

BOOK REVIEW

**Icones insectorum Europae centralis.
Coleoptera: Megalopodidae, Orsodacnidae,
Chrysomelidae: Donaciinae, Criocerinae**

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This slim hardback volume deals with some systematic groups of the beetle superfamily Chrysomeloidea, namely Megalopodidae, Orsodacnidae, Chrysomelidae Donaciinae and Criocerinae, with the aim of allowing the identification of the species of Central Europe by keys and pictures. The pictures consist of a series of high-quality colour photographs of all the species, as well as photos and line drawings of anatomical details for specific discrimination, such as male terminalia and spermatheca. After a brief introduction, we find a key for the families, subfamilies and tribes, and then keys for the species. The presence or absence of each species, according to current knowledge, in the seven Central European countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland) is reported in a list of the species. For some species, whose presence in Central Europe or in some countries in this area is doubtful, additional notes are provided. The text is bilingual, in Czech and English. Full use of the book is thus greatly facilitated for many more entomologists. The work also includes many useful bibliographic references and is embellished by reproductions of tables from classic works of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, with original pictures of species belonging to the families and subfamilies treated.

The publication of this book is an opportunity to spend a few words on the entire series of booklets on the beetles of Central Europe. This series, which is already providing valuable help, will become even more helpful when all issues are published, to identify all the species present in Central Europe but also a good number of species living in neighbouring geographical areas - such as northern Europe, France, northern Italy, etc. - sharing the same faunal elements.

Folia Heyrovskyana is an international journal published by V. Kabourek in the Czech Republic. The journal is named in honour of the late Dr Leo Heyrovský, a leading expert in world Cerambycidae. The Series B of

the journal publishes pictorial reviews of Central European insects. The publication of the booklets (generally brochures) dedicated to the Coleoptera began in 2005 (Mycetophagidae) and has continued regularly. It has now reached fascicle no. 30, dealing with some families of weevils (Brachyceridae, Dryophthoridae, Eirrhiniidae). Each brochure, with a variable number of pages (from a few units to a few dozen), takes into consideration one or more families or, in the case of very large families (e.g. Carabidae, Staphylinidae, Chrysomelidae, Curculionidae), single subfamilies. After an introduction on morphology, taxonomy and bio-ecology of the systematic group treated, with notes on identification criteria and on some species as well as useful bibliographic information, all booklets provide the complete set of high-quality photos of the species of the group, together with the overall list of the species, indicating the presence or absence in each country. Only some booklets, though, contain keys and photographic illustrations or drawings of morphological and anatomical details of discriminative value, so other and wider works with dichotomous keys, cited in each volume among the references, may be necessary for certain identifications. Each booklet is bilingual, in Czech and English.

To this day, about forty systematic groups (families or single subfamilies) of beetles have been treated, by some thirty authors. Within a dozen years, then, the booklets have covered about a quarter of the entire beetle fauna of the area considered. Those who are no longer young and would like to be able to consult the whole work one day should hope that the publication of the many booklets proceeds as quickly as possible, thanks to the contribution of the group of Czech coleopterists who started this commendable initiative.

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