

BOOK REVIEWS

DELOYA LOPEZ, A. C., AND J. E. VALENZUELA (eds.) 1999. Catálogo de insectos y ácaros plaga de los cultivos agrícolas de México. Sociedad Mexicana de Entomología, Publicaciones especiales no. 1, Mexico, 174 p. ISBN 968-7801-03-4. Paperback. US\$15.00. (Send order with payment to Sociedad Mexicana de Entomología, A.C. Cuenta numero 1029054-8, Bancomer, S.A., Sucursal Coatepec (313), Veracruz, MEXICO, request a receipt, and make your return address evident; when you have the receipt from this bank, send a copy of it by fax to: ATTN: Cuauhtémoc Deloya, (28) 18-78-09, Xalapa, MEXICO. If the fax is being sent from the USA, precede the fax no. by the international access code and country code as 011-52-28-18-78-09. International telephone access codes from other countries vary. The book will be sent to you by registered mail).

This book calls itself a catalog of insect and mite pests of agriculture in Mexico, but it is much more than a catalog. In a catalog, we might expect a list of names of the pest species with indication of their distribution. In this book we have not merely a list, but we are provided with the colloquial names of the pests, the scientific and colloquial names of the plants that they attack, the part of the plant attacked is specified, and the distribution is given among Mexican states.

If the reader thinks that any competent entomologist could compile such a catalog from the literature on "economic entomology", think again. A compiler would encounter numerous errors that have been perpetuated in the literature because of incorrect identification and the incorrect use of names. This book is different because its chapters have been written by systematists who have provided a new synthesis. After an introduction by Deloya López, the chapters are on: Aphidoidea by Peña-Martínez; Thysanoptera by Johansen Naime & Mojica Guzman; Melolonthidae and Cerambycidae by Morón; Diptera by Hernández-Ortiz; Lepidoptera by Beutelspacher Baigts & Balcázar Lara; Formicidae by Quiroz Robledo; insects associated with grain and stored products by Gutierrez Díaz; and mites by Rodríguez Navarro. Each chapter has its own introduction with English translation of that introduction, and bibliography.

The book terminates in 2 tables and a general index. The first table has 3 columns: scientific name (arranged alphabetically) of the insects and mites, colloquial name, and order/family. The second table does almost the same for all the plants mentioned; it gives the family name, but not the order, of the plants; and in addition to listing the Spanish (Mexican) colloquial name for the plants, it gives the English (USA) name for some of them. The index provides the page reference(s) for the scientific names of the insects and mites.

Ordering information for this book may seem complex, but it avoids you having to send a bank draft for 100 Mexican pesos (the price of the book in Mexico). What would your bank charge you to provide you with such a draft, even assuming it would be willing to do so?

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For Internet-access only, subscription is \$170 anywhere in the world. Special personal rate for printed edition \$75 in the USA, \$90 elsewhere, and for Internet-access only \$60 anywhere. Further information is available from the publisher's website (<http://www.sciref.org/net/index.htm>).

If you are a systematist, this new abstracting serial may be your best way of staying current with the literature on the groups in which you are interested. If you like *Zoological Record*—but you don't like its expense, or you don't like waiting for its annual production—this new serial may be the one for you. Its coverage includes about 720 serial (“journals” and serially-numbered books and monographs) titles and continues to expand, and this list (yes, the list is printed) is far more than you are likely to browse in hope of finding something of interest. It gives the references to the papers describing new taxa (and taxa of changed status) in those 720 serials, notes the new taxa described in them (arranged by taxonomic category), gives a long table of author addresses, and produces an alphabetical table of new taxa, plus an index of geographical localities, plus an index of depositories (private as well as public collections). Its scope includes coverage of new taxa of parasites and pathogens of the insects (and arachnids and myriapods) listed, as well as newly described paleontological taxa.

Organization of the taxa is into 8 sections: A, Arachnida and Myriapoda; B, Orthopteroidea; C, Hemiptera (including Homoptera); D, Coleoptera; E, Diptera; F, Lepidoptera; G, Hymenoptera; and H, remaining insect orders. Section A is stated to include “Arachnida, Acari, and Myriapoda” perhaps to make plain that Acari are included, but it is not clear whether other non-crustacean arthropods are included (there is no mention, for example, of centipedes).

