

the same source, the reliance on names supplied by commercial dealers, which in turn are generally those supplied from the source, unmistakably the least likely place from which to have confidence in verified and valid scientific names. The use of commercially available species for production of the focal point of this book, the photographs, is understandable, but to do so without checking the identification, synonymy and orthography of the species names could have been done relatively easily since there are only six families involved.

Literature Cited

Boháč, V., and J. R. Winkler. 1964. A book of beetles. Spring Books, London. 153 pp.
Reitter, E. 1961. Beetles. Translation by P. Hamlyn. E. Reitter, London. 205 pp.

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BOOK REVIEW

LAROCHELLE, A. AND L. M.-C LARIVIÈRE. 2001. **Carabidae (Insecta: Coleoptera) catalogue.** Fauna of New Zealand, Ko te Aitanga Pepeke o Aotearoa. Number 43. Manaaki Whenua Press. Lincoln, New Zealand. ISBN 0-473-09342-x. Available from Manaaki Whenua Press, P.O. Box 40, Lincoln 8152, New Zealand (www.mwpress.co.nz). Price: US\$72.50.

A lack of a recent taxonomic catalog and the high level of endemism—92% of the species—are the fundamental reasons given for producing this catalog. In addition, the authors state that they wish to provide not just a list of taxa, but a compendium of knowledge usable by specialists and non-specialists, systematists and other biologists. Also, other interrelated goals of this catalog listed by the authors are to provide easy information retrieval, data synthesis and to supply necessary data for testing of environmental relationships in carabid beetles.

The well written Popular Summary and Introduction sections place the New Zealand fauna in context of the family as a whole. The introductory section expands on the information covered in the summary and includes concisely written subsections on the history of carabid beetle taxonomy in New Zealand, a discussion of the higher classification, of geographical distribution, faunal composition and biogeographical affinities, ecology, biology and dispersal abilities. The information provided in Methods and Conventions leaves no questions about how data was gathered and is presented in the catalog. This section together with the glossary, provided in an appendix, make clear the meaning and intent of the authors.

The meat of the catalog is the 114 pages that treat each species and higher taxon, including under each; taxonomic information, geographical distribution, ecology, biology, dispersal power, references and any additional notes. This is followed by nine appendices that complete the nomenclatorial information for New Zealand carabids (including even doubtful records), present taxa and areas in variously sorted checklists and a list of the “main localities” with their geographical coordinates. The catalog is illustrated with clearly rendered drawings of exemplars of each tribe, seven larger summary maps and smaller distributional maps for all species.

Clearly this is much more than a simple catalog. The authors have achieved their goals, and the product a fine and extremely useful work. Their attention to details, including all the small amenities, *e.g.*, quick thumb-tab marks to major sections, make it very easy to retrieve information on a particular taxon. It is very important to note that this is not just a collection of published data. It includes much new data in the form

of field and specimen observations, everything from behaviors to records of epicuticular fungi. The authors draw on collecting personally done in more than 400 sites over the last eight years. It is obvious that this is the product of excellent catalogers with a great passion for carabid beetles.

There are only a few disappointing features of this catalog, and they are minor. First, numbers of endemic and adventive taxa are recorded for genera as well as species (*e.g.*, table 3). Since almost no austral genera have been studied in sufficient detail to establish monophyly and sister-group relationships, any comparison of generic numbers would be specious. It would have been best to not provide these totals and not contribute to their misuse. Second, the choice of geographic areas, or rather the acceptance of previously established areas published by Crosby *et al.* (1979, 1998), was not explained in terms of their relationships to carabid beetles. This makes it seem an arbitrary decision and is connected to my last complaint, the lack of topographic and/or vegetation maps. Distribution is tied to both history and ecology. Distributions represented as dots on maps are much more meaningful when presented relative to the physical aspects and habitats of the land mass. I found it necessary to refer to an atlas when referencing the distribution maps. In a work otherwise so complete, one good map is wanting.

It is the only work of its kind, covering in great detail an entire fauna of a highly endemic nature. Well produced on good paper and solidly bound, it is a modestly priced paperback. I conclude that it is a must for anyone interested in Carabidae and/or the insect fauna of New Zealand.

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