

Book Reviews

E. Vives: Coleoptera-Cerambycidae. Fauna Ibérica, Vol. 12., Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid 2000, p. 715



No entomologist will be able to put this book down, despite its considerable weight and volume. Eduard Vives has, undoubtedly, written the most thorough and detailed monograph on Cerambycidae. This edition is in the original Spanish, which makes it a little difficult for non-Spanish readers. Its superb illustrations, however, will make up for this inconvenience.

The Catalonian Vives' have long been a notable family of entomologists. Eduard's father, Joan Vives, who died recently, was, perhaps, the most accomplished specialist in Carabidae study, while Eduard himself has been engaged in studying the Cerambycidae since his childhood. These several decades' experience is reflected in his book.

The first chapter of the monograph describes the Chrysomelidae superfamily, to which the Cerambycidae family belongs. After the introduction the morphology, the biology and the nutrition, as

well as the origin and the evolution of the superfamily are discussed. The chapter ends with the identification key of adults and larvae across the whole family.

A predominant part of the work focuses, of course, on the Cerambycidae family itself. The detailed introduction is followed by the taxonomy and distribution of the family. There follows the morphology and the anatomy of the adults, followed by a thorough description of the non-adult phases. The next chapter is on the natural history (historia natural) of the species belonging to the family. This section ends with a brief chapter dedicated to the collecting and preserving of the capricorn beetles, as well as to research techniques.

A prevailing part of the book includes the detailed identification key of the sub-families and that of the tribes. The identification key of the genera and species are also thoroughly elaborated and of outstanding quality.

The description of each species covers the description of the imago, as well as the distribution and the detailed biology of the species. 199 illustrations assist the reader in becoming yet more familiar with each species.

These detailed sections are followed first by a list consisting of more than 900 references then by Appendix 1 elaborating the relevant Synonyms and their combinations, and then by Appendix 2, an inventory of host plants to the species. The book ends with an exhaustive index of taxonomical names (species, genus, tribe, subfamily) of the Iberian-Balearian Cerambicidae-species in alphabetical order with 5 subsequent whole-page colour drawings to please the reader.

Z. Mészáros

L. Bos: Plant Viruses, Unique and Intriguing Pathogens – A Textbook of Plant Virology. Bachuys Publishers, Leiden 1999, p. 358

The author is internationally acknowledged and well-known person in the science of plant virology. After his graduation at the Agricultural University (Wageningen), he has been working as plant virologist for more than forty-five years. During the last fifty years of the development of plant virology he was not only the spectator but his enormous scientific activity and publications has played considerable role in the development of plant virology as well. This book is an excellent result of his prominent scientific career. It differs from most other textbooks on plant viruses in that it concisely and systematically outlines principles. The author concentrates on the involvement of viruses as causative agents of plant diseases and how the damage they cause can be controlled, rather than on the role of viruses as models or tools of molecular biological research.

The book contains 13 chapters, Appendix A and Appendix B, which are the followings: 1. Introduction, 2. From virus discovery to virology, 3. Viruses as disease incitants, 4. Viruses as contagious agents, 5. Viruses as physicochemical particles, 6. Serology and electron microscopy, 7. Viruses as packages of genetic information, 8. Order out of chaos, 9. Disease diagnosis and routine virus detection, 10. Ecology of viruses, 11. Economic impact of viruses, 12. Human interference with viruses, 13. Epilogue; natural complexity, Appendix A (The groups of plant viruses), Appendix B (Reference books and selected general publications on plant viruses and virus diseases). The text is made easier to understand by 133 black and colour figures including electronmicroscopic-, microscopic and symptomatologic figures and 10 well-constructed tables. The “Index” (subjected index) at the end of the book includes some 1500 entries.

The excellent textbook of Dr. Bos is an indispensable plant virological work containing not only the latest achievements but also the most up-to-date knowledge; it is equally recommended to virologists, graduate and postgraduate students in the field of virology, biology, plant biochemistry, physiology, biotechnology, agronomy, plant breeding and plant protection.

J. Horvát

István Láng (ed.): Encyclopaedia on Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation, Vols I–II (Környezet- és természetvédelmi lexikon I–II). Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest 2002, p. 1256

The first edition of the Encyclopedia of environmental protection has been published in 1993 by Akadémiai Kiadó. This book was the first of its kind available in Hungary. All of the 12000 copies had been sold within a year. Eight years following the first edition the release of a revised, updated version has become necessary due to profound changes taking place in the last decade. Environmental protection has been interconnected with several areas of the economy and also with the concept of sustainable development. New disciplines have emerged like environmental risk assessment, environmental safety etc. Last but not least, Hungary is aspiring for membership in the European Union and stringent environmental standards are to be met by new incoming members. Therefore, an updated, comprehensive encyclopedia of environmental protection may contribute to increased environmental awareness in Hungarian society more than ever before.

The new, second edition has been published in 2002 in 15000 copies. More than 360 authors contributed to the book which is printed in two volumes on 1256 pages with a total of 9589 entries, a 40 percent larger size than the previous edition. 20 percent of entries is directly related to biology and nature conservation, while 11 percent of entries covers agriculture. The publisher is also planning an online and CD-ROM version to include additional entries. Unfortunately, there are somewhat fewer photographs available in the new edition, compared to the old one (968 vs. 1057 pictures).

This encyclopedia deals primarily with contemporary problems of environmental protection and nature conservation related to science, technology and law. The up to date style and language meets scientific standards but is also understandable to the everyday reader. One can be sure that this book will provide relevant and reliable information not only for professionals in biology and agriculture but also for university students and the interested public.

Lóránt Király