BOOK REVIEW


The author of this interesting and important book, Milan Chvála (Charles University, Prague) has continued his work on the projected group of six volumes on Empidoidea (Diptera: Brachycera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark. The book is the third of "empidoid" volume of the "Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica" by Chvála. The first (1975) studied the subfamily Tachydrini (now classified in the family Hybotidae). In the second (1983) the former paraphyletic family "Empididae" was split into four families and, therefore, the volume had "Empidoidea" in the title. It covered the rest of the newly established family Hybotidae (subfamilies Hybotinae and Ocydromiinae) and the families Atelestiidae and Microphoridae. The present volume, upon the genus Empis L. is the first treating the restricted family Empididae. 65 species and 11 subgenera are treated in this volume, including the faunas of Great Britain and the Netherlands. From the species known in the cooler northern parts of Europe, along the coast of the North Sea and Baltic Sea, only 38 species have been found in Fennoscandia and Denmark. The occurrence of the remaining 27 species in the Scandinavian countries is, according to the author, highly probable; incorporation of these species into the book helps to avoid possible misidentifications. The major part of this volume is a systematic treatment, including a taxonomic revision of some species: 11 lectotypes are designated and 4 holotypes are identified and 2 new species are described. Keys to the subfamilies of Empididae, genera, subgenera and species are included. For each species there is a paragraph upon their distribution in Fennoscandia and Denmark, flight period, general distribution, data on biology, feeding habits and epigamic behaviour, if known. The main diagnostic features for each species are illustrated and each subgenus is prefaced by a habitus drawing of the type-species. The author's fine illustrations, the impressive pen-and-ink habitus drawings by A. Veltman, as well as the general graphic arrangement create a highly attractive image. The book represents not only a very important progression toward a better understanding of the North European fauna of Empidoidea. Its concept creates a basis for next studies of the genus Empis in various research branches such as in zoo-geography, evolutionary biology, agriculture, biocoenology and in environmental studies in a pan-European context.

O. Šyrovařík