

Review

Hansen, M. 1999: Hydrophiloidea (Coleoptera). World Catalogue of Insects. 2. — Apollo Books 416 pp. ISBN 87-88757-31-5. Price DKR 690:- (standing order discount 10% available from publisher Apollo Books, Kirkeby Sand 19, DK-5771 Stenstrup).

Recently I reviewed the first volume of a new series, World Catalogue of Insects. The second volume, discussed here, also deals with aquatic insects as did the first volume. Thus we have now a modern checklist of both the Hydraenidae and the Hydrophiloidea, the latter of which is one of the more species-rich beetle taxons. In comparison with many other coleopteran family-group-taxons, Hydrophiloidea belongs to the more tricky ones in regard to its systematics and delimitation. Most of what I discussed in the previous review concerning the contents of the catalogue holds true for the new volume as well. This is not a surprise because the author is the same entomologist, Dr. Michael Hansen, the renowned Danish specialist of Hydrophiloidea and related groups. The reader of this review is thus kindly referred to the earlier review published in the same journal (*Entomologica Fennica* 10:63, 1999).

When preparing for this volume the author detected many errors requiring different kinds of nomenclatorial acts. The new volume includes proposals for 14 new names. Moreover, 34 new synonymies were detected as well as an equal number of new combinations. They are all listed in the book. In the introductory part of the volume we find a historical review on the classification of the Hydrophiloidea. This is very useful for other entomologists, whose knowledge on the taxon treated is limited. According to the author, the Hy-

drophiloidea, as defined in the checklist, constitutes a good monophyletic group. It contains six families, viz. Helophoridae, Epimetopidae, Georissidae, Hydrochidae, Spercheidae and Hydrophilidae. With more than 2,300 described species, Hydrophilidae is by far the most species-rich of the families. Regarding the five other families of Hydrophiloidea, the numbers of described species vary between 16-183.

Type designations and how they should be interpreted have caused a great deal of argumentation over the years. As we know now the term "lectotype" must not be mentioned as a prerequisite for acceptance of a valid lectotype designation. The author also correctly states this in the introductory chapter of the book. The new millennium will fortunately see changes in this respect. Starting from the year 2000 lectotype designations published without the term "lectotype" mentioned in the article are to be considered non-valid.

Very few printing errors were observed - a fact, which indicates a precise work. We can only congratulate the author for an excellent piece of work. Additionally, we hope that the other volumes under preparation will be of the same high standard as this one. All museums and other public collections working seriously with insect taxonomy and global biodiversity need to have this book available.

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