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Three new species of the genus *Coleolissus* BATES from New Guinea (Coleoptera, Carabidae, Harpalini)

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Abstract

Three new species of the harpaline genus *Coleolissus* BATES, 1892 are described from New Guinea and New Ireland: *C. biakensis* nov.sp. from Biak Island, Papua Indonesia, *C. missai* nov.sp. from Papua New Guinea, and *C. novaeirlandicus* nov.sp. from New Ireland. The first and the third species are closely related to *C. papua* DARLINGTON, 1968 from mainland New Guinea and Australia, the second to *C. angulatus* DARLINGTON, 1968. For the species of *Coleolissus* from the Papuan subregion a new key is provided.

Zusammenfassung

Drei neue Arten der Harpalinen-Gattung *Coleolissus* BATES, 1892 werden aus Neuguinea und New Ireland beschrieben: *C. biakensis* nov.sp. vom Biak Island, Papua Indonesia, *C. missai* nov.sp. aus Papua New Guinea und *C. novaeirlandicus* nov.sp. von New Ireland. Die erste und die dritte Art sind nah mit *C. papua* DARLINGTON, 1968 von der Hauptinsel New Guinea und aus Australien verwandt, die zweite mit *C. angulatus* DARLINGTON, 1968. Für die Arten der Gattung *Coleolissus* aus der Papuanischen Subregion wird ein neuer Bestimmungsschlüssel gegeben.

Introduction

The harpaline genus *Coleolissus* BATES, 1892 is widely distributed from south Asia through the Indonesian insular belt to New Guinea and north-eastern Australia. According to LORENZ (2005) presently 21 species of the nominate subgenus are described. From New Guinea so far two species were recorded, namely *C. papua* DARLINGTON, 1968 and *C. angulatus* DARLINGTON, 1968, and the first species is also known from north-eastern Queensland, Australia (MOORE et al. 1987). The species are medium sized to rather large, of characteristic body shape, *i.e.* with rounded basal angle of the wide, depressed pronotum, angulate or shortly denticulate elytral apex, glossy surface, and several setiferous punctures on the 3rd interval of the elytra.

Specimens of *Coleolissus* apparently are quite rarely collected, on whatever reasons. Also their habits are not well documented, but, according to information by W. PAARMANN and to subsequent personal experience in North Queensland, specimens have been found eating mellow fruits fallen down to the ground in rain forest. DARLINGTON (1968) also records specimens flying to light.

Through courtesy of various collectors I received a small number of specimens from different parts of the Papuan Subregion, which turned out to belong to three new species, that are described in the present paper.

Methods

In the taxonomic survey standard methods are used. For dissecting the genitalia, the specimens were relaxed overnight in a jar under moist atmosphere, then cleaned for a short while in 10% KOH. The habitus photographs were obtained by a digital camera using ProgRes CapturePro 2.6 and AutoMontage and subsequently were worked with Corel Photo Paint 14.

Measurements were taken using a stereo microscope with an ocular micrometer. Body length was measured from apex of labrum to apex of elytra, length of pronotum along midline, length of elytra in a straight line from the most produced part of the humerus to the most produced part of the apex.

The types of the new species are stored in the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles, Bruxelles (IRSNB) and the working collection of the author at Zoologische Staatssammlung (CBM).

Genus *Coleolissus* BATES, 1892

BATES, 1892: 338. – ANDREWES 1939: 132; DARLINGTON 1968: 64; LORENZ 2005: 379.

Type species: *Hypolithus perlucens* BATES, 1878, by subsequent designation by ANDREWES, 1939.

Diagnosis: Genus of Harpalini and of the subtribe Harpalina, Selenophori-group (in the sense of NOONAN 1976). Medium sized to rather large, depressed species; surface usually rather black, very glossy, without microreticulation; eye large, laterad well produced; mentum with unidentate tooth; glossa bisetose; paraglossae attached to glossa but much longer, apically rounded; penultimate palpomere of labial palpus with more than 2 setae; pronotum wide, with widely rounded basal angle; usually the base laterally densely punctate, without basal seta; elytra wide, in basal half impressed or not; apex denticulate; striae impunctate; 3rd interval seriate-punctate; metathoracic wings fully developed; aedeagus usually with rows of sclerotized teeth in the internal sac; gonocoxite 2 narrow and elongate, with only one very elongate subapical nematiform seta.

