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## BOOK REVIEW

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MOULET P.: HÉMIPTÈRES COREOIDEA, PYRRHOCORIDAE ET STENOCEPHALIDAE EURO-MÉDITERRANÉENS. Faune de France (France et Régions Limitrophes) 81. Fédération Française des Sociétés des Sciences Naturelles, Paris, 1995, 336 pp., 79 groups of Figs, 45 maps, 3 col. plates. ISBN 2-903052-15-8. Price not stated.

The monograph covers the Coreoidea sensu stricto (Coreidae, Alydidae, Rhopalidae), and the Pyrrhocoridae and Stenocephalidae, with each of these three groups being treated separately in the introductory parts. The format of the book corresponds to that regularly used in recent volumes of the series Faune de France and Faune de l'Europe et du Bassin Méditerranéen. In fact, the geographic scope of the present treatment includes all of Europe, the whole Mediterranean region and the Canary Islands and Madeira.

The introductory part on the Coreoidea has several well-written basic chapters: an abbreviated history of higher classification (which would be more

informative if extra-limital higher taxa had been listed with greater consistency); the morphology of the exoskeleton, including genitalia and spermatheca; concise sections on development and ethology and ecology; distribution (identifying the distributional elements), and phylogeny. The author refrains from formal recognition of tribes in the Coreinae (the subfamily including *Spathocera*, *Phyllomorpha* and *Prionotylus*, genera which have been regarded by some authors as not fitting its concept) as well as in the Rhopalidae (where, admittedly, the present situation is rather chaotic). The phylogenetic section requires a more rigorous cladistic treatment and there are some minor errors in the morphological terminology applied. The general sections on the Pyrrhocoridae and Stenocephalidae are similarly organized, but much briefer (e.g., the male genitalia of Stenocephalidae are not illustrated). In all the introductory parts illustrations of female external genitalia would have been a significant addition.

The Systematic Section is arranged traditionally.

The keys to supraspecific taxa are very good and easy to use and the keys to adults are supplemented by keys to 5th instar larvae and eggs wherever possible. The names of type species are mentioned, but information on their method of fixation is omitted. The parts concerning species have some flaws. The lists of synonyms include the names of taxa regarded as valid until recently, without reference to the author who discovered the synonymy and with no explanation in the text. Most of the relevant information and substantiation may be found in the author's recent original papers, but, as a reader, I would like to have the references and brief explanations here. This concerns, above all, species in *Maccevechus* and *Dicranocephalus*. Also the status of the intraspecific taxa of *Coreus marginatus* (L.) – variously ranked and interpreted by different authors – is not elucidated. The consistent absence of comparative notes on species which are notoriously difficult to identify, particularly for a non-specialist, whose diagnostic characters are subtle and, at least with some of them, their species status is often differently interpreted and uncertain is most regrettable. Here the author missed the opportunity to share his experience with other students of European Heteroptera. The keys are generally easy to use, but if one needs further assistance it is necessary to search in the non-comparative (although, usually, very good) descriptive section for further, more reliable characters. This criticism applies to the treatment of the species of *Centrocoris*,

*Spathocera*, *Ceraleptus obtusus* group, *Coriomeris* (Coreidae), *Rhopalus parumpunctatus* group and *Stictopleurus* (Rhopalidae). In all other respects the individual species sections are well written, each including a short summary of ecology and distribution (which is mapped well, in most cases), and also some descriptions of eggs and larvae (although, suprisingly, this is missing with some common species on which the data are available in the literature).

The book is richly illustrated, mostly by the author's own drawings. The whole insect illustrations are good and the numerous illustrations of diagnostic characters and general morphological features are perfect. However, less well executed are the figures of larvae and their arrangement in the tables often lacks grace. A stricter intervention of the editor might have helped here.

The list of references is exhaustive, also including most of the relevant Russian and Ukrainian titles. The book is also well indexed.

There is no similar monograph on Euro-Mediterranean coreids and related families written in Latin script. I have voiced the above criticism only to imply that the book may have been even better than it is in some points. Generally, it is excellent both as an identification manual and introduction to further research into these fascinating and, in many respects, little known true bugs.

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