

BOOK REVIEW

LAMPEL G. & MEIER W.: HEMIPTERA: STERNORRHYNCHA – APHIDINA. VOL. 1: NON-APHIDIDAE. FAUNA HELVETICA 8. Centre Suisse de cartographie de la faune and Schweizerische Entomologische Gesellschaft, Neuchâtel, 2003, 312 pp., ISBN 2-88414-019-0. Price GBP 37.50.

This is the first volume of “Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha – Aphidina” published as part of the Fauna Helvetica series. It deals with 156 species from 12 families: Adelgidae, Anoeciidae, Callaphididae, Chaitophoridae, Drepanosiphonidae, Hormaphididae, Lachnidae, Mindaridae, Pemphigidae, Phylloxeridae, Pterocommatidae and Thelaxidae recorded from Switzerland. This is roughly a third of the 476 aphid species, recorded from Switzerland since 1776, when the Swiss zoologist J.H. Sulzer described the green peach aphid, *Myzus persicae*.

Apart from the brief introduction, catalogue of collectors, index of species names of aphids and bibliography (128 references), the book is subdivided into two major parts. The first consists of an identification key for Swiss aphids. The second presents data on the geographical distribution (including maps), bionomy, economical importance of particular species of aphids

and sources of data (collections, authors of published data). In addition there are tables showing the distribution of particular species in different regions of Switzerland and aphid-plant and plant-aphid records.

The introductory chapter contains among other things the history of aphid studies in Switzerland.

The identification keys are arranged by families and genera, accompanied by numerous drawings of the main distinguishing characters or of whole aphids presented in parallel with the text. The experience of the authors is reflected in the construction of the keys, which are relatively easy to use even for non-specialists, but nevertheless of a high scientific standard and reliability.

The second and largest part of the book provides data on the general distribution, distribution in particular countries in the world and a review of the records from Switzerland.

The identification guide and bionomical data will be useful for taxonomists, workers in plant protection and forest entomology. It is also recommended for students of forestry, insect-plant relationships and nature conservation.

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