Coleolissus biakensis nov.sp. (Figs 1, 4)

Holotype: ♂, "INDONESIA, Papua Biak, Mniber, 16-22.12.06, 00.43.28S 135.46.01E leg. O. Mehl"(CBM). Paratype: 1 ♀, same data (CBM).

E t y m o l o g y : The name refers to the occurrence of the species on Biak Island.

D i a g n o s i s : Characterized by fairly large size, black colour with faint bluish lustre, black antenna, rather faint punctuation of the pronotal base, moderately shallow elytral striae and gently convex intervals, and by the aedeagus which bears a slightly hooked apex and several rows of short, sclerotized teeth in the internal sac. Distinguished from similarly sized species by combination of slightly bluish colour, rather faint punctuation of the pronotum, and fairly deep elytral striae and slightly convex intervals. From *C. papua* DARLINGTON, 1968 also distinguished by the arrangement of the teeth in the internal sac, *i.e.* the absence of teeth in the dorso-apical part of the internal sac (see figs 4 and 5).

D e s c r i p t i o n :

Measurements: Length: 10.1-10.6 mm; width: 3.8-4.0 mm. Ratios. Width/length of pronotum: 1.54-1.55; width diameter/base of pronotum: 1.29-1.30; width base/apex of pronotum: 0.98-1.0; length/width of elytra: 1.64-1.67.

Colour (Fig. 1): Glossy black with a faint bluish tinge; margins of pronotum and elytra with indistinct, extremely narrow rufous margins; labrum and mandibles black, palpi pale red; antenna rufo-piceous, but three basal antennomeres black; femora piceous, tibiae rufo-piceous, tarsi slightly paler.

Head (Fig. 1): Wide, but much narrower than prothorax. Neck rather wide, dorsally not impressed. Eye large, laterally well protruded, almost semicircular, orbit very short. Frontal sulci short, oblique. Clypeal suture indistinct. Labrum rectangular, apex straight. Mandibles moderately elongate. Antenna moderately elongate, median antennomeres slightly < twice as long as wide. Both palpi slender and elongate, the apical palpomeres very sparsely pilose. Mentum with a distinct, unidentate tooth. The supraocular seta located in front of the posterior margin of the eye. Surface not microreticulate, with extremely sparse and rather fine punctures, very glossy.

Prothorax (Fig. 1): Wide, depressed, widest slightly in front of middle, laterally evenly convex, margin near base without any sinuosity. Apex and base of about equal width. Lateral margin in anterior half narrow, towards base explanate. Apex slightly concave, apical angle slightly projected, rounded. Base almost straight, basal angle widely rounded. Anterior transverse sulcus very shallow, posterior transverse sulcus not perceptible. Median line incomplete, shallow but distinct. Both, apex and base with distinct margin. Base laterally with a large, very shallow, about circular impression on either side. Anterior marginal seta situated slightly in front of middle, at widest diameter, posterior seta absent. Disk extremely sparsely punctate, apex and base in middle with denser punctures, the basal impressions densely but not coarsely punctate, punctuation not rugose. Microreticulation absent. Surface very glossy, slightly iridescent.

Elytra (Fig. 1): Wide and rather depressed, slightly widened apicad, but less so in the male. Widest diameter behind middle. Humerus rounded, apex denticulate at suture. Lateral margin near apex slightly excised. Striae moderately impressed, slightly deepened towards apex, impunctate, intervals gently convex. 3rd interval with 6-7 setiferous punctures which mostly are attached to the 2nd stria. Marginal series comprised of c. 30 setiferous punctures, which in some areas form two rows; also with a single seta near apex of 3rd stria. Intervals with extremely fine and sparse punctures which are visible only at high magnification.

Microreticulation absent. Surface very glossy, rather iridescent. Metathoracic wings fully developed.

Lower surface: Impunctate and without microreticulation, glossy. Metepisternum very elongate, c. 3 x as long as wide at anterior border. Sternum VII in both sexes quadrisetose.

Legs: Slender and elongate. 1st tarsomere of metatarsus elongate. 5th tarsomeres setose beneath. 1st - 3rd tarsomeres of male anterior tarsus sparsely biserially squamose.

