

BOOK REVIEW

SAKALIAN, VLADIMIR P. 2003. **A Catalogue of the Buprestidae of Bulgaria (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)**. Zoocartographica Balcanica, Volume 2, Pensoft Publishers, Sofia, Bulgaria, 1–246 pp., 179 plates (maps). Price: \$38.00 US; hardbound.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the first catalogue of the Buprestidae of Bulgaria since that of Obenberger in the 1930s. The relatively brief introduction presents a short history of published distribution of species in Bulgaria, numbers of species found there, and taxonomic treatment.

Throughout this book, the author provides the countries in which the species is distributed, and then talks about subspecies distribution. This is confusing and taxa considered should have been limited to only those that actually occur in Bulgaria. If a subspecies does not occur in Bulgaria, then it should have been omitted as this is beyond the scope of the book.

There are other apparent enigmas in this book. Most species headings are in bold print but others are not, and the reasons for these differences are not stated in the introduction. An explanation would have been helpful. Each heading not in bold is in brackets and these are likely the taxa that are questionably found in Bulgaria. Bibliographic citations to original descriptions and higher taxa are not provided, and it certainly appears that many subsequent works also are not cited. Some references are made to infrasubspecific categories that are no longer recognized by the ICZN.

Sakalian seems to have followed the higher classification scheme established by Bellamy (1985), which is now out of date. Bellamy's more recent book (2003) on the higher classification of the Buprestoidea is the most recent thought on this subject.

The distribution maps of species are not clear. Grids overlay all maps, and there are latitude and longitude marks on the sides, top and bottom of all maps. In addition, there are two letter abbreviations on the maps representing different geographical areas. In the localities paragraphs following the discussion of each species, the localities are marked with two letters followed by two numbers. There is no explanation of what the numbers mean. It would have been better, I believe, to have simply used the latitude and longitude rather than the confusing grids, letters and numbers.

Works written in English by non-native born English speakers need to be reviewed by a taxon specialist whose native language is English. Although the acknowledgements suggest that one native English speaker did review the manuscript, many errors were missed.

Despite my few criticisms, this book will likely be useful to those interested in the Buprestidae of the Balkan Peninsula and adds to the growing number of catalogues and checklists of Buprestoidea known from various geographic areas throughout the world. This catalogue fills a void where only scattered data are available for hosts and distribution of species in the Balkan area.

Literature Cited

Bellamy, C. L. 1985. A catalogue of the higher taxa of the family Buprestidae (Coleoptera). Navorsing van die Nasionale Museum, Bloemfontein 4(15):406–472.

Bellamy, C. L. 2003. An illustrated summary of the higher classification of the superfamily Buprestoidea (Coleoptera). Folia Heyrovskyana Supplementum 10: 1–197.

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