

BOOK REVIEW

BELLAMY, C. L. 2008. **A World Catalogue and Bibliography of the Jewel Beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestoidea), Volume 1–5.** Pensoft, Sofia-Moscow. Price: € 120 per volume (or a discounted price of € 540 for all five volumes) plus postage and handling. Available from Pensoft Publishers: www.pensoft.net; info@pensoft.net.

Volumes published to date:

BELLAMY, C. L. 2008. **A World Catalogue and Bibliography of the Jewel Beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestoidea), Volume 1: Introduction; Fossil Taxa; Schizopodidae; Buprestidae: Julodinae – Chrysochroinae: Poecilnotini.** Pensoft, Sofia-Moscow, 1–626.

BELLAMY, C. L. 2008. **A World Catalogue and Bibliography of the Jewel Beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestoidea), Volume 2: Chrysochroinae: Sphenopterini through Buprestinae: Stigmoderini.** Pensoft, Sofia-Moscow, 627–1260.

BELLAMY, C. L. 2008. **A World Catalogue and Bibliography of the Jewel Beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestoidea), Volume 3: Buprestinae: Pterobothrini through Agrilinae: Rhaeboscelina.** Pensoft, Sofia-Moscow, 1261–1932.

BELLAMY, C. L. 2008. **A World Catalogue and Bibliography of the Jewel Beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestoidea), Volume 4: Agrilinae: Agrilina through Trachyini.** Pensoft, Sofia-Moscow, 1933–2684.

This comprehensive and defining work is a five volume series. The last volume will contain the bibliography and index, and it is due in early 2009. The volumes are sturdily bound and printed on high quality semi-glossy paper. Truly a labor of love, they represent 25 years of painstaking work containing a wealth of information, well beyond that found in most catalogues. The extensive list of acknowledgments is indicative of the thoroughness of Dr. Bellamy's investigation. Coverage is for the widespread and popular Buprestidae, which is the 8th largest beetle family in the world, and the small family Schizopodidae, species of which are restricted to the southwestern United States and Baja California Norte, Mexico. Volume 1 begins with fossil species included in genera not treated by modern nomenclature—fossil taxa in extant genera are included therein in each volume—then treats the tribes Schizopodini and Dystaxiini of Schizopodidae, and the following subfamilies and tribes in Buprestidae: Julodinae; Polycestinae: tribes Haplostethini, Acmaeoderini, Ptosimini, Paratrachyini, Thrincopygini, Polycetesini, Bulini, Perucolini, Polycetini, Tyndarini, Xyroselidini, Prosperini and Astraeni; Galbellinae; Buprestinae: tribes Vadonaxiini, Paratassini, Chrysochroini, Evidini, Paraleptodemini, and Poecilnotini. Volume 2 treats Chalcophorinae: tribes Sphenopterini and Dicerini; Buprestinae, tribes Mendizabaliini, Maoraxiini, Julodimorphini, Nascionini, Epistomentini, Buprestini, Exagistini, Phrixiini, Bubastini, and Stigmoderini. Volume 3 begins with treatment of the “*AglaoStola* branch” of Buprestinae, including the genera *AglaoStola*, *Hilarotes* and *Spectralia*, then treats the tribes Pterobothrini, Thomassetiini, Kisanthobiini, Trigonogeniini, Coomaniellini, Curidini, Melobasini, Anthaxiini, Xenorhipidini, Melanophilini, Actenodini, and Chrysobothrini; Agrilinae, tribes Coraebini and Agrilini (part). Volume 4 treats Agrilinae, tribes Agrilini (part; mostly *Agrilus*, with 2,784 species!), Aphanisticini, and Trachyini.

