Book review

Danish Pentatomoidea, Coreoidea and Pyrrhocoroidea

Ole Fogh Nielsen & Lars Skipper 2015: Danmarks bredtaeger, randtaeger og ildtaeger [Danish Pentatomoidea, Coreoidea and Pyrrhocoroidea.] 202 pp. ISBN 978-87-92832-04-7. Apollo Booksellers, Denmark; info@apollobooks.dk, www.apollobooks.com. Price 300 DKK, 43 EUR, excluding shipping.

To be continued... This is the reaction after reading this book, because it is definitely a follow-up of the book Danmarks blomstertaeger that was published by Apollo Booksellers in 2013 as number 12 in the series Denmark's fauna and reviewed in Entomol. Fennica Vol. 25. This new book is number 13 in the same series. The structure of the new bug book is the same as for the previous one and the photographs take up about half of all pages. So, the series is expected to continue.

This book covers the superfamilies Pentatomoidea, Coreoidea and Pyrrhocoroidea of the true bugs (Hemiptera, Heteroptera) which contain the largest and most colourful bugs of Denmark. These are also excellent targets for beginners in collecting bugs, whether the collecting is traditional or with photographs.

The text chapters deal with the historical background of Danish bug literature, evolutionary history of bugs, their systematics and nomenclature, morphology, life cycles, food, enemies and defense mechanisms, habitats, conservation status and general distribution, threats and regional distribution in Denmark and instructions on how to collect bugs.

Eighty percent of the book deals with the 73 species occurring in Denmark. The low species number allows for more space for each species. Consequently, the species texts are longer than for the Danish mirids and additional information in terms of dot maps and occurrence are given for each species. The species photographs are of excellent quality and taken of specimens in the wild. They have been taken by 16 different persons, not all of whom are Danes, so probably not all depicted specimens are from native populations.

Photos of the last nymphal stage are also reproduced for almost all species, which is a nice addition because many species can easily be bred to adult from this stage. Macrophotos for comparisons of morphological details also help the reader distinguish between species that might be confused.

The book ends with a photographic gallery of all species in a mounted state that helps habitual differentiation between closely similar species.

All in all, a nice book for amateur hemipterologists! The photos serve a larger public, the text (in Danish), unfortunately, only the readers speaking Scandinavian languages.

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