

## BOOK REVIEW

LYNEBORG L. & BARKEMEYER W. 2005: The Genus *Syritta*. A World Revision of the genus *Syritta* Le Peletier & Serville, 1828 (Diptera: Syrphidae). In: ENTOMONOGRAPH. Vol. 15. Apollo Books, Stenstrup, 224 pp., ISBN 87-88757-53-6. Price USD 89.50, DKK 420.00.

The series *Entomograph*, as stated by the editors in the title – “A series facing global biodiversity in insects”, was established in 1978 and by 1988 ten volumes had been published by E.J. Brill Publishers, Leiden, The Netherlands. Now, the Danish Apollo Books have reintroduced this important entomological series. However, the series *Entomograph* does not only include systematic and faunistic monographs on insects, but also important basic scientific contributions such as Volume 5 by Birket-Smith in 1984, dealing with “Prolegs, Legs and Wings of Insects”.

This the last Volume (15) to be published in this series, is by Lyneborg and Barkemeyer, and is a monograph on the taxonomy, identification and distribution of the small monophyletic genus *Syritta* (Diptera: Syrphidae), the origin of which is supposed to be the Afrotropical region, as 13 of the 18 groups of species have representatives in Africa south of the Sahara; 15 species are found in the Oriental and Australian-Pacific regions, whereas only 6 species are Palaearctic in distribution, and the occurrence of 2 species in North and South America is considered to be “a result of human expansion in historic time”.

The present taxonomic revision is presented on 224 pages, with the exactly the same number of figures, mostly line drawings of the main differentiating features, and a few colour illustrations prepared by Jakob Sunesen. The book begins with an Abstract and a short Introduction, followed by “General morphology”, summarizing the important diagnostic features used in the text. The chapter “Distributional notes” gives a brief summary of the distribution of *Syritta* species within the geographical regions. The systematic part starts with a Checklist of world species (pp. 22–25), listing all the known *Syritta* species (including synonyms) classified in 18 species-groups. I wish the

numbering of species in the checklist had been used also in the following systematic treatment. Keys to world species of *Syritta* (pp. 27–50) are presented separately for males and females, and are accompanied by very clear and useful colour illustrations (Figs 25–86) of the main key features.

The descriptive part includes a treatment of all the 60 recognised *Syritta* species, 34 of which are described as new to science, and they are arranged systematically in 18 species-groups. Each species is fully described or redescribed, and the most important differentiating features (mainly male genitalia and legs) are well illustrated by line drawings. Each description is headed by synonymies, if any, and by a very brief introductory paragraph on the systematic position, abundance and geographical characteristic, followed by another short paragraph summarizing the main “Diagnostic characters”. The descriptions conclude with a paragraph on “Material examined”, with complete data on the specimens studied, one on “Distribution”, and in the case of the 34 new species one on “Etymology”. At the end of the book there are summary chapters with a List of the collections studied, References, and an alphabetic Index to species.

In addition, to the high scientific standard of this book, the clear arrangement of the chapters, the hard binding and a clear print with perfect colour illustrations, will surely delight many readers. There are still, and will be in the future, many entomologists and workers in other sciences who prefer to have, in addition to collections of CD-ROMs with electronic (pdf and html) documents, in their libraries also nicely produced scientific books and prints of a high standard produced by well established publishers. Here I would like to emphasize the importance of international publishers like Apollo Books. They have specialized in books on entomology since 1984, and since 2005 have published or distributed nearly 150 titles on entomology. A list of books on entomology, published or distributed by Apollo Books, may be found on [www.apollobooks.com](http://www.apollobooks.com), where there are 23 pages, with details and short abstracts.

M. Chvála