Male genitalia (Fig. 4): Genital ring narrow, parallel, base very convex, apex slightly asymmetric. Aedeagus rather stout, symmetric, lower surface straight, apart from basal part. Apex moderately elongate, at tip faintly hooked. Orificium large and elongate, very slightly asymmetric. Internal sac with about three irregular rows of sclerotized teeth (altogether c. 30), but without teeth at the upper apical part. Left paramere very wide and short, with transverse apex, the right paramere narrow and elongate, with convex apex.

Female gonocoxites: As in *C. novaeirlandicus*.

Variation: Slight variation noted in shape of elytra which in the female are slightly more widened apicad.

D i s t r i b u t i o n : Biak Island, off the north-west coast of Papua Indonesia. Known only from type locality.

C o l l e c t i n g c i r c u m s t a n c e s : Largely unknown, but collected at low altitude.

R e l a t i o n s h i p s : This species is closely related to *C. papua* DARLINGTON, 1968 that is widespread in mainland New Guinea and also occurs in north-eastern Australia. Apart from the lesser body size of *C. biakensis*, both species fit well in the shape of pronotum and elytra.

***Coleolissus novaeirlandicus* nov.sp. (Figs 2, 6)**

H o l o t y p e : ♀, PAPUA. NEUGUINEA New Ireland. Hans-Meyer Range, 60km SE Namatanai, Hirudan River. S04°00'41'' E152°05'79'' 09.III.2000. leg. A. Weigel (CBM).

E t y m o l o g y : The name refers to the occurrence of the species on New Ireland.

D i a g n o s i s : Characterized by large size, black colour, rufous antenna, rather faint punctation of the pronotal base, very shallow elytral striae, and depressed intervals. Distinguished from similarly sized species by combination of black colour, rather faint punctation of the pronotum, and depressed elytral intervals.

D e s c r i p t i o n :

M e a s u r e m e n t s : Length: 11.7 mm; width: 4.5 mm. Ratios. Width/length of pronotum: 1.50; width diameter/base of pronotum: 1.29; width base/apex of pronotum: 1.08; length/width of elytra: 1.64.

C o l o u r (F i g . 2): Glossy black; margins of pronotum and elytra with indistinct, extremely narrow rufous margins; labrum and mandibles black, palpi pale red; antenna rufo-piceous, only the 1st antennomere black; femora piceous, tibiae rufo-piceous, tarsi slightly paler.

H e a d (F i g . 2): Wide, but much narrower than prothorax. Neck rather wide, dorsally not impressed. Eye large, laterally well protruded, almost semicircular, orbit very short.

Frontal sulci short, oblique. Clypeal suture indistinct. Labrum rectangular, apex straight. Mandibles moderately elongate. Antenna moderately elongate, median antennomeres slightly < twice as long as wide. Both palpi slender and elongate, the apical palpomeres very sparsely pilose. Mentum with a distinct, unidentate tooth. The supraocular seta located in front of the posterior margin of the eye. Surface not microreticulate, with sparse but moderately coarse punctures, very glossy.

Prothorax (Fig. 2): Wide, depressed, widest slightly in front of middle, laterally evenly convex, margin near base without any sinuosity. Apex and base of about equal width. Lateral margin in anterior half narrow, towards base explanate. Apex slightly concave, apical angle slightly projected, rounded. Base almost straight, basal angle widely rounded. Anterior transverse sulcus very shallow, posterior transverse sulcus not perceptible. Median line incomplete, shallow but distinct. Both, apex and base with distinct margin. Base laterally with a large, very shallow, about circular impression on either side. Anterior marginal seta situated slightly in front of middle, at widest diameter, posterior seta absent. Disk extremely sparsely punctate, apex and base in middle with denser punctures, the basal impressions densely but not coarsely punctate, punctation not rugose. Microreticulation absent. Surface very glossy, slightly iridescent.

Elytra (Fig. 2): Wide and rather depressed, slightly widened apicad. Widest diameter behind middle. Humerus rounded, apex denticulate at suture. Lateral margin near apex slightly excised. Striae shallow, slightly deepened near apex, impunctate, intervals almost completely depressed. 3rd interval with 7 setiferous punctures, which mostly are attached to the 2nd stria. Marginal series comprised of c. 27-28 setiferous punctures, which in some areas form two rows; also with a single seta near apex of 3rd stria. Intervals with extremely fine and sparse punctures which are visible only at high magnification. Microreticulation absent. Surface very glossy, rather iridescent. Metathoracic wings fully developed.

