BOOK REVIEW


This voluminous book provides concise information on 1,758 tree-dwelling aphid species, about 40 per cent of world's aphid fauna. Apart from brief introductory and technical chapters, index of species names of aphids and bibliography (more than 1,800 references), the book is subdivided into two major parts. The first consists of lists of the aphids living on particular trees and for each tree genus one or more illustrated keys depending on the diversity and degree of host specificity of their aphids. The keys are original, often allowing for the first time the identification of the species of a particular aphid genus or the aphid fauna associated with a particular plant taxon worldwide. A separate key is provided for 23 polyphagous tree-dwelling aphids which may be useful for the identification of species on tropical and subtropical trees and bushes not included in the book. The second part of the book presents data on particular aphid species (appearance in life, host plants, distribution, biometry and natural enemies) along with numerous references. In addition, possible misidentifications, related taxa, controversial data and gaps in our knowledge are indicated. Along with the critical review of published information the book contains numerous original, collection-based data, especially in the host lists and taxonomical remarks. The information is clearly organized with both the trees and aphids arranged in alphabetical order by genera and species. The experience of the authors is most evidently reflected in the construction of the keys which are relatively easy to use even for non-specialists but nevertheless of a high scientific standard and reliability. After two years of extensive use of this book, I have only a few critical comments. Some tropical trees harbouring mainly polyphagous aphids (genera Clerodendron, Clusia, Cocclobola, Cordia, Mannea, Manilkara etc.) and many host records of Toxoptera aurantii and Aphis craccivora have been omitted. Theobroma cacao should have been included, as were many other cultivated trees, even though it was treated in the previous book by the same authors: Aphids on the World's Crops.

The book is one of milestones in the history of aphidology. It has set a high standard for future studies on taxonomy of many aphid genera, made possible more exact identifications and particularly in applied investigations contributed to unification of aphid nomenclature. I recommend it as an indispensable identification guide and valuable data base for taxonomists and workers in plant protection, forest entomology, insect-plant relationships and biodiversity.

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