BOOK REVIEW

Reinhard Gerecke, Terence Gledhill, Vladimir Pešić, Harry Smit: Chelicerata: Acari III. – In: Reinhard Gerecke (ed.): Süßwasserfauna von Mitteleuropa 7/2-3

429 pages with 129 plates, paperback. ISBN: 978-3-8274-1893-7 (print), 978-3-8274-2689-5 (e-book). Springer Heidelberg Dordrecht London New York, 2016

The book is the third and final part of the Chelicerata in the series of 'Süßwasserfauna von Mitteleuropa (Freshwater fauna of Middle Europe)'. Now it is complete after about nine years. The content and layout follows the previous volumes with the exception of the cover what may give the series a break from external view. Central Europe is considered in a more expanded form like in the previous parts.

Two remaining superfamilies are discussed, Hygrobatoidea and Arrenuroidea which include 10 and 11 families respectively. A total of 355 species reported from the studied area. Keys lead from superfamilies through families, subfamilies, genera and subgenera to species level. The keys are determination aids for the work in the field and laboratory but are not phylogenetic. The taxa above species level are provided with diagnoses and each species is represented by a standardized redescription and supplemented by drawings mostly of the entire animal and detailed figures of distinctive features. The drawings arranged in 129 plates with many individual figures (subdivided with letters), increase them to an estimated amount of 1,200 single figures. The descriptions have a clear language and the drawings give a good impression of the important details. In some cases, reference is made to similar species and differences are discussed. Also details given to habitat, biology and general distribution. Preadult stages are not described but cited by references.The book ends just as in the previous parts with the references and taxonomic index. Some schematic drawings of general hydrachnid features of the different superfamilies, a key to the superfamilies, glossary and some addenda and corrigenda to the parts one and two of the series are added.

The huge scope of the work suggests that some errors might creep in. But really only few are detected. Wrong image link of *Aturus barbatulus* 9-9-d-e should refer in fact to 9-1-h-i. Another error occurs in the back cover where the sum of the species given as 242 and 113 for the superfamilies Hygrobatoidea and Arrenuroidea respectively. But a recount gives 241 and 114. Some bibliographic details from the synonymic lists are misunderstood, e.g. cited page 690 for *Aturus crinitus* is a confusion with the running number of the issue (685–710 for the volume XXVI in 1902/03) but correct page is 155. Some species mentioned with no direct central European distribution, e.g. *Kongsbergia vietsi* restricted to Ireland. The marine members of the genera *Nautarachna*, *Pontarachna* and *Litarachna* may be exceptionally treated because they belong to these superfamilies but this is an acceptable contradiction to the title of the series. In addition the list of synonyms does not cite the full original combination, sometimes subgenera are omitted and main species names of taxa originally described as varieties or subspecies too. Improvement of the layout may avoid to the laborious scroll back and forth for the comparison of the descriptions with their figures.

This highly specialized series is a comprehensive tool for the study of central European freshwater mites and gives newcomers and amateurs as well as professionals access for determination of the animals in this group but it does not exclude great exercise with this tiny creatures; it is only limited useful for nomenclatural research but this was not target of the series. Recourse is highly recommended in complicated situations to the referenced literature. However, the authors are to certify a good job and it is hoped that their engagement radiates to scientist of other animal groups. Surely, the series will get a standard place on the shelves of the Central European hydracarologists for a long time.

Karl-Heinz Schmidt, Oderwitz

ISSN 1864-6417 (print) · **ISSN** 2509-9523 (digital)