A comprehensive and detailed 21-page introduction provides a discussion for understanding and using this highly informative catalogue. It refers to all five volumes and includes, among other subjects, the foundation of the family Buprestidae based on the work of Linnaeus; an index to past catalogues and monographs of the family; format of the catalogue; abbreviations and terms; type information, including type species, and codens for public and some private collections, including type repositories of species described by major historical authors; alternative spellings and citations; arrangement, author names, sources and other details concerning the bibliography; certain changes made by the 1999 International Code of Zoological Nomenclature; biogeographical regions (not provided for subspecies, as usually they are the same); place names, including a discussion of older names vs. those now in use; and classification structure of the Buprestoidea, for which a basic scheme down to the level of subtribe is listed on pp. 23–24. Where applicable and/or

available, under each species and subspecies in the catalogue information is provided on its citation in the Zoological Record, subgeneric or species-group placement, distribution, type repository, and references to biology/bionomy, immatures and phylogeny. Host data is not included. Extensive bibliographical citations, including page numbers and figures (at least where those were included in the original descriptions of species), are provided at all taxon levels. In addition to the usual practice of listing all synonyms under each species, unavailable names also are listed. According to the introduction, taxa down to the level of subtribe are listed phylogenetically, and genera are arranged under their respective higher taxon with the nominate genus first, then the remainder geographically. However, by inserting the categories of “branch,” “lineage” and “generic group” of Volkovitsh (2001, *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae biologiae*, 86:43–169), which as the author himself stated “have no validity in modern systematics,” the placement sometimes has been confused. For example, on p. 829 of Volume 2 under the subtribe *Dicercina* I would expect the genus *Dicerca* to immediately follow. However, the “*Psiloptera* generic group” is inserted, then instead of the genus *Psiloptera* comes *Chalcopocila*. *Dicerca* appears on p. 973 after “*Dicerca* generic group.” This arrangement is confusing to me, especially since a nominate genus group name may not match its respective higher taxon (e.g., *Ocypetes vis-à-vis* *Tylauchenina*). I suspect there are other such inconsistencies, but I did not check thoroughly. In my opinion the categories of Volkovitsh (*op. cit.*) should not have been placed within the catalogue itself, and I would have preferred to see the genera arranged alphabetically as, thankfully, are the species. Such would make it easier for the author and the reader; however there may be those who say none of it matters when there will be an index!

In a meticulous work of this size and complexity, and especially given the protracted length of time needed to bring it to fruition, one would expect minor errors of commission and omission. I found what I consider to be relatively few. The author is aware of them and others, and they will be included in an “Errata” section of Volume 5. However, there is an inconsistency that provokes me to comment further. Admirably, going beyond what is found in most catalogues as this one does, the author provides biogeographical regions for each species when sufficient distributional data are known. However, his introductory remarks state that “México includes the Nearctic in the northern deserts and the Neotropical for the remainder.” Reading on, Nearctic is defined as “North American into northern Mexico, including Baja California (Norte)” and Neotropical is defined as “Mexico, including Baja California Sur, to subtropical South America.” This is applied inconsistently, sometimes even on the same catalogue page. From what I have been able to ascertain in the treatment for species occurring in Mexico, only the State of Baja California was referred to the Nearctic, and more often that state was included as being Neotropical. I found one example of Baja California Sur being attributed to the Nearctic. This inconsistency may occur with other biogeographical regions defined in the catalogue, such as between Neotropical and Patagonian, but I am not sufficiently knowledgeable of their faunas to make an accurate assessment. Nevertheless, this is more of an annoyance than something to detract from what is otherwise an accurate and extremely useful work.

In my opinion, likely the only important drawback seems to be price; the catalogue is expensive. While some individual “buprestophiles” may not be able to afford it now, they should start a special savings plan to purchase. Given that the last world catalogue to the family is outdated by 70 to 80 years, is not widely available, and provided much less information on the species treated, Dr. Bellamy’s work is a “must have” for anyone doing serious work on the Buprestidae. It belongs in scientific and university libraries throughout the world. Those who cannot now afford the catalogue should budget for it.

Richard L. Westcott, *Entomologist Emeritus, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Salem, OR 97301, U.S.A., rwestcot@oda.state.or.us*

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