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#### Book Review

Malicky, H. 1983. Atlas of European Trichoptera/ Atlas der europäischen Köcherfliegen/ Atlas des Trichoptères d'Europe. Series Entomologica 24, x + 298 pp. Dr. W. Junk Publishers, The Hague, Boston, London. ISBN 90-6193-134-7. Dfl. 175.00 (\$US 76.00 approx.).

The word 'European' in the context of the title of this book refers to a trichopteran faunal region which includes Europe, parts of the U.S.S.R. east of the Urals, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Africa north of the Sahara desert. Text is minimal: there are no keys or descriptions. This picture book provides a basis for rapid identification of adults from the geographic area embraced.

Illustrations consist of standard aspects of male and female genitalia, and individual sclerites of the reproductive organs for all taxa, and of wing venation and other structures of some taxa. Information about other structures (i.e., presence or absence of ocelli, number of spurs, et cetera) is provided in coded form adjacent to the illustrations for each species, as is information about geographical distribution.

The coding system is explained with examples on page 3, and a table of symbols (as distinct from numbers also used for some parts) is given on each end-paper.

Formal keys are not provided, but a table on page 2 that functions as a key indicates distribution among taxa of character states of spur formula, ocelli, and number of segments of the maxillary palpus. This provides a quickly perceived entry to those sections of the illustrations which deal with particular genera, and portions of particular families. For the Limnephilidae, a similar table on page 151 indicates distribution among taxa of character states of the spur formula.

The text, contained on pages v- x, is entitled 'How to use this book', and is repeated in English, German, and French. It is written in telegraphic style. Other than this text, all explanations of symbols or the encoding of data accompanying illustrations is also in these three languages, and in the sequence mentioned above.

The book closes with: 1) references to sources of illustrations either taken directly from the publication, or of which the originals were borrowed; 2) a taxonomic index to families and genera.

Illustrations of species are organized by family and genus, and by species group for the more highly diverse genera. Also, for the more highly diverse genera, illustrations of females are grouped separately from those of males. Each group of illustrations is headed by the appropriate generic and familial name, and on the same line is given coded information about the taxon in question. This line is set off by an underline that extends with the width of the page. Each species is identified by specific epithet, author, year of original publication, and some coded information, all on one line. Drawings are from various sources, and many are accompanied by arrows or pointers which indicate key characters to observe in identification. This is similar to the system used in the Peterson field-guide series to indicate such features.

To the following points I take exception.

1). As all illustrations are not Malicky's, they are presented in a multiplicity of styles. This jars the sense to some extent, and makes for potential difficulty in comparison of species, a point made by Malicky in the introduction. A single style would have been preferable. However, this would have required a single artist, and the resulting delay in completion of the illustrations would have delayed for a long time completion of the book.

2). I can foresee that users of this book will wield their pencils busily, marking off the limits of illustrations of one species from those of another. This will not be required throughout, but I

note some pages on which it is difficult to tell where illustrations for one species end and those of the next begin.

3). In at least the more highly diverse (e.g. *Rhyacophila* and *Limnephilus*) illustrations of females are placed together, several pages away from those of the males. I would have preferred to have illustrations of both sexes of each species together. However, I recognize that there are advantages to grouping illustrations by sex rather than by species.

4). A system of symbols, however simplified, is a barrier to understanding, until it has been thoroughly learned. Thus, it might have been preferable to use a less telegraphic way of presenting the information about taxa. However, Malicky's system of symbols renders the information available to three linguistic communities, using a minimum of space.

5). I dislike the practice of having generic names and specific epithets in the same typeface as all other print in the book because I have difficulty in distinguishing these names for what they are. Thus, use of italics would have been preferable for scientific names.

6). Within the more highly diverse genera, the species are arranged in species groups. This is appropriate for making comparisons. However, given the separation of illustrations of structures of males and females, and given that females do not necessarily show in their features sufficient community for similar groupings, it is difficult to locate the appropriate female illustrations to go with the male. One has to search each and every name on the pages with illustrations of females to make the necessary associations. Provision of a simple index of specific epithets would have obviated this difficulty.

7). The species within species groups ought to have been arranged alphabetically. Although the names of genera are not arranged alphabetically, an appropriate index is provided.

8). On page 3 (on which lay-out of coded information for each genus or species is explained), I find it irritating that two examples are given of the use of a family name, followed by a generic name, and that genus does not belong in that family! These are: LEPIDOSTOMATIDAE: PLECTROCNEMIA, and MOLANNIDAE: LARCASIA. It seems more appropriate to use correct information for examples.

These faults do not detract from the importance and value of this book. Malicky states that this is not a review of classification of the European Trichoptera, but rather the first compendium prepared since McLachlan's work of the 1870's. It is indeed a worthy, though rather different, successor to McLachlan's publication.

This book will be of use to all those who study the European fauna of aquatic insects: ecologists, ethologists, morphologists, and, not least, taxonomists. These workers require accurate identifications of caddis fly adults, and this book, used with care, makes such identifications possible. For those who are not primarily specialists on the European fauna, the book will provide the basis for obtaining a general notion of diversity of European caddis flies, and structural divergence of the adults.

Physically, the book is of larger size than is usual. It is hardbound, set up in signatures and properly stitched for durability. The paper is clear white, strong, and unglazed (thus, no glare from the surface).

Given today's prices, the cost is reasonable in terms of what one is getting.

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