



JÄCH M.A., KODADA J., BROJER M., SHEPARD W.D. & ČIAMPOR F. JR. 2016: COLEOPTERA: ELMIDAE AND PROTELMIIDAE. WORLD CATALOGUE OF INSECTS, VOL. 14. Brill, Leiden / Boston, xxi + 318 pp. ISBN 978-90-04-29176-8 (hardback), 978-90-04-29177-5 (e-book). Price EUR 93.00.

“World Catalogue of Insects” could have been more appropriately named the “World Catalogue of Water Beetles” in the early years after its launch in 1998, as four of the first seven volumes dealt with water beetles. Three major, speciose lineages of water beetles were catalogued by 2005. The international team of authors lead by Manfred Jäch from the Vienna Natural History Museum have now added one of the three remaining large water beetle families, the Elmidae.

The first and only published world catalogue on the Elmidae appeared more than 100 years ago and contained less than 300 species (Zaitzev, 1910). This work sorely needed to be updated. Although several main biogeographical regions were covered in the past 35 years, the faunas of Africa, Asia and Australia were never formally catalogued. This hampered further research on the family, which lives almost exclusively in running water and could be used as a valuable biondicator of changes in the environment.

Following the established structure of this series, this volume begins with a substantial introduction followed by the catalogue, references and a detailed index. The catalogue covers 151 extant genera and 1501 extant species described before 1 January 2015 and as well as the few described fossil species it lists taxa removed from the Elmidae, unavailable names (*nomina nuda*, infrasubspecific names, and names used in theses but otherwise not formally published) and provides comments on intentionally excluded taxa.

The authors have put tremendous effort into resolving all the nomenclatorial problems that have accumulated in the taxonomy of the Elmidae over the years. They reflect on their experience

in the Introduction, which makes for interesting reading even for non-specialists. The text touches upon many problems that plague contemporary workers on animal taxonomy, including errors in primary literature that are propagated in later works, the existence of poor-quality taxonomic work that brings more problems than it resolves and the relevance of internet sources.

The catalogue introduces a number of new nomenclatorial and taxonomic acts, which are listed in the Introduction. An interested reader can thus quickly gain an overview of all the changes included in this catalogue. It is perhaps a pity that the two major changes, the elevation of Protelmini to the status of a separate family and the synonymization of the genus *Normandia* with *Riolus*, were only very briefly justified. Hopefully there will be more detailed papers on these changes in the near future.

As customary in this series, the catalogue of Elmidae and Protelmidae has been put together with flawless precision. It is also commendable that the Catalogue is available both in print and as an e-book. As I have already mentioned in the review of the fourth volume of this series more than 10 years ago, it is a pity that such World Catalogues cannot be accompanied by a fully electronic version of the underlying database, which would provide a continuously updated body of information. This would be highly desirable as the new world catalogue of Elmidae and Protelmidae will now undoubtedly provide a frequently used baseline reference for taxonomists, environmentalists and conservationists.

REFERENCES

ZAITZEV P. 1910: Pars 17. Dryopidae, Cyathoceridae, Georysidae, Heteroceridae. In Schenkling S. (ed.): *Coleopterorum Catalogus*. W. Junk, Berlin, 68 pp.

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