

BOOK REVIEW

HALL J.C. & EVENHUIS N.L.: Homeodactyla and Asilomorpha. In Griffiths G.C.D. (ed.): *FLIES OF THE NEARCTIC REGION*. Vol. V, Part 13, No. 7, Bombyliidae. pp. 657–713. E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Stuttgart, 2004, 60 pp., 46 Figs. ISBN 3-510-70027-9. Price EUR 39.00.

This is the concluding part of an elaborate account of the family Bombyliidae (Diptera) in the series *Flies of the Nearctic Region*, edited by the leading Canadian dipterist Graham C.D. Griffiths. This already worldwide famous North American series is published in Europe, in Stuttgart, Germany. The first six parts on the Bombyliidae appeared between 1980 and 1987, but the 7th, and concluding part, is only now available after a delay of 17 years. The authors regret this delay in the Postscript on p. 708 and apologize, stating that the treatment of the family Bombyliidae could not be completed as “many new species in the Bombyliidae of the Nearctic Region still await description”; and believe that “an author or team of authors will continue the study of this diverse and most interesting family of flies in the Nearctic”. The authors also mention some changes that have occurred in the classification of the family Bombyliidae since 1979, when the original concept of the volume was prepared, for instance the subfamily Mythicomyiinae (with 6 Nearctic genera treated in parts 5 and 6, and published in 1986 and 1987, respectively) has in the meantime been raised to the rank of a family, the Mythicomyiidae.

The family Bombyliidae, as published by J.C. Hall and N.L. Evenhuis between 1980 and 2004 in the “*Flies of the Nearctic Region*”, includes 23 genera classified in 5 subfamilies and some 370 valid species. This part deals with the subfamily Phthiriinae, recapitulating on pp. 657–661 the last 2 species of the genus *Relictiphthiria* and a key to all species of that genus, but the main part presents an account of the phthiriine genus *Tmemophlebia* (pp. 662–700). Thirteen species are included, of which 11 are from the Nearctic; of these 8 are described as new to science, as are the additional 2 Neotropical species from coastal Mexican localities peripheral to the Nearctic region. According to the authors, however, numerous Neotropical *Tmemophlebia* species await description.

The arrangement of the systematic part follows the usual and well-established organisation of the whole series “*Flies of the Nearctic Region*”. Each genus is headed by a full synonymy with a history of its classification and an accepted or proposed classification into groups of species, followed by chapters on zoogeography, morphological diagnosis and notes on biology. Each species is fully described, the main differential features are illustrated (mainly antennae and male genitalia), and brief notes on variation, differential diagnoses and life histories are also added. Distribution of each species is based on full data from the revised specimens or types. A key to Nearctic species is always given at the end of each genus, and cited literature at the end of each subfamily. This concluding part of the series on Bombyliidae includes, in addition to the above mentioned Postscript, Acknowledgements, a very useful alphabetical List of all the collectors (Table 1) with full data on the years and regions, when and where in North America the examined material was collected, Index to all taxa of Bombyliidae and a few Corrigenda in parts 1–6.

This series on Nearctic Diptera is a very useful and needy publication for biodiversity and general faunistic studies connected with protected or threatened biotopes and populations. I wish such publications were available for the Old World. Only the North European series “*Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica*” is of similar quality and importance.

In an Appendix (pp. i–v) full information on the structure (Volumes I–IX) and published numbers of the “*Flies of the Nearctic Region*” series is presented. The published parts are Volume I (Handbook) – History of Nearctic Dipterology by Alan Stone, Volume II (Archaeodiptera and Oligoneura) Part 4: Blephariceridae by C.L. Hogue, Volume V (Homeodactyla and Asilomorpha) Part 13: Bombyliidae, Volume VI (Orthogenya) Part 6: Dolichopodidae – only Hydrophorinae by R.L. Hurley, Volume VIII (Cyclorhapha II, Schizophora: Calyptratae) Part 2: Anthomyiidae by G.C.D. Griffiths, and Volume IX (Cyclorhapha III, Schizophora other than Calyptratae) Part 12: Diopsidae by H.R. Feijen.

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