

## BOOK REVIEW

THE BIOLOGY OF PSEUDOSCORPIONS. Peter Weygoldt, (Department of Biology, University of Freiburg, Germany) Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Harvard Books in Biology, No. 6, 1969. 145 pp. \$6.00

Dr. Weygoldt, in rewriting and expanding his "Moos-und Bücherskorpione" (Moss and Book Scorpions) into the present work, has presented the field of biology with its first self-contained comprehensive volume on the natural history of pseudoscorpions. The book, for this reason alone, will be a welcome addition to the libraries of biologists, behaviorists, and particularly arachnologists.

The large, detailed chapter on Reproduction and Development is particularly interesting and informative, as it should be, since this is Dr. Weygoldt's special field of investigation. It is unfortunate that this chapter, one of 11, comprises 71 pages of 132 pages of text but this is nothing more than a testimonial to Dr. Weygoldt's studies and an indication of the need for biological work on this interesting group of animals. Despite inadequacy in such areas as life cycles, life histories, locomotion, general behavior, feeding behavior, sensory reactions, and ecological niche requirements, the book contains much useful data for students of this and related groups of arachnids.

There are no more than the usual number of grammatical and typographical errors, which is unusual since English is not Dr. Weygoldt's native language. It is this reviewer's opinion, however, that the book has one major fault. That is in the organization, orientation, and direction of the subject matter. The chapter on Evolution and Systematics should have been placed after those entitled Introduction, External Morphology, and Internal Anatomy and Physiology as chapter 4. Further, it should have been expanded to permit identification of families and genera, and should have indicated the species content of genera. The remaining "biological" chapters could have been oriented and directed meaningfully and usefully toward genera and species.

The above comments and criticisms may well be referred to as picayune and trivial, as indeed they are, since Dr. Weygoldt's book focuses attention on the pseudoscorpions. This unquestionably will result in many additional studies in areas where our information is now inadequate. Congratulations on a fine stimulus, Dr. Weygoldt.

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