

Literature

Fujii, K., Gatehouse, A. M. R., Johnson, C. D., Mitchell, R. & Yoshida, T. (eds.) 1990: Bruchids and legumes: economics, ecology and coevolution. — Series Entomologica 46. 407 pp. Kluwer Academic Publishers. ISBN 0-7923-0701-1. Price 175 USD.

Although the Bruchids, occasionally known as the bean weevils, form only a medium-sized family of the Coleoptera, from an economical point of view they are of major importance. They feed on seeds of various plants, but most of the species have been reported as found on Fabaceae, and many of these plants are agriculturally important. Several Bruchid species are world-wide in distribution, and among these are some major agricultural pests; most species have a more restricted distribution, but among them are several locally important pests, as well. Such a family has naturally been intensively studied for a long time, within both theoretical and applied entomology.

In 1989 the Second International Symposium on Bruchids and Legumes was held in Japan, attended by 140 participants from 23 countries; 37 lectures were given. These lectures have now been collected in a volume of Series Entomologica, and so the information provided in the symposium can be available for everyone.

It becomes immediately obvious that the symposium managed to interest a very wide range of entomologists. The papers presented cover a great many disciplines: from taxonomy and life history studies to works on chemical or biological control, plant breeding, insect behaviour, and population dynamics. There are even botanical

contributions, such as a paper by Tateishi & Ohashi on systematics in the genus *Vigna*; this paper and other botanical ones fall within a section entitled "Breeding of Bruchid-resistant Legumes", so their inclusion is not without merit, although only some of these papers expressly refer to the beetles.

Most of the papers fall within a loosely defined ecological context, often with the question of pest control being an important part of the study. It can be assumed that at least this part of the book will be noticed. As to the other articles, there is a certain risk that people working with similar problems might not so easily find them. No new species are described, but the book includes a few synonymizations, which presumably will be mentioned in abstracting publications later on. How widely those papers that cover genetical or evolutionary topics will be observed remains to be seen.

An index to names and topics covered is included at the end of the book, and adds considerably to its usefulness. One ever-occurring problem is naturally that of cost; the Bruchids are particularly important in tropical and subtropical countries, but there it may well be that the book is considered too expensive to achieve the distribution it deserves.

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