

Book Review

Insects of Panama and Mesoamerica. Selected Studies. Eds. D. Quintero and A. Aiello. Cary N.C.: Oxford University Press, 1992. 720 pp. \$195.

Fifty-two biologists assembled this work making use of their first-hand knowledge of the wide range of taxa covered in this first volume. As a result, they have provided the non-specialists in these groups with taxonomic treatments of representatives of the insects of Panama and Middle America. It may be of interest that the book is dedicated to Dr. Graham Bell Fairchild. "Sandy" is a charter member of the Center for Systematic Entomology.

The first two chapters are on the geology and biogeography of the area covered and provide a backdrop, past and present, for the remaining 40 chapters. The style of each specialist varies somewhat, but each section presents data in a consistent manner for each group treated. Each includes the taxonomy, ecology, and natural history of the taxa.

Not all orders of insects are covered in this volume. Twenty-one orders are included. The smaller orders are fully covered but the large orders are only partially complete. Chapter 3 is a guide to the Collembola of Panama and Costa Rica. Chapter 4 is a review of the genera of mayflies of Panama, with a checklist of Panamanian and Costa Rican species. Chapters 5 to 7 describe the Odonata of Panama and Costa Rica and the ecology of some of the damselflies. Chapter 8 is on the Plecoptera of Panama. Chapter 9 is on the Embioptera of Panama and includes descriptions of 10 new species. Chapters 10 and 11 are on 3 families of Orthoptera. Chapter 12 is about the Dermaptera of Panama. Chapters 13 and 14 provide an excellent review of the termites of the

area, including keys to genera. Chapter 15 is a review of the morphology, systematics, and biology of the Zoraptera. Chapter 16 is on the taxonomy of some of the Psocoptera. Chapters 17 to 20 are on Homoptera and Heteroptera, including an interesting chapter on the marine Heteroptera of the Eastern Tropical Pacific. Chapter 21 provides a biological catalogue and bibliography of the Thysanoptera of Panama. Chapters 22 to 26 treat some of the families of Coleoptera. We hope work on this group will be expanded in a future volume. Chapter 27 is on the Strepsiptera of Panama and Mesoamerica. Chapter 28 discusses the neuropteroid orders of Central America and provides keys to the families and genera of the Central American Neuropteroidea. Chapters 29 to 31 are on a few families of Hymenoptera. Chapters 32 and 33 include a catalogue of the Trichoptera of Panama, as well as a review of the classification and biology of the neotropical microcaddisflies. There are 4 chapters on Lepidoptera, including a catalogue of the Nymphalinae of Panama. Chapter 39 is on the mecopteran family Bittacidae. Three families of Diptera are covered in chapters 40 to 42.

The book is illustrated by more than 1260 line drawings, distribution maps, and black and white photographs. Abstracts of each chapter in English and Spanish are provided.

For those interested in the diversity of the entomological fauna of middle America, this book is an invaluable source of information. We encourage the editors to continue the series.

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