

## BOOK REVIEW

CERRETTI P., HARDERSEN S., MASON F., NARDI G., TISATO M. & ZAPPAROLI M. (eds): *INVERTEBRATI DI UNA FORESTA DELLA PIANURA PADANA, BOSCO DELLA FONTANA. SECONDO CONTRIBUTO. CONSERVAZIONE HABITAT INVERTEBRATI*, 3. Cierre Grafica Editore, Verona, 2004. 304 pp., 163 figs, 44 tabs.

The proceedings "Invertebrati di una foresta della Pianura Padana, Bosco della Fontana – II contributo" is the second volume of a series on the invertebrate fauna of the Bosco della Fontana nature reserve.

The book consists of three parts. A short introduction is followed by a voluminous special part comprising 19 separate studies, each dealing with a different taxon of arthropods. The class Chilopoda and the insect orders Odonata, Mecoptera and Lepidoptera are each treated in a separate chapter. The remaining 15 chapters are devoted to 16 families of Coleoptera (Anobiidae, Bostrychidae, Carabidae, Ciidae, Dermestidae, Dytiscidae, Gyrinidae, Haliplidae, Laemophloeidae, Latridiidae, Nosodendridae, Noteridae, Ptiliidae, Scolytidae, Silvanidae and Throscidae) and 7 families of Diptera (Asilidae, Culicidae, Ditomidae, Keroplatidae, Mycetophilidae, Stratiomyidae and Tachinidae). Each study includes a list of species recorded from the Bosco della Fontana reserve and a brief account of their ecology, phenology and bio-indicative value. There is a detailed overview of previously published literature in the introductory part of each chapter. The text is supplemented with high quality photographs and illustrations that characterize the habitus of selected species. The paper that deals with ambrosia beetles (Coleoptera: Scolytidae) is based on the results of a seasonal ecological experiment.

Individual studies differ in their duration and number of specimens collected. While some groups (Chilopoda, Coleoptera: Carabidae) were continuously investigated for more than ten years and the findings compared with museum collections,

the surveys of other taxa (Coleoptera: Throscidae, Ciidae, Ptiliidae; Diptera: Ditomidae, Keroplatidae, Mycetophilidae etc.) lasted for only one season and thus the data should be considered preliminary.

Most contributions include a more or less precise description of the habitats surveyed. However, many authors refer to the first volume (Mason et al., 2002) for detailed information. It would be more convenient for the readers if there was a separate chapter characterizing the reserve at the beginning of the book.

The third part of the proceedings is a well-arranged checklist of 299 species newly found in the Bosco della Fontana nature reserve. Brief remarks on the distribution and photographs of habitus of selected species are included.

Although the authors stress that the results are preliminary, the book contains valuable information that exceeds its primarily local focus (new faunistic records for Italy). Notable are several descriptions of species new to science. Taking into account the international importance of the data, it would be appropriate to provide an English translation of the book's title. Similarly, five articles are written in Italian. Although all of them have English abstracts, the informative value for foreign readers is considerably reduced. Despite this criticism, the book "Invertebrati di una foresta della Pianura Padana, Bosco della Fontana – II contributo" completely fulfils the aims expressed in the preface.

## REFERENCE

MASON F., CERRETTI P., TAGLIAPIETRA A., SPEIGHT M.C.D., ZAPPAROLI M. (eds) 2002: *Invertebrati di una foresta della Pianura Padana Bosco della Fontana – primo contributo. Conservazione Habitat Invertebrati*, 1. Gianluigi Arcari Editore, Mantova, 176 pp.

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