

## BOOK REVIEW

FURTH D.G. (ed.): *SPECIAL TOPICS IN LEAF BEETLE BIOLOGY*. Proceedings of the Fifth International Symposium on the Chrysomelidae, 25-27 August 2000, Iguassu Falls, Brazil, XXI International Congress of Entomology. Pensoft, Sofia-Moscow, 2003, 338 pp. ISBN 954-642-170-7. Price USD 65.

This book is an account of the research on Chrysomelidae presented at the Fifth International Symposium on the Chrysomelidae, held on 25–27 August 2000 in conjunction with the XXI International Congress of Entomology, at Iguassu Falls, Brazil. It is a collection of 22 papers and 5 abstracts written by leading specialists on Chrysomelidae.

This compilation is dedicated to Dr. P.H.A. Jolivet, who is considered to be a grandfather-like figure by all the leaf beetle workers in the world. The introductory chapter by D. Furth briefly summarizes the life of Dr. Jolivet. The only mistake in this book appears in this chapter. The French letters “è” and “ï” in “Literature cited” are replaced by wrong letters, so that many words are hardly readable.

As is shown in “Table of contents” and “Programme of Chrysomelidae Symposium”, the range of presented topics is very broad. The papers cover not only almost all the leaf beetle subfamilies but also the important themes of the present research on Chrysomelidae. Some chapters discuss the biological diversity and the faunistics of the Nepalese Himalayas, Central Europe

and the primary tropical rainforests in Central America. Several contributions deal with the classification of certain groups based on either morphology or molecular DNA. The immature stages and their natural enemies are discussed and larval shields are considered to be an important defense against predators. Host plant diversity and choice are considered as well as feeding behavior. An easily readable account of the role of chemical defence is presented in the chapters on eggs, larvae and adults. Polymorphism in colour patterns and flight ability are the subject of two contributions. In many chapters genetics and ecology, as well as pure biology or natural history, are prevalent themes.

The contributions given at symposia and subsequently published as a book are rarely of uniform quality. Fortunately, this is not the case of the Proceedings presented in this book. All contributions are of a high quality, readable and the book is well balanced thematically.

The book is technically perfect, with high quality original and redrawn reproductions, photographs and graphical presentations. The book is very stimulating to read, of interest not only to Chrysomelidae specialists, and will inspire entomologists in general.

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