

## REFERENCES

- ALONSO L.A., CARRETERO J.L. & GARCÍA-CARRASCOSA A.M. 1991: *Islas Columbretes. Contribución al estudio de su medio natural. Monografías 5*. Generalitat Valenciana, Valencia, 507 pp.
- EADY R.D. 1963: Some illustrations of microsculpture in the Hymenoptera. *Proc. R. Entomol. Soc. London* **43**(4/6): 66–72.
- HORSTMANN K. 1990: Neubeschreibungen einiger Schlupfwespen-Arten aus den Gattungen *Mastrus* Förster, *Odontoneura* Förster und *Zoophthorus* Förster (Hym., Ichneumonidae, Cryptinae). *Z. Arbeitsgem. Österr. Entomol.* **42**(1/2): 1–14.
- HORSTMANN K. 1991: Revision einiger Gattungen und Arten der Phygadeuontini (Hymenoptera, Ichneumonidae). *Mitt. Münch. Entomol. Ges.* **81**: 229–254.
- TOWNES H. 1983: Revision of twenty genera of Gelini. *Mem. Am. Entomol. Inst. (Ann Arbor)* **35**: 281 pp.

Received April 2, 1997; accepted August 4, 1997

*Eur. J. Entomol.* **95**: 140, 1998  
ISSN 1210–5759

## BOOK REVIEW

HILL D.S.: THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF INSECTS. Chapman & Hall, London, 1996, x + 395 pp. ISBN 0-412-49800-6. Price GBP 75.00.

In his preface, Dennis S. Hill, an English teacher of entomology currently working at the University of Malaysia, Sarawak, proposes an alternative title for the book – An Introduction to Applied Entomology. This is certainly more accurate than the official title. Surely the pests and beneficial insects introduced here are (by definition) of economic importance to humankind, but there is a short, and not especially detailed, analysis of the costs and benefits or causes and prevention of economic loss. It rather resembles an ordinary handbook of applied entomology. It was intended to encourage undergraduate university students to study field biology. It may even be understandable to younger students, especially by explaining some of the terms in the glossary.

One of the positive traits of this book is a chapter on beneficial insects, including such phenomena like pollination, apiculture, sericulture, insect farming (for their products other than honey and silk, as animal food, for collections, etc.), biological control, and using insects as human food. Following the beneficials, there are chapters on pest definitions and damage assessment. A rather small portion of the book is devoted to pest control methods, including only a brief overview of chemical control.

Most of the information and illustrations in this book have come from *Agricultural Entomology*, a book published by Hill in 1994. Thus, a great part of the book is a list of numerous insect pest species ordered by their systematic position within one of the following chapters: Medical Pests, Veterinary Pests, Household and Stored Products Pests, Agricultural Pests (naturally the biggest part), and Forestry Pests (also appreciably extensive). There is usually a general characterization of a family or other higher taxa, and with a particular species, there is host range and geographical distribution. It can be a boring reading, however excellently illustrated by drawings and photographs of the insects and/or the plants showing traces of damage. In comparison with other “applied entomologies”, the geographical scope of the listed species is appreciable – there are important pests from all over the world, with an emphasis on the tropics.

Small parts of the book are useful as a textbook for beginners in the field. The greater part is rather a handbook useful for searching information on a particular insect species or group, recommendable for interested people in crop protection. The index contains both common and scientific names of insects, but unfortunately, plant names and other subjects are omitted, thus preventing untrained field workers from identifying a particular encountered pest, otherwise possible thanks to illustrations.

O. Nedvěd