

BOOK REVIEW

JOLIVET P., SANTIAGO-BLAY J.A. & SCHMITT M. (eds): NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BIOLOGY OF CHRYSOMELIDAE. SPB Academic Publishing bv, The Hague, 2004, 804 pp., 793 figs, 80 tables. ISBN 90-5103-142-4. Price EUR 290.00, USD 345.00.

This book is the seventh in the series dealing with the biology of Chrysomelidae, which started in 1988 with "*Biology of Chrysomelidae*". The arrangement is similar to that on previous books in the series. This book consists of 62 chapters by 111 authors from 27 countries, grouped under 10 broad topics: Phylogeny, molecular biology; Statistics; Morphology and anatomy; Palaeontology; Relations to plants; Biological and ecological studies; Population biology; Defenses; Sexuality and reproduction; Biological control. The present volume offers an organized mosaic of subjects, reflecting the different interests, expertise and geographical locations of the authors. Abstracts of two extensive chapters by Santiago-Blay are also included in the book. The full versions of both these papers are available on an accompanying CD.

Included in this book, is the description of a new species of fossil alticine, *Wanderbiltiana wawasita*, from Dominican amber (in the chapter by Santiago-Blay et al.). Additional seven species of *Janbechynea* Monrós, 1953 are also described by Santiago-Blay, but available only on the accompanying CD. The aposematic galerucine *Cydippa balyi* Chapuis, 1875 was recently re-discovered in Northern Territory of Australia and is redescribed in the chapter by Beenen and Hawkeswood. In the chapters dealing with immature stages, the detailed descriptions of the larvae of 37 species are presented (26 Donaciinae, 3 Chrysomelinae, 2 Alticinae and 6 Cassidinae).

Numerous interesting features of Chrysomelidae are included in the current volume. The traditional topics, such as e.g., morphology, relationships to plants, ecological studies and reproduction are developed. For the first time within this series, a large part of the book is devoted to molecular biology, phylogeny and statistics.

The volume is accompanied by a CD on which the following parts are recorded: two large papers, table of contents, preface, foreword, list of contributors and the installation program for Adobe Acrobat Reader 6.0.1, necessary for opening the pdf files. The only lapse in the book is one of the papers by Santiago-Blay on the CD. The printed abstract and table of contents indicate an article entitled: "Some aspects of the biology of the Aulacoscelinae (Chrysomelidae), with a description of three new species". However, the paper on the CD is: "Some aspects of the biology of the Aulacoscelinae Chapuis 1874 (Orsodacnidae or Chrysomelidae, sensu lato), with a description of seven new species of *Janbechynea*".

The addresses and mailing list of contributors and four indices (author, subject, zoological and botanical indices) make the book very readable. It is technically perfect, with high quality graphical presentation, 80 tables and 793 figures and colour photographs. The cover is very attractive, consisting of colour photographs of several leaf beetles. The editors are already planning the next volume. The topics that are of interest for future contributors are summarized in the Epilogue. The book is a very stimulating read, interesting not only for specialists in Chrysomelidae, but inspirational for entomologists in general. We look forward to the next volume in the series.

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