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BOOK NOTICE

LINDROTH, CARL H.(†). The Carabidae of Fennoscandia and Denmark. *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica*, 15 (1): 1–225 (1985), and 15 (2): 233–495, with an appendix on the Family Rhysodidae, pp. 496–497 (1986). E. J. Brill, Publishers, Scandinavian Science Press Ltd., P.O. Box 9000, 2300 PA, The Netherlands. Price: \$30.25 (U.S.), each part.

This two-part volume was completed some seven years after the death of the author, Carl H. Lindroth, that remarkably talented Swedish entomologist, who contributed so extensively to the literature of Holarctic taxonomy, ecology, and biogeography. The manuscript for the present volume, incomplete at the time of Lindroth's death, was completed by an international group of his colleagues, acknowledged on the title page: F. Bangsholt, R. Baranowski, T. L. Erwin, P. Jørum, B.-O. Landin, D. Refseth, and H. Silfverberg. Their contributions were appreciable, as is generally true of those who accept the task of completing the work begun by another.

The fine series, of which this volume is a part, provides faunistic treatments intended primarily for species identification, but additionally as something of an introduction to the treated taxon, so that a novice reader could use it as the basis for more extensive studies. Thus, in the first 23 pages of this volume are found in addition to advice about "collecting", "killing and mounting", "labelling", "notes on identification" and "distribution and state of knowledge" (of the Fennoscandian-Danish [*i.e.*, Nordic] species), a general discussion of natural history of carabids, notes about larval characters, the system of carbid classification in general, comments about the principles and practice of nomenclature, and a review of the literature about Nordic Carabidae that will serve as a context for more extended reading. There is also a "new classification of Carabidae" (after Erwin and Sims) that introduces a user to a thoroughly up to date arrangement of higher taxa of Carabidae. The extensive bibliography, which ends the text in Part 2, is also a valuable source of information for more extended reading about carabids.

Five hundred and fourteen excellent black and white illustrations grace the pages of this volume. For most genera, a habitus illustration is provided of a typical adult of the taxon. Diagnostic features of most taxa are illustrated, including details of form of head, various thoracic and abdominal sclerites, elytra, legs, and genitalia. In addition, eight plates of excellent photographs illustrate not only habitus but also color and luster of the dorsal surfaces of adults of 130 species. Most of the line drawings came from the pen of the gifted author, but many of the habitus drawings are labelled "After Victor Hansen".

A conservative traditional classification serves as the basis for arrangement of taxa, beginning with tiger beetles and ending with bombardier beetles. Supraspecific categories used throughout are subfamily, tribe and genus. The five subfamilies and 23 tribes of the Nordic fauna are characterized very succinctly in terms of structural

features, and with generalized statements about geographical distribution for some of these taxa, as well. The 63 genera are more fully treated, including notes about life history features common to the included species.

The subgeneric category is used for eight genera, five of which are markedly diverse, with 20 or more species in the Nordic area. For the more diverse genera, the utility of using a lower ranking supraspecific category is clear. It is less clear why the author used that category for some of the less diverse genera. Thus, subgenera hardly seem necessary in a work of this scope for *Calathus* (seven species), *Badister* (nine species), and *Dromius* (14 species).

Most supraspecific taxa recognized are in accord with Lindroth's previous publications. In the Pterostichini, however, I noted that *Dolichus* Bonelli is given generic status, though it was previously combined with *Calathus* Bonelli-- correctly so, I believe.

Each of the 400 species is designated consecutively by number. For each, a brief description is provided, featuring color and easily observed structural details that characterize the adults and that are of maximum use in identification. For many species of *Bembidion* and of difficult groups in other genera, diagnostic details of the male genitalia are also recorded. Short accounts of geographical distribution, both within and beyond the Nordic area, and of "biology", complement the morphological description, to provide in total a very clear and compact characterization of each species.

Following the taxonomic portion of the text in each Part is a matrix giving the Nordic distribution of each species included, in terms of country and region within each country. Location of each of the regions is clearly indicated on maps printed on the front and back endpapers of each Part.

The text is in English, throughout. The print, on good quality paper, is easy to read. The binding, of stiff cardboard coated with emerald green paper seems excellent and designed for long use.

This book must be on the shelves of all Nordic coleopterists, ought to be owned by carabid specialists wherever they may live, and biological bibliophiles will find it a welcome addition to their collections.

My memories of Carl Lindroth are still so vivid that I find it hard to believe he is no longer alive. The appearance of this excellent volume, written in his style and containing many of the figures that he drew makes it no easier for me to accept the fact that we will never see him again. Though he is gone physically, his many-splendored life continues to reward and inspire those of us fortunate enough to have known him. His published works, including the one reviewed here, provide evidence, to those who came too late to know him personally, of his remarkable qualities as a systematic entomologist.

George E. Ball