So you think that \$60 is a lot to pay for a personal Internet-access only to the taxonomic literature? By subscribing to *New Entomological Taxa* you might be able to cancel all your current subscriptions, and rely on this new serial to find all the new literature for you, and then request reprints (or offprints) by mail (or e-mail when the author's e-mail address is given). Would you not save money? If you still balk at \$60 per year, there is an even better deal for you: if you are interested in just one order of arthropods, you may obtain a personal subscription to literature just about the section (see paragraph above) including it, starting at a mere \$25 per year. That's \$2 per month to save you from searching hundreds of serials every month—even assuming you have access to those serials in your local library—and you now have access to most of the world's serial literature on new taxa in the arthropod order of greatest interest to you.

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MORON, M. A., AND AGUSTIN ARAGON (eds.) 1998. *Avances en el estudio de la diversidad, importancia y manejo de los coleópteros edafícolas americanos*. [Advances in the study of the diversity, importance, and management of American soil inhabiting beetles]. *Memorias de la V Mesa Redonda sobre Insectos Plaga Edafícolas* (12 al 14 de octubre de 1998). Benemerita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Puebla de Zaragoza, Puebla, Mexico. Sociedad Mexicana de Entomología. 184 p. ISBN 968-7801-02-6. Paperback. US \$15.00. [Send order with payment to Sociedad Mexicana de Entomología, A.C. Cuenta numero 1029054-8, Bancomer, S.A., Sucursal Coatepec (313), Veracruz, MEXICO. Request a receipt (be sure your return address is correct); on receipt send a copy by FAX to: Cuauhtémoc Deloya (28) 18-78-09, Xalapa, MEXICO.

FAX from US requires intern. access + country codes: 011-52-28-18-78-09. Codes differ by country. The book will be sent by registered mail.

This publication is a collection of 16 papers presented at a round table in October, 1998. It is remarkable that the finished book was printed by the end of the year. Obviously it was very well organized in order to have author's manuscripts in the hands of the printer immediately. Only 200 copies were printed. The editors were the organizers, as well as significant contributors. Only 1 paper is in English, the others in Spanish, with abstracts in Spanish and English.

The title is somewhat misleading in several ways. America here means south of the US, with which most Norteamericanos would quibble; 12 papers deal with Mexico, with 1 each for Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Uruguay. All papers deal exclusively with scarab beetles, with the Uruguay paper treating 2 species of weevils also. The many other soil "coleópteros" are not mentioned. Neither of these discrepancies detracts from the importance of the contents, but others would hope for it to be more extensive.

One of the editors (Morón) contributed as author or co-author to 6 of the 16 papers, as well as his role in organizing the roundtable and in editing the proceedings. His interests in the Scarabaeidae have created a new era in Mexican faunal studies, along with his students and colleagues. In 1986, he published his monumental 341-page book entitled "El genero *Phyllophaga* en Mexico" and published by the Instituto de Ecología, Mexico. Since that time he has continued his studies and to describe new species. Several papers in the present volume attest to the need for descriptions, mentioning new species in numbers over 100. Many more probably await discovery.

Although I personally decry the current movement to split up the "Scarabaeidae" into various components by raising many subfamilies to family rank, it may be a long time until these efforts stabilize. In this book, Melolonthidae is considered a family, with the Dynastinae a subfamily of it. Fourteen of the 16 papers deal with Melolonthidae (actually 13 on *Phyllophaga* and 1 on *Cyclocephala*); one discusses the use of *Bacillus popilliae* for biocontrol of *Phyllophaga*.

The book is divided into 3 sections: 1) Diversidad y distribución de coleópteros edafícolas [7]; 2) Importancia de los coleópteros edafícolas [6]; 3) Control de los coleópteros edafícolas [3] [numbers in brackets indicate number of articles]. The adults of *Phyllophaga* are often called May or June beetles, and the larvae are "white grubs". In Latin America they are called "gallina ciega". Adults do cause foliar damage to a wide variety of trees, but the most damaging stage is the larva. Because of the great number of undescribed species (based on adults), it is not surprising that larval identification is nearly impossible. One paper, by C. R. Salinas & A. E. Castro Ramírez, describes larvae of 6 species, by providing illustrations (including graphics of the characters), descriptions, and keys to separate these (from the highlands of Chiapas).

Larvae are reported as pests on sesame, rice, broccoli, sugarcane, onions, asparagus, beans, corn, potatoes, sorghum, tomatoes, other vegetables, pastures, and cultivated ornamental flowers. This roundtable is an important contribution to our understanding of these soil insects. Knowing that 254 species of *Phyllophaga* are known from Mexico; 71 from Guatemala (20 new); 60 from Costa Rica (17 new); 27 from Colombia; and more than 200 species from the US, the enormity of the problem is obvious. Continued studies should be encouraged and the results published as rapidly as this volume. Congratulations to all who contributed to its production.

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