

BOOK REVIEW

BLACKMAN R.L. & EASTOP V.F.: *APHIDS ON THE WORLD'S HERBACEOUS PLANTS AND SHRUBS*. John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, 2006, 2 volume set, 1460 pp. ISBN-10: 0-471-48973-5, ISBN-13: 978-0-471-48973-3. Price EUR 355.00.

This extraordinary two-volume work provides important information on 3120 aphid species living on 2150 genera of herbs and shrubs throughout the world. This is about 70 per cent of the total aphid fauna of the world.

In addition to a brief Preface and Introduction, Volume 1 presents comprehensive host lists arranged alphabetically by plant genera and also keys to aphid species living (or recorded) on particular plant genera.

The host records are critically assessed and names of aphids, for which the particular plant may not be the true host, are given in brackets. Moreover, the host lists provide numerous original, unpublished records based on the largest collection of aphids in the world located in the Natural History Museum in London.

The keys are greatly simplified but nevertheless of high scientific standard. Separate keys are provided to moss-feeding, fern-feeding and also to the 35 most polyphagous aphid species. To facilitate identification, there are 357 line drawings in the text in Volume 1 and 252 photographs of cleared, slide mounted specimens of aphids in 28 plates in Volume 2. The construction of the keys, as well as the instructions on how to use them and avoid possible misidentification, reflect the many years' experience of the authors in identifying aphids.

Volume 2 presents basic data on each aphid species treated in the book in alphabetical order of genera: their appearance in life, host range, life cycle and geographical distribution. There are 1000 references

In the course of compiling this book, the authors have resolved many taxonomical problems and established numerous synonymies, which are incorporated in the book and also published in a separate paper (Eastop & Blackman, 2005). In this way they have significantly contributed to unification of aphid nomenclature.

In combination with previous work by the same authors on aphids on the world's trees (Blackman & Eastop, 1994) and aphids on the world's crops (Blackman & Eastop, 2000), the present book completes the identification and information guides to the aphid fauna of the whole world. This is an outstanding event in the history of aphidology.

The book is indispensable for research workers in biosystematics, ecology, physiology, genetics and phylogeny of aphids and, as an identification guide, data base and source of information, will be useful for institutions and researchers engaged or interested in, plant protection, insect-plant relationships and biodiversity, throughout the world.

J. Holman

REFERENCES

- BLACKMAN R.L. & EASTOP V.F. 1994: *Aphids on the World's Trees. An Identification and Information Guide*. CAB International, Wallingford, Oxon, 987 pp, 722 figs, 16 plates.
BLACKMAN R.L. & EASTOP V.F. 2000: *Aphids on the World's Crops. An Identification and Information Guide. 2nd ed.* John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, 414 pp., 59 figs, 51 plates.
EASTOP V.F. & BLACKMAN R.L. 2005: Some new synonyms in Aphididae (Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha). *Zootaxa* **1089**: 1–36.