

BOOK REVIEW

SOÓS Á., PAPP L. & OOSTERBROEK P. (eds) 1992: CATALOGUE OF PALAEARCTIC DIPTERA. VOL. 1. TRICHO CERIDAE – NYMPHOMYIIDAE. Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, 520 pp. ISBN 936-70-9310-9. Price USD 80.00.

Volume 1 of the world-wide known series "Catalogue of Palaearctic Diptera" has been long awaited, and it appears as the twelfth volume of a series of 14 planned volumes. As stated by the editors in an accompanying leaflet Volumes 13 (Anthomyiidae – Tachinidae) and 14 (Index to volumes 1–13) are already in press. This much-needed Palaearctic Catalogue was initiated in 1977 by the dipterists of the Budapest Natural History Museum, and first volumes (Volumes 9 and 10) appeared in 1984. Further volumes followed irregularly, some with serious difficulties due to inadequate knowledge and even specialists for some large and problematic families. Thus Volume 2 (the Chironomidae) appeared in 1990, Volume 7 (Dolichopodidae) in 1991 and, finally, Volume 1, which includes the large and taxonomically complicated families Tipulidae and Limoniidae.

The present volume differs in several respects from those published previously. First, a cover of the book differs in its design from the preceding volumes, which is slightly inconsistent, but probably a royalty to the new publishers, the Hungarian Natural History Museum, which replaced the well-established publishing house of the Hungarian Academy, the Akadémiai Kiadó. The previous Dutch co-publisher, Elsevier Science, was no longer participating in its production.

Secondly, besides the established editors, Árpád Soós and László Papp, there is a third, Dr P. Oosterbroek of the Amsterdam University, a specialist of the tipuloid-complex of nematoceran Diptera. Without his organizing activity and enthusiasm, it is unlikely that this volume would have been finished and prepared for publication in 1991. Volume 1 includes also an "Introduction to

Volumes 1–13", actually a closing and summarizing chapter written by László Papp and the late Árpád Soós, presenting valuable information on the history of the Catalogue and all cumulative data.

The Volume 1 of the Catalogue includes 9 nematoceran families: Trichoceridae (C. Dahl), Tanyderidae (R. Wagner), Blephariceridae (P. Zwick), Deuterophlebiidae (L. Jedlička), Tipulidae (P. Oosterbroek and B. Theowald), Cyliandroto-midae (Á. Soós and P. Oosterbroek), Limoniidae (E.N. Savchenko, P. Oosterbroek and J. Sary), Ptychopteridae (R. Rozkošný) and Nymphomyiidae (L. Jedlička), including 2706 species and 688 synonyms, classified in 109 genera as given by the editors in the Introduction. The authors are all the leading dipterists in their respective groups, though a substantial proportion of the catalogue has been prepared by the third editor, P. Oosterbroek, as is well-evidenced by his participation as author or co-author on 314 of the total of 344 pages.

A very high standard is already a tradition of the series of the Palaearctic Catalogue. Each family is introduced briefly with notes on morphology, biology and the most important references to authors and publications of the family. Genera and species are arranged alphabetically, with full bibliographic data; synonyms are in chronological order. Designations of type species are given in each taxon at generic level, and all species and subspecies are provided with the original generic combination, type locality (or localities) and precise geographic distribution.

Both authors and editors are to be congratulated, but it is with deep sorrow that the late Árpád Soós, the chief editor of the Palaearctic Catalogue and my good friend, for whom the Catalogue was a work of life, was not able to witness the closing volume.

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