

BOOK REVIEW

WHEELER A.G. JR. & HENRY T.J.: A SYNTHESIS OF THE HOLARCTIC MIRIDAE (HETEROPTERA): DISTRIBUTION, BIOLOGY AND ORIGIN, WITH EMPHASIS ON NORTH AMERICA. Entomological Society of America, Lanham, Maryland, 1992, v + 282 pp., 31 figs, 77 maps. The Tomas Say Foundation, Vol. 15. ISBN 0-938522-39-6.

This book provides distribution patterns (carefully mapped for all species), essential data on host plants and habitats, and zoogeographical characteristics for 98 species of mirids common to North America and the Old World. It likewise provides a general introduction to this subject, and a discussion of both historical and ecological aspects of present distributional patterns. Thirty seven species altogether are found to be indigenous to North America (most of them naturally Holarctic, in one case emigrant to England) and 61 adventive

(none introduced; all are immigrants from Europe, though 5 of them are tropicopolitan). The adventive species form 3,2% of North American mirid fauna and most of them are believed to have become established through importation of nursery stock or other plant material, a few becoming minor to serious plant pests. The book is exemplary in collecting numerous data scattered throughout the literature, in fully exploiting the extensive Russian literature (essential particularly for species with Beringian areas), and in carefully considering distributional and ecological evidence before arriving at zoogeographical conclusions. It will be of interest to heteropterists, applied entomologists, and especially, zoogeographers, who will find here a rich source of data on the recent europeanization of North American fauna through anthropochoric dispersal.

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