Lower surface: Impunctate and without microreticulation, glossy. Metepisternum very elongate, c. 3 x as long as wide at anterior border. Sternum VII in female quadrisetose.

Legs: Slender and elongate. 1st tarsomere of metatarsus elongate. 5th tarsomeres setose beneath. Squamosity of the male protarsus unknown.

Male genitalia: Unknown.

Female gonocoxites (Fig. 6): Gonocoxite 1 narrow and elongate, aetose at apex. Gonocoxite 2 elongate, very narrow, almost straight, without dorso-median and ventro-lateral sensiform setae, but near apex with a very elongate nematiform seta which is set in a deep furrow.

Variation: Unknown.

D i s t r i b u t i o n : New Ireland. Known only from type locality.

C o l l e c t i n g c i r c u m s t a n c e s : Largely unknown.

R e l a t i o n s h i p s : This species is closely related to *C. papua* DARLINGTON, 1968 as well as to *C. biakensis* nov. sp.

***Coleolissus missai* nov.sp. (Figs 3, 7)**

H o l o t y p e : ♀, Coll. I.R.Sc.N.B. PAPUA NEW GUINEA Canopy Mission Madang Province Baiteta Light M 1 17-V-1993 Leg. Olivier Missa (IRSNB).

E t y m o l o g y : The name is a patronym in honour of the collector O. MISSA.

D i a g n o s i s : Characterized by small size, very dark piceous colour, rufous antenna, dense and coarse, rather rugose punctation of the pronotal base, deep elytral striae and convex intervals, and a rather deep transverse impression in the basal half of the elytra. Distinguished from the most similar species *C. angulatus* DARLINGTON, 1968 by slightly lesser body size, wider base of the pronotum, and barely excised apex of the elytra.

D e s c r i p t i o n :

Measurements: Length: 7.5 mm; width: 2.85 mm. Ratios. Width/length of pronotum: 1.51; width diameter/base of pronotum: 1.26; width base/apex of pronotum: 1.05; length/width of elytra: 1.65.

Colour (Fig. 3): Very dark piceous to almost black; margins of pronotum and elytra with fairly distinct, narrow rufous margins; labrum and mandibles black, palpi pale red; antenna completely rufous; legs rufo-piceous, tibiae and tarsi barely paler.

Head (Fig. 3): Wide, but much narrower than prothorax. Neck rather wide, dorsally not impressed. Eye large, laterally well protruded, but not semicircular, orbit very short. Frontal sulcus moderately elongate, oblique, almost reaching to the eye. Clypeal suture distinct. Labrum rectangular, apex straight. Mandibles moderately elongate. Antenna moderately elongate, median antennomeres slightly < twice as long as wide. Both palpi slender and elongate, the apical palpomeres very sparsely pilose. Mentum with a distinct, unidentate tooth. The supraocular seta located in front of the posterior margin of the eye. Surface with extremely faint remnants of slightly transverse microreticulation which is only visible at high magnification, impunctate, very glossy.

Prothorax (Fig. 3): Wide, disk moderately convex, widest slightly in front of middle, laterally convex, but in basal half almost straight though oblique, near base without any sinuosity. Apex and base of almost equal width. Lateral margin in anterior half narrow, towards base explanate. Apex concave, apical angle slightly projected, rounded. Base slightly produced in middle, basal angle widely rounded. Anterior transverse sulcus fairly deep, posterior transverse sulcus shallow. Median line deep, incomplete. Both, apex and base with distinct margin. Base laterally with a large, shallow, about circular impression on either side. Anterior marginal seta situated slightly in front of middle, at widest diameter, posterior seta absent. Disk moderately punctate, apex and base in middle with dense punctures, the basal impressions densely and coarsely punctate, punctation rather rugose. Microreticulation absent. Surface glossy but not iridescent.

Elytra (Fig. 3): Moderately wide, fairly convex, slightly widened apicad. Widest diameter behind middle. Humerus rounded, apex denticulate at suture. Apical margin near apex slightly excised. Striae deep, even deepened near apex, impunctate, intervals convex. 3rd interval with 6 setiferous punctures, which mostly are attached to the 2nd stria. Marginal series comprised of c. 22 setiferous punctures, which in some areas form two rows; also with a single seta each near the apex of the 3rd and 7th intervals. Intervals with extremely fine and sparse punctures which are visible only at high magnification. Microreticulation absent. Surface very glossy, but barely iridescent. Metathoracic wings fully developed.

