

## BOOK REVIEW

JOLIVET P., SANTIAGO-BLAY J.A. & SCHMITT M. (eds): *RESEARCH ON CHRYSOMELIDAE. VOL. 2*. Brill, Leiden-Boston, 2009, 299 pp., 46 colour plates. ISBN 978-90-04-16947-0. Price EUR 169.00/USD 250.00.

The book "Research on Chrysomelidae, vol. 2" (RoC 2) is a continuation of the first volume published in 2008 (see *Eur. J. Entomol.* 2008, **105**: 951). Both volumes are on various aspects of Chrysomelidae biology, which started in 1988 with "*Biology of Chrysomelidae*". This volume consists of 13 chapters and 1 abstract by 26 authors from 11 countries, and is presented in two parts.

The first part of the book consists of four chapters. The first chapter by Boligon et al. is on the morphology of the alimentary canal of the larva of the cassidine beetle, *Gratiana spadicea*, with particular reference to the four types of defensive trichomes of its host plant, *Solanum briifolium*. These authors report that the stellate trichomes are selectively removed prior to feeding and any fragments that are ingested are enclosed in peritrophic membrane produced in the posterior part of the midgut and shed with the faeces. The second chapter (Flinte et al.) is on species richness and abundance of Chrysomelidae along an altitudinal gradient in Serra dos Órgãos National Park (southern Brazil). The chapter by Mohamedsaid analyses the chrysomelid fauna of the Lesser Sunda Islands (chain of islands consisting of Lombok, Sumbawa, Sumba, Flores and Timor). This chapter also includes a list of all the species and the relevant literature. This new list represents an increase of 69% over the previously recorded 85 species to 144 species. Unfortunately, the species names are not separated by a blank line, thus quick orientation in the list is rather difficult. Finally, the fourth paper by Verma summarizes the knowledge on the phenomenon called "retournement of the aedeagus" (the turning of this organ about its longitudinal axis through 180° during development) in Chrysomelidae and also contradicts the findings of recent publications on this topic.

The "Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> international symposium on Chrysomelidae" held in Durban, South Africa, within the frame of the XXIII International Congress of Entomology form the second, major part of RoC 2. Nine of the ten orally presented papers are published here, along with an abstract of the 10th.

Two of the chapters are on faunistic studies. The leaf beetle fauna in the Mecsek Hills in southern Hungary and an interesting history of entomological research in this area is summarized and the identity of *Gynandrophthalma tibialis* var. *hungarica* Weise, 1895 is clarified in the chapter by Vig. Flea beetle diversity in the Sierra Tarahumara, Mexico, is described by Furth. There are chapters on morphology, biology and biogeography, which include accounts of the glands of leaf beetle larvae that protect them against attacks by predators and pathogens (Gross & Schmidtberg), extraocular photoreceptors and frontal grooves in Criocerinae (Heidenreich et al.), oviposition by *Pyrrehalta viburni* on dead plant material (Desurmont et al.), morphology, biology and phylogenetic relationships of *Donaciasta goeckei* (chapter by Grobbelaar) and the biogeography and biology of New Caledonian chrysomelids (Jolivet & Verma). There are also chapters on the DNA and a chromosomal study on *Altica litigata* (Jenkins et al.) and on chromosomal evolution in the genus *Chrysolina* (Petitpierre & Mikhailov).

This volume ends with 46 colour plates and subject, zoological and botanical indices. The placing of all the plates at the end of the book (while the black and white drawings are inserted into the text of the relevant chapters) is unfortunate, as the reader has to browse through the book to find the relevant colour illustrations.

While the previous volume and all the books published in this series had a stable and well proven structure, with the chapters arranged thematically into broader topics, the arrangement of RoC 2 is different. Almost two thirds of the book is made up of the "Proceedings of the 7th international symposium on Chrysomelidae". In my opinion, such Proceedings should have been published separately. In a foreword it is mentioned that RoC 3 will follow the same format and include the Proceedings of the symposium held in Budapest in 2010. Such an arrangement is inappropriate and the editors need to find another way of publishing the Proceedings.

Despite the above criticisms I recommend this volume not only to specialists in Chrysomelidae but to entomologists in general. All the chapters present a mosaic of interesting and inspirational information for specialists in various fields of insect biology.

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