SYSTEMATICS OF AUSTRALIAN *SCELIO*: WASP PARASITOIDS OF LOCUSTS AND GRASSHOPERS EGGS. CSIRO Publishing, 150 Oxford street (P.O. Box 1139), Collingwood VIC 3066, Australia, 2001, 254 pp. ISBN 0-634 06703-5, price AUD 170.00.

This book presents a comprehensive synthesis of the information on the sixty Australian species of *Scelio* (Hymenoptera, Scelionidae). It provides a full taxonomic treatment of the species concerned including details of the biology, ecology and host relationships of *Scelio* on a worldwide basis. The book consists of two main parts: general (chapters 1–7) and systematic (chapter 8). The general part begins with an introductory section presenting a short historical outline, subsequent chapters deal with methods and techniques for collecting and study both in the field and in the laboratory, summarize our knowledge of population biology, ecology, ontogeny and provide a comprehensive checklist of the host relationships of each species worldwide; the use of *Scelio* as potential biological control agents is also discussed. Chapter 5 gives an account of the current knowledge of the morphology and anatomy of adult stage, chapter 6 outlines the procedures for phylogenetic analysis and presents the results of preliminary analyses undertaken to explore the relationships among Australian species. The most important parts of the book are the key and the descriptions of species. The characteristics of all Australian species, including their distribution in Australia and hosts, when available, are presented. Each species description is complemented with high quality line drawings, micrographs and distribution maps. The authors are renowned specialists on systematics, evolution and biology of the parasitic wasps and pest locusts in Australia. Their knowledge of these groups makes this book very authoritative and provides Hymenopteran specialists and biological control workers with a basis for detailed studies in this economically important group of insects.

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