Lower surface: Impunctate and without microreticulation, glossy. Metepisternum elongate, c. 2.5 x as long as wide at anterior border. Sternum VII in female quadrisetose.

Legs: Slender and elongate. 1st tarsomere of metatarsus elongate. 5th tarsomeres setose beneath. Squamosity of the male protarsus unknown.

Male genitalia: Unknown.

Female gonocoxites (Fig. 7): Gonocoxite 1 narrow and elongate, asetose at apex. Gonocoxite 2 elongate, narrow, almost straight, without dorso-median and ventro-lateral sensiform setae, but near apex with a very elongate nematiform seta which is set in a deep furrow.

Variation: Unknown.

D i s t r i b u t i o n : Baiteta, Madang Province, northern Papua New Guinea. Known only from type locality.

C o l l e c t i n g c i r c u m s t a n c e s : Little recorded. Holotype collected at light, probably in rain forest.

R e l a t i o n s h i p s : This species is closely related to *C. angulatus* DARLINGTON, 1968 that is widespread in New Guinea, and apart from the lesser body size and the barely excised elytral apex in *C. missai*, both species fit well in the shape of pronotum and elytra.

Key to the species of the genus *Coleolissus* BATES from the Papuan Region

- 1 Large species, length > 10 mm; elytra not impressed in basal third. 2
- Smaller species, length < 9 mm, elytra in basal third impressed. Mainland New Guinea 4
- 2 Generally slightly larger, length > 11.5 mm; colour black without bluish lustre; antenna rufous; aedeagus with teeth in the upper apical part of the internal sac (Fig. 5). or unknown. Mainland New Guinea, north-eastern Australia, New Ireland 3
- Generally slightly smaller, length < 10.6 mm; colour black with distinct bluish lustre; antenna black; aedeagus without teeth in the upper apical part of the internal sac (Fig. 4) Biak Island..... *biakensis* nov.sp.
- 3 Punctures on the base of the pronotum coarse and distinct; elytral striae deep, intervals distinctly convex; aedeagus see fig. 5. Mainland New Guinea and north-eastern Australia..... *papua* DARLINGTON, 1968
- Punctuation on the base of the pronotum fine and rather superficial; elytral striaeshallow; intervals depressed; aedeagus unknown. New Ireland..... *novaeirlandicus* nov.sp.
- 4 Body size slightly larger, length >8.5 mm; apex of elytra rather deeply excised, external apical angle distinctly angulate..... *angulatus* DARLINGTON, 1968
- Body size slightly smaller, length 7.5 mm; apex of elytrabarely excised, external apical angle faintly angulate..... *missai* nov.sp.

Remarks

In the Papuan-Australian Region the genus *Coleolissus* s. str. is comprised of two different morphotypes, namely large, depressed species allied to *C. papua* DARLINGTON, 1968, and smaller, dorsally more convex species related to *C. angulatus* DARLINGTON, 1968. In view of their biogeographical origin the three new species also are representatives of two different infra-regions of the Papuan subregion, as explained below.

Both, *C. biakensis* and *C. novaeirlandicus* differ from the widespread *C. papua* in certain character states, as degree of punctation of the pronotum and depth of elytral striae, and thus seem to be more related one to another than both to *C. papua*. At the first glance this is surprising, because Biak Island at least is believed to belong to New Guinea. But actually, the carabid fauna of Biak Island is quite different from that of mainland New Guinea and even from that of nearby Japen Island, which was already emphasized by DE BOER (1995) and subsequently demonstrated in several carabid genera, e.g. *Dicraspeda*, *Pentagonica*, *Catascopus*, and *Dolichoctis* (BAEHR 1996, 1999, 2003, 2012a, 2012b). Indeed, apparently Biak Island paleogeographically does not belong to New Guinea proper, but rather to a terrane that includes also the Bismarck Archipelago (DE BOER 1995). This is the reason, why the close relationship of *C. biakensis* and *C. novaeirlandicus* gets its evidence.

C. missai is a real mainland Papuan faunal element, related to *C. angulatus* DARLINGTON. Both belong to a group of species which possess a number of relatives in the Indonesian insular belt. However, both species may be not too closely related, because they have been collected at the same locality and obviously are able to occur syntopically.

