

BOOK REVIEW

CAPINERA J.L. (ed.): *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ENTOMOLOGY*. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 2004. Three volumes, 2580 pp. ISBN 0-7923-8670-1 (HB), 0-306-48380-7 (e-book); Price GBP 310.00; USD 495.00.

Soon after the publication of the voluminous *Encyclopedia of Insects* edited by V.H. Resh and R.T. Cardé by Academic Press (2003), Kluwer published this encyclopedia of entomological science. In terms of pages it is twice as large and comes in three hardback volumes, together weighing 6.5 kg. Number of items (sections, entries) is several times greater, due to the different attitude of the editor, and the resulting structure. Thus, the two books do not overlap too much and may not compete but complement each other in university libraries.

The preceding *Encyclopedia of Insects* consists of chapters of several pages in length. Individual sections in the *Encyclopedia of Entomology* range from a single sentence to several tens of pages, like that on "Turfgrass insects", which somewhat surprisingly is three times longer than on "Beetles". The name and address of the author and a few references are included in each section if it is at least a half page long. Unattributed sections were written either by Howard Frank (biography of entomologists from A to J) or the editor.

The book contains contributions from over 350 entomologists from 36 countries. It seems that many authors are not the leading specialists, but entomologists known to the editor (many work in Florida) or those who were available and willing to contribute. In spite of this the end result is excellent. All the records I was able to evaluate are scientifically correct and concise and clearly presented for non-specialists.

There are several types of sections: short definitions of scientific terms (like morphological structures); short to medium length chapters dealing with selected phenomena like insect behaviour, ecology, physiology, genetics, anatomy, pest management, etc.; and valuable biographical sketches of famous and important entomologists of the past. Taxonomic sections consist of both brief systematic overviews of each insect order and detailed chapters about selected families, genera or species of economic importance. All these records are titled and hence alphabetically ordered by their common names, but links from their scientific names are also provided, making the records accessible even for foreign specialists unfamiliar with English

common names. All families are at least listed, some without description but with links to an order and scientific / common name.

Some sections are supplemented with ink drawings or graphs, and there are several full-page plates of black and white photographs. In this respect, the *Encyclopedia of Insects* is nicer as it has more photographs, many of them in colour, plus colour diagrams. The simple illustrations in the *Encyclopedia of Entomology* are sufficient and probably contributed to its lower cost.

A few random openings of the book revealed several typesetting and formatting errors. The editor is probably responsible for some of them, like the termination "-oidae" instead of "-oidea" for some superfamilies (e.g. Achilidae – Fulgoroidae, Aclerididae – Coccoidae), mis-spelt bug family "Aldyidae" instead of "Alydidae", etc. The publisher is responsible for others, like twice printing of "Stenopsocidae", the section "Soldier" not in alphabetical order, etc.

I have found two misplaced diagrams. A drawing of a bristletail described as a silverfish is placed within the section on silverfish and missing from that on bristletails. A copy of a diagram of a female reproductive system is printed in the section on a male reproductive system. Both sections are unattributed, i.e. written by the editor and reflect badly on his knowledge.

It would be helpful if the title of the first section on a page were printed in the page heading. The perpetuated heading "Encyclopedia of Entomology" has no value for the reader. When opening the book in the middle of a long section, one is lost and must browse for a while to find the title. Searching for a particular section is time consuming because all the sections are arranged alphabetically through the three volumes and there is no table of contents, which would be many tens of pages in length.

However, everybody who buys this encyclopedia, may fill in and send an inserted postcard to the publisher after which they will gain free access to an on-line e-book, where searching for topics is easy. Subscription to this on-line reference work is available through <http://reference.kluweronline.com/> web page. The access is limited to a specified range of IP addresses, e.g. within a common library of university or institute.

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