This publication is the 34th handbook produced by Pelagic Publishing for naturalists. Following on those on the families Coccinellidae, Carabidae and Curculionidae it is the fourth handbook devoted exclusively to beetles and contains 9 chapters.

The first four chapters (Introduction, Life history, Leaf beetles in their environment and Natural enemies of leaf beetles) present a short summary of various general aspects. Chapter 1 gives the reader a very short description of the characteristics of each subfamily present in Great Britain, accompanied by a table showing the number of species in each subfamily. Amblycerinae are here erroneously treated as a subfamily – it should be a tribe within Bruchinae. A summary of external morphology is provided with drawings that illustrate the details of the body, head, hindwing, etc. This chapter terminates with an account of their evolution and palaeoentomology. Chapter 2 summarizes the information on their general life history, eggs, larvae, pupae, adults and reproduction. Chapter 3 summarizes various aspects of the relation of chrysomelids with the environment, particularly their habitats and host plants, pest species and their control, non-native species, conservation and threats. Chapter 4 not only discusses the natural enemies of leaf beetles like predators, parasites, parasitoids, diseases, microorganisms and fungi, but also provides a comprehensive summary, for example, of their life history, etc. This handbook ends with an index that lists all the subjects and Latin names mentioned in the text.

This book provides a comprehensive overview with detailed and accessible coverage of the natural history, ecology and biology of leaf beetles. In some aspects the book provides a surprisingly comprehensive summary, for example, of their life histories, environment and enemies, etc. The weaknesses are the poor quality of the colour photographs and in particular the identification key provided for species would significantly improve this publication, although it could result in a considerable increase in the number of pages. I can recommend the handbook to all amateur entomologists and naturalists, not only those in Britain. On the other hand, specialists are more likely to use other publications with high quality photographs and keys to species.

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