Acknowledgements

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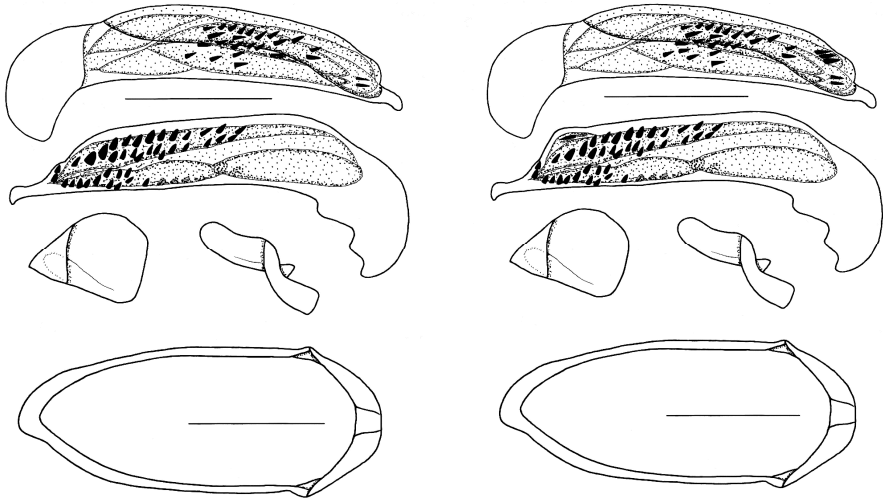


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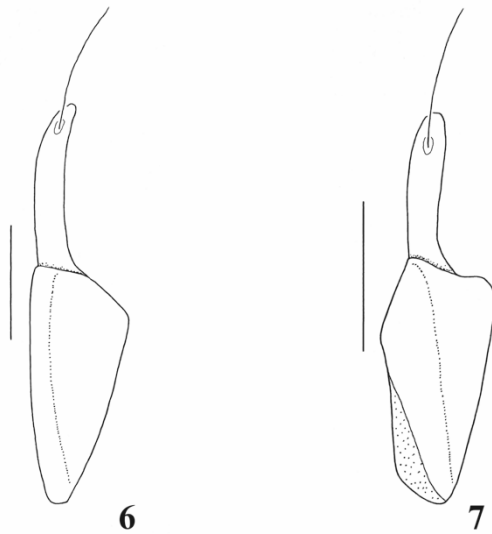
Figs 1-3: Habitus of new species. 1. *Coleolissus biakensis* nov.sp. Body length: 10.6 mm. 2. *Coleolissus novaeirlandicus* nov.sp. Body length: 11.7 mm. 3. *Coleolissus missai* nov.sp. Body length: 7.5 mm.



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Figs 4-5: Male aedeagus, parameres, and genital ring. 4. *Coleolissus biakensis* nov.sp. 5. *Coleolissus papua* DARLINGTON. Scale bars: 1.0 mm.



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Figs 6-7: Female gonocoxites 1 and 2. 6. *Coleolissus novaeirlandicus* nov.sp. 7. *Coleolissus missai* nov.sp. Scale bars: 0.5 mm.

Buchbesprechungen

TRAUTNER J. (Hrsg.): **Die Laufkäfer Baden-Württembergs**. 2 Bände. – Verlag Eugen Ulmer, Stuttgart, 2017. 848 S.

Die Laufkäfer (Carabidae) bilden eine der artenreichsten Käferfamilien, mit weltweit fast 40.000 Arten. Sie gehören seit längerem zu den am besten bekannten Insektengruppen, da viele Informationen über Verbreitung, Lebensraumansprüche, Gefährdung und Schutzmaßnahmen, v.a. in Europa, zusammengetragen wurden. Obwohl Laufkäfer als hervorragende Bioindikatoren gelten, beklagt der Herausgeber Jürgen Trautner einen Rückgang bezüglich der angewandten Studien und Grundlagenarbeiten in den letzten 20 Jahren. Auch der Fokus des Naturschutzes hat sich inzwischen besonders auf die Arten fokussiert, die im Rahmen der FFH-Richtlinie relevant sind - und, in deren Anhängen tauchen nur wenige Laufkäferarten auf.

