

Literature

Brock, P. D. 1992: Rearing and Studying Stick and Leaf-Insects. The Amateur Entomologists' Society, Handbook no. 22. 79 pp., 37 figs. and 7 black-and-white plates, 1 table. Size 14.5 × 21.0 cm. — Can be obtained from: AES Publications, The Hawthorns, Frating Road, Great Bromley, Colchester CO7 7JN, England. ISBN 0-900054-54-9. Price GBP 5.00.

The insect order Phasmida (stick- and leaf-insects) contains some 2 500 described species, distributed almost all over the globe. The Indian stick-insect *Carausius morosus* (de Sinéty) has been widely used for various studies since it was brought to Europe at the beginning of this century. Currently, some 100 species are bred in captivity, mainly by amateurs in Britain. This leaflet summarises the biology of these species. Originally it was published in 1970, then revised and extended in 1985, and has now been fully extended and updated.

The contents of this leaflet are mainly divided into four sections. The first, introductory, section describes basic aspects like the history of the taxonomy of the group and relevant publications, general morphology of adults and eggs, life history and development. The second part, constituting the main contents of the leaflet, deals with the different species. First some general methods are described for keeping the different stages, i.e. how to deal with eggs, nymphs and adults. Then some 20 species are described which are the most commonly kept in captivity. The species descriptions contain vital information like English and Latin names, rearing history, geographical distribution, a description including illustrations of eggs and adults, foodplants *in situ* and in captivity, general culture information, and special information of particular interest, e.g. a harmful defensive spray. Then the biology of some 60 less commonly kept species is summarised in a table, i.e. data on size, geographical origin, general biology and how easy/difficult they are to

keep alive in captivity. The third part is a short account on how to locate and collect stick insects in the field, how to preserve them, and how to photograph them. The fourth part consists of a short glossary, the addresses of some suppliers, and a short selected bibliography.

This publication is currently the only accurate available account on rearing the Phasmida which covers the majority of species occurring in captivity. It fills a gap in good literature since the excellent book by Clark, J. T., 1976, *Stick and Leaf Insects*, long since out of print. However, the lack of detailed descriptions of the less commonly kept species and their biology is unfortunate. The section dealing with *C. morosus* is unabridged from the first edition, and should preferably have been shortened. The reference list might be somewhat extended. Short explanations of the meaning of the Latin names would have been useful. These complaints are of minor importance, and will hopefully be dealt with in a future edition. The illustrations are of good quality. Moreover the price is very acceptable. In conclusion, this little leaflet is both an excellent introduction for the beginner and a good handbook for the experienced phasmid-rearer or anyone just using them as suitable laboratory animals for scientific or educational purposes. So in conclusion I would like to congratulate the author and the editors for the production of an attractive publication and look forward to the next edition when more species will be available in captivity.

Ulf Carlberg