

BOOK REVIEW

BEUK PAUL L. TH. (ed.): CHECKLIST OF THE DIPTERA OF THE NETHERLANDS. KNNV Uitgeverij, Utrecht 2002, 448 pp. ISBN 90-5011-163-7, price EUR 11.35. An enclosed CD-ROM completes the book.

The "Check-list of the Diptera of the Netherlands" published at the end of the last year completes a series of checklists on Diptera from European countries. The book, from a technical point of view, is exceedingly well compiled, containing introductory chapters and a detailed, well-worked list of all the species recorded in the Netherlands, and ends with a comprehensive bibliography and index. The three opening chapters deal with the history of dipterological research in Holland, which is linked mainly with the name J.H.C. de Meijere, who compiled the first list of Dutch Diptera in the 19th century. This check-list was continuously supplemented, and served as the basis for many contemporary papers. The following chapters discuss the significance of similar lists, notes on the compiling of lists and on the enclosed CD-ROM, the introductory chapters are closed by list of abbreviations, and the contributors with their addresses.

The system and nomenclature are similar to those used in Catalogue of Palaearctic Diptera, however subfamilies and

genera are alphabetised. Each family is introduced by a short diagnosis, notes on their biology (or the contemporary level of knowledge about them) and general references, which is mainly a list of monographs covering the Dutch fauna and references to Dutch fauna. This is followed by information on the occurrence of the family in neighbouring countries (Belgium, Germany, and Great Britain, and an estimation of the number of species in the world) and the number of species recorded from these countries. The introductions are often completed by a picture of a typical representative of the family. The list of species also includes synonyms. In species recorded from the Netherlands after 1939 the author and locality are noted. The list for each family ends with the doubtful and deleted species, if any, and by notes.

Compared with other, similar checklists issued recently, this one contains more information on current groups. Naturally, a checklist is more a mirror of contemporary knowledge than a complete list. This is best shown by the fact, that from 1950 on, 1746 species were added to the Dutch fauna, which is almost 30% of those known today in the Netherlands and this number is still increasing. In any case, this publication is one of the best-worked European checklists issued recently.

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