Band 1 beginnt mit einem Allgemeinen Teil, der neben einer Einführung (inkl. Danksagungen) den Bezugsraum Baden-Württemberg vorstellt, Informationen zu den Datengrundlagen gibt und die Laufkäfer als Elemente von Ökosystemen, als Indikatoren und als Untersuchungsobjekte beschreibt. Im Speziellen Teil (I) werden, nach Triben geordnet, die einzelnen Arten (in Baden-Württemberg 429) vorgestellt. Diese Artbeschreibungen beinhalten Allgemeine Verbreitung, Vorkommen in Baden-Württemberg, Lebensweise und Habitat, Gefährdung und Schutz, ein Artfoto (fast immer Lebendaufnahmen), eine Verbreitungskarte und Biotopaufnahmen.

Band 2 setzt den Speziellen Teil (II) fort, bezieht sich kurz auf neuere (evt. zweifelhafte) Artmeldungen mit unklarem Status und schließt mit einem Synoptischen Teil ab. Dieser Teil beginnt mit einer Bilanz zur Landesfauna und natürlichen Differenzierung und stellt als Schwerpunkt die Lebensräume und ihre charakteristischen Arten vor. Ein kurzer Abschnitt listet die Verantwortlichkeitsarten (inkl. spezieller Verbreitungskarten) auf, für die eben Deutschland eine erhöhte Verantwortlichkeit innehat. Das Kapitel Gefährdungssituation setzt sich mit der derzeitigen Datenlage auseinander, erklärt den Prüfbedarf und die Notwendigkeit einer Fortschreibung der landesweiten Roten Listen. 20 Farbfotos illustrieren wichtige Gefährdungsursachen für Laufkäfer in Baden-Württemberg. Der Abschnitt Schutzziele und Schutzmaßnahmen gibt eine Übersicht zu den wichtigsten Zielen und Maßnahmetypen, die in unterschiedlichen Lebensräumen für Laufkäfer verfolgt werden müssen. Abschließend bietet die Einbindung von Laufkäfern in raumrelevante Planungen eine vereinfachte Übersicht zur Relevanz von Laufkäfern in verschiedenen Regelungsbereichen des Bundesnaturschutzgesetzes.

Zwei hervorragend geschriebene, recherchierte, illustrierte und damit äußerst empfehlenswerte Bände über Laufkäfer Baden-Württembergs, die auch weit über die Landesgrenzen hinaus eine wichtige Grundlage für Naturschutz und Landschaftsplanung bilden.

R. Gerstmeier

GOMILLE A.: **Deutschlands wilde Wölfe.** – Frederking & Thaler, München, 2016. 164 S.

Nachdem der Wolf in Deutschland vor über 100 Jahren ausgerottet worden war, glaubte wohl niemand mehr daran, dass Wölfe bei uns jemals wieder heimisch werden könnten. Doch dann fiel die Mauer und Ende der 90er Jahre ist es wohl passiert, die Wölfe kamen sozusagen aus freien Stücken von Polen herüber und im Jahre 2000 gab es den ersten Nachwuchs. Aktuell gibt es in Deutschland etwa 40 Wolfsrudel, die sich allerdings hauptsächlich im Osten und im Norden der Republik etablierten. Viele Menschen sind darüber nicht erfreut, der Mythos vom "bösen Wolf" ist ja schon deutsches Kulturgut geworden. Da wird dann gerne auch mal zur Flinte gegriffen, um Klarheit zu schaffen – obwohl Wölfe durch das Bundesnaturschutzgesetz streng geschützt sind. Wer sich für Tiger, Nashörner und Berggorillas stark macht, sollte sich auch in der eigenen Heimat für den Naturschutz engagieren. Eine erste Hilfestellung leistet dieses Buch des Fotografen und Zoologen Axel Gomille. Konzipiert als Bildband, sind die Texte "überschaubar", lassen sich also gut und schnell lesen. Man hätte vielleicht mehr "Fachwissen" über Lebensweise und Verhalten von Wölfen (evt. auch im Vergleich zu Nordamerika) einbringen können, für naturinteressierte Laien ist dies aber völlig in Ordnung. Die Fotos stammen alle aus freier Wildbahn, von in Deutschland lebenden Wölfen. Sie sind durchwegs fantastisch, mir persönlich allerdings zu blaustichig (?Druck). