

Buchbesprechungen

11. Laroche, A. & M.-C. Larivière: Carabidae (Insecta: Coleoptera): catalogue. – Fauna of New Zealand 43. Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln, N.Z., 2001. 285 pp. ISSN 0111-5383.

The ground beetle fauna of New Zealand is a small one in terms of the number of species, but what it lacks in size it makes up for uniqueness, because more than 92 % of the occurring species are endemic. Likewise it includes a great number of little known, “antarctic” faunal elements that are very interesting in the light of phylogeny and historical biogeography of the large beetle family Carabidae. Thus, the lack of recent and likewise modern information about this highly interesting fauna for a long time hampered any phylogenetic and biogeographic reasoning about the carabid fauna of the Australian region, especially about those faunal elements that make up the circumpolar so-called “antarctic” faunal element. Thanks to the efforts of the well known specialist A. Laroche and his co-worker this severe deficiency has been filled with the most recent information that now enables workers to begin again serious work on this fauna and, in particular, to know where additional taxonomic work is needed.

This catalogue altogether includes 424 species recorded from New Zealand and the surrounding island groups (Antipodes, Auckland, Bounty, Campbell, Chatham, Kermadec, Snares, and Three Kings). Following to a checklist of taxa the authors give an extensive introduction into the New Zealand carabid fauna, including some remarks on higher classification, affinity of the fauna and ecology, and lists of endemic genera and species and of those genera and species shared with Australia and other areas of the Australian region. The catalogue of the species is quite extensive and gives the geographic distribution arranged in altogether 35 very restricted areas. Short information about ecology, biology and dispersal power are followed by rather extensive references to certain aspects of each species. 27 pages of references include full information about all aspects of the carabid fauna of New Zealand. A glossary of technical terms, a list of nomina nuda and of unjustified emendations, a list of incorrectly or doubtfully recorded species, geographical coor-

dinate of the main localities, an alphabetical list of species and a list of species by areas, a list of type localities by areas, 24 habitus drawings of representatives of all genera, distribution maps of all species, and a taxonomic index present exhaustive information of any sort.

Certainly this is an extremely accurate, well prepared and extensive source for anybody interested not only in any aspect of the carabid fauna of New Zealand, but likewise in that of the Australian region as a whole.

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12. Stebnicka, Z. T.: Aphodiinae (Insecta: Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). – Fauna of New Zealand 42. Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln, N.Z., 2001. 64 pp. ISSN 0111-5383.

Contrary to many other insect groups, more than half of the 20 species of Aphodiinae (Dung beetles) of New Zealand are either accidentally or deliberately introduced. Although most introduced species probably came from Australia, some are almost cosmopolitan, anthropogenic species that flourish due to the introduction of several species of European mammals. More interesting from the phylogenetic and biogeographic point of view are the indigenous species that either belong to relict groups or to groups with southern, so-called “antarctic” distribution.

The well known specialist for the dung beetle subfamily Aphodiinae, Z. Stebnicka, gives a full revision of the fauna, including an introduction into the subfamily containing much information about morphology, biology, biogeography, and collecting methods, a key to all occurring species, and extensive revisionary descriptions of all genera and species. Two species are described as new and two new synonymies are proposed. A rather extensive bibliography, many habitus figures and photographs, pictures of the epipharynx and the male genitalia, distribution maps for all species in the approved manner of this series, and a taxonomic index conclude this book that for good reasons could be called a revision.

A fine, well illustrated work that gives full information about a small, though interesting beetle group.

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