

BOOK REVIEW

JOLIVET P., SANTIAGO-BLAY J.A. & SCHMITT M. (eds): RESEARCH ON CHRYSOMELIDAE. VOL. 1. Brill, Leiden-Boston, 2008, 430 pp., 38 colour plates. ISBN 978-90-04-15204-5. Price EUR 169.00/USD 270.00.

This book is an additional one in the excellent series devoted to the biology of Chrysomelidae started in 1988 and proceeds the last book "New Developments on the Biology of Chrysomelidae" (see *Eur. J. Entomol.* 2005, **102**: 606). The arrangement of the text is similar to other books in the series. The publication contains 20 peer-reviewed papers by 38 authors, grouped under 8 broad topics: Phylogeny; Molecular biology; Morphology and anatomy; Palaeontology; Relations to plants; Biological and ecological studies; Taxonomy and faunistics; Population biology; Parasitology. The present volume offers an organized mosaic of recent work from a variety of disciplines and geographical regions.

The importance of phylogenetics and evolution are stressed in the presentation of detailed historical summary of our knowledge of speciation in the genus *Timarcha*, the origin of chrysomelid fauna in New Caledonia, systematics and evolution of seed-beetles and the response of chrysomelids to geological changes during the Quaternary period.

The chapters devoted to morphological studies include for example comparative morphology of the rectal apparatus in females of *Camptosomata*, diagnostic features of the larvae of two *Galerucella* species, some aspects of body coloration in the genera *Oreina* and *Crosita* and a review of brachelytrous Chrysomelidae in relation to their habitat. Also a new case of viviparity among Chrysomelinae discovered in the south-eastern Asian genus *Agrosteomela* is announced.

Taxonomy is represented by the revisions of the *Chaetocnema pulla* species-group, with the description of a new species,

Chaetocnema vanschuytbroecki Biondi & D'Alessandro (from Democratic Republic of Congo) and the pale-legged *Altica* species of North America (*Altica pedipallida* LeSage is described from the USA and Canada, another alticine, *Altica knabii* Blatchley is redescribed in detail). Very few gall-inducing Coleoptera attack Monocotyledonae. One new galling species of Criocerinae, *Oulema reclusa*, was discovered in Thailand attacking *Comellina paludosa* and is described as new to science in the paper by Vencl & Nishida.

Because leaf-beetles are phytophagous, almost all papers refer to the plant-insect interactions. For example, subtribe Diabroticina have evolved polyphagy from a narrow host range, host relations of *Gratiana spadicea* in relation to biological control is discussed, or biology of African tortoise beetle, *Aspidimorpha submutata*, is described intimately. Two contributions from the section Population biology deal with population fluctuations of the palm hispine, *Mecistomela marginata*, in Brasil and population dynamics of *Cerotoma trifurcata* in Central Iowa. Finally, the last paper is devoted to the diversity of parasitoids attacking Neotropical tortoise beetles.

The address and mailing list of contributors and three indices (subject, zoological and botanical indices) increase the readability. The hard-bound book has a very attractive cover and is printed on acid-free paper. It is technically perfect, with high quality of graphical presentation, including 32 colour plates. This volume covers a wide range of topics, which is a strong reason why it should be of interest to universities, museums, agricultural research centres, and many private and government institutions. The second volume planned for the near future surely will continue the tradition of quality books dealing with biology of Chrysomelidae.

J. Bezděk