

## BOOK REVIEW

BÄCHLI G., VILELA C.R., ANDERSSON S. & SAURA A.: The Drosophilidae (Diptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark. In: FAUNA ENTOMOLOGICA SCANDINAVICA. VOL. 39. Brill, Leiden, New York, 2004, 362 pp. ISBN 9-004-14074-3. Price EUR 90.00, USD 129.00.

This is the 12th of 39 volumes of the *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica* dealing with Diptera, clearly the most studied order in this series, as there are only 9 volumes on the second commonest order, Coleoptera.

It is a detailed monograph on the taxonomy, identification, distribution and biology of European Drosophilidae. The Introduction includes a brief history of the studies on this family since the 1950's, when the comprehensive study of Burla in 1951 established a modern elaboration and classification of the family. The 128 recently recognised European species of drosophilids (of the almost 3800 world species) are keyed and briefly described. The 80 Northern European species known from Fennoscandia (including Denmark, north-western European Russia and Baltic states) are fully treated with detailed descriptions and original illustrations, including detailed illustrations of the most important diagnostic features of male genitalia.

The chapter on Material and methods deals with collecting, keeping the flies alive, killing and preserving, including detailed instructions on preparing male genitalia, with notes on methods of identification. General part (pp. 7–21) includes chapters on Morphology of adults, with very instructive illustrations needed for identification, and chapters on Phylogeny and Classification of the 128 recently recognised Western Palaearctic drosophilid species.

The Systematic part (pp. 22–314) includes a key to all 17 European genera of the family, followed by detailed elaboration of species classified in 2 subfamilies – following the classification of Bächli & Rocha Pité of 1985 in the Catalogue of Palaearctic Diptera – the Steganinae with 7 genera, and the Drosophilinae with 10 genera. Each genus is headed by synonymy, diagnosis, a list of included species and useful comments. All species treated are, as always in this series, illustrated, diagnosed, redescribed, with data on distribution and biology, and notes on specimens examined. All illustrations are clear and of a very high standard. At the end of the book there are summary chapters on Ecology (9 pages), Zoogeography (2 pages) and Genetics (10 pages), and the usual so-called “Catalogue”, a tabular summary showing the distribution of the 80 Fennoscandian

species that also occur in Great Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, north-western Russia and adjacent Baltic states.

The clear arrangement of the book follows the traditional well-established organisation and clear print of the series *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica*, although, unfortunately, there are some technical and printing errors that should have been corrected by the authors at the proof stage: for instance, in the key to *Phortica* on p. 71 the author of *P. semivirgo* should be in brackets (described in *Amiota*, and the same applies for the systematic list of European species on p. 19), and the last keyed species (*variegata*) is without a generic name. Some unnecessary errors are also present in the references in the text to the figures, for instance on p. 178 the reference to illustrations of terminalia is presented as “Figs 547–460”, for *C. fuscimana* on p. 115 it should be Figures 236–238, for *D. subarctica* on p. 151 Figs 413–417, *D. kuntzei* on p. 159 Figs 366–369, and *D. limbata* on p. 162 Figs 370–373, etc. This is unusual for this well-known Scandinavian series. However, in my opinion, the main problem with this volume is a lack of numbering of the species (in the Key, the Systematic part and the Catalogue at the end), present in previous volumes, which supplied the reader with a clear and good survey and quick orientation in the text. I also doubt if it is acceptable to cite in synonymy of species precise page of description, without citing the relevant literature in the References (pp. 349–356).

The above comments do not detract the very high standard of this publication, which is a very important and comprehensive elaboration of the European Drosophilidae. It is a most important addition to European entomology, as since the publication of Lindner's *Die Fliegen der Palaearktischen Region*, slowly but clearly, the monographs of the *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica* have become the important comprehensive European taxonomic literature on the whole European fauna. The preceding dipterological volume, 37 by Adrian Pont and Rudolph Meier on the family Sepsidae published in 2002, entitled “*Sepsidae (Diptera) of Europe*”, included the whole European fauna of this family. The present elaboration of the Drosophilidae, although focused in detail on the 80 North European species, presents identification keys and gives a clear survey of all 128 recently recognised European species of the family Drosophilidae. I congratulate the authors and the editors.

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