

## Book review

### The Danish Miridae

Lars Skipper 2013: Danmarks blomstertæger. [The Danish Miridae.] 407 pp. ISBN 978-87-92832-03-0. Apollo Booksellers, Denmark; info@apollobooks.dk, www.apollobooks.dk. Price 420 DKK, 62 EUR, not including shipping.

Yet another one! That was the first thought that came to mind when I saw this book. As a matter of fact, heteropterologists have been spoiled with a number of good photographic books on true bugs (Hemiptera: Heteroptera) in the last decade. The Wanzen book series (2004–2008) by Wachmann, Melber & Deckert for the German reading area, Suomen Luteet (2010) by Rintala & Rinne for the Finnish reading area, The Shieldbugs of Sweden (2012) by Coulianos for the Swedish reading area and now this book on plant bugs (Miridae) for the Danish reading area.

The first 120 pages of this book deal with the Danish collection history, development history of true bugs, systematics, nomenclature, the anatomy of plant bugs, color variation, wing dimorphism, sexes, the biology of nymphs, annual life cycles, occurrence and weather conditions, movement, feeding patterns and host plants, habitats, enemies and defending strategies, injurious species, nocturnal behavior, distribution patterns, conservation status and threats, expansions, new species to Denmark and potential newcomers, photographing bugs and collection as well as preparation techniques.

The species part of the 212 Danish plant bug species is rather conventional giving size information on species, how to identify them, their occurrence and biology, in which biotopes they are found, known distribution in Denmark and notes on red list status in and around Denmark. Each species is presented with at least one digital pho-

tograph taken in the field. Unfortunately, the photos are sometimes slightly dull as the background usually becomes darkish when using a ring-flash.

The book does not contain conventional identification schemes. Discriminating features are given in bold text in the beginning of each species text and many microscopic details are supported by illustrating macrophotos. This probably works for the species encountered so far in Denmark, but the identification of new species might be troublesome by only comparing features of depicted species.

The text on biology gives times of adult occurrence, hibernation stages, the number of generations, habitats and host plants and the known regional distribution in Denmark. Host plant relationships are restricted to Danish conditions. Little is mentioned on possible changes of food and host plant in not optimal habitat conditions which has been reported from many countries.

A notable positive difference to other books mentioned above is that nymph photos are presented for many species. This helps not only the amateur but also professionals to identify species in the field and to decide if one wants to rear the species.

The final part is co-authored by Søren Tolsgaard and it gives the reader an update of the total species list of the Heteroptera of Denmark with comments on changes since the previous list of 1974, and in addition, instructions for online information.

The Apollo Booksellers publication is a hard-cover of practical size which makes it handy even for long, hard and frequent use. But all in all, the book reflects the tremendous journey of one man, Lars Skipper, into the interesting and fascinating

realms of Danish true bugs, and he can be proud of the results achieved.

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