

One will question why *Eritettix simplex* received a section on variation, instead of having this topic discussed under recognition, as in the rest of the book. A paragraph labeled taxonomy appears sporadically for genera and species on pages 106 to 208. Since this subject is thoroughly covered in the appendices, it is extraneous to the text.

Appendices 1 through 3 deal with nomenclatural history of all species recognized in the text; changes made by Otte for this volume are conveniently collected in Appendix 1 as well as appearing in the genus (Appendix 2) and species (Appendix 3) treatments. Since name changes generally do not concern the non-specialist trying to put a name on a specimen, Otte has sensibly reserved them for the appendices (except as noted above).

Appendix 4 shows the trend acridologists have taken in placing genera in the Gomphocerinae instead of the Acridinae or Oedipodinae. Such higher taxon changes reflect the healthy influence of the new systematics on the understanding of grasshopper phylogeny; emphasis in Otte's book is placed on characters of fundamental importance such as stridulatory pegs on the hind femora.

Otte states that his classification scheme may be opposed by some specialists, but such is the case with any work of this kind. Very few typographical errors were found. The book will greatly facilitate identification of the acridid species for biologists of any discipline or level of expertise. One may jump at the price, however. The volume is not so large as to prohibit paper binding, which would make it much more economical and attainable. Volumes 2 and 3 should be watched for with anticipation.—SCOTT GROSS, Dept. of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611 USA.

INSECTS: AN ANTHOLOGY OF ARTHROPODS FEATURING A BOUNTY OF BEETLES. Paintings by B. Durin, introduction by P. A. Gette, and entomological commentary by G. Scherer. 1981. Hudson Hills Press, Inc., N. Y. \$50.00.

By far the outstanding feature of this book, *Insects*, is the collection of full-page, full-color paintings (32 of insects and 2 of arachnids) by the Frenchman, Bernard Durin. His paintings depict species from several insect orders—Diptera, Hemiptera, Homoptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, and Orthoptera; however, Coleoptera appear most often, comprising 16 of the 34 plates.

Durin's illustrations are rich with color and full of details such as pores, hairs, and even the tiniest tarsal claws. He has successfully rendered various textures and iridescent and metallic qualities often observed in insects. Moreover, his paintings are life-like and scientifically accurate. In several instances the insects appear to have momentarily paused on the page on their way to somewhere else.

A collection of quaint literary excerpts precedes Durin's illustrations. These, introduced by Paul Armand Gette, a French naturalist and natural scientist, are from the works of 21 Western authors including Fabre, Hardellet, and Thoreau. Gette himself discusses the history of the present day classification system and why early literature and art about insects included such creatures as arachnids.

Comments about each of Durin's paintings by the German entomologist Gerhard Scherer complete this book. Scherer's remarks range from folklore to facts about the life-history, behavior, and ecology of the insect. Possibly due to translation, there are some errors in the text. Cicadas are said to be members of the Orthoptera, and scarab antennae are said to be composed of lanellae rather than lamellae.

Insects, a book of insect paintings/illustrations of exceptional quality, sandwiched between morsels of literature about insects and scientific commentary, is a book that would enhance the library of any scientific illustrator, naturalist or insect enthusiast.—SUSAN WINERTER, Natural Science Illustrator, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA.