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Review of "The Scarab Beetles of Nebraska" by Brett C. Ratcliffe

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The Scarab Beetles of Nebraska. Brett C. Ratcliffe. Bulletin of the University of Nebraska State Museum, Volume 12, 1991. v + 333 pp. Maps, figures, illustrations, color plates, checklist, glossary, and references. \$27.00 paper (ISSN 0093-6812).

Of the few regional faunal surveys of Scarabaeidae available, *The Scarab Beetles of Nebraska* provides by far the most comprehensive treatise to date of any area in the Western Hemisphere. It not only serves as a manual for identification of all adult Nebraskan Scarabaeidae, but also includes available information on larvae and natural history for each species as well. The book is lavishly illustrated with adult habitus drawings of most species, supplemented by line drawings of larval and adult key characters. Illustrator Mark Marcuson's color plates are worthy of framing, and congratulations go to the printers for their reproduction of Marcuson's exquisite illustration of a flying *Euphoria fulgida* (Fab.) on the front cover.

The book begins with an overview of the geography, climate, and vegetative zones of Nebraska, complete with climatological and floral maps, and photographs of the major habitat types found in the state. This is followed by a brief review of Nebraskan biogeography and general scarab morphology, biology, and subfamilial taxonomy.

The rest of the book consists of a classical taxonomic treatment of the 197 Nebraskan scarab species, 31 of which represent new state records. Each generic section includes a synonymy, general information about the genus, and keys to adults and (where available) larvae of Nebraskan species. Each species treatment contains a synonymy, (re)description, and sections concerning general distribution, Nebraska locality records, temporal distribution, and remarks. Under the "remarks" sections the known natural history of each species is summarized. Through all of this Ratcliffe gives the reader a surprisingly complete account of the included species. This welcome

amount of detail is usually reserved for generic revisions, not state faunas. *The Scarab Beetles of Nebraska* will hopefully become a model from which other state faunal reviews may be developed.

Judging from the style and language necessarily used for such a detailed treatise, at least a general knowledge of entomology is necessary to get the most from this work. Ratcliffe thoughtfully provides a glossary for interested readers with less entomological education however, and even the novice will be able to use the ample habitus illustrations to place much of the state fauna to genus or in many cases even species without having to use the keys. At \$27.00, *The Scarab Beetles of Nebraska* is a bargain that should find a place on the bookshelves of both entomologists and persons interested in the natural history of the Great Plains alike. **William B. Warner, Chandler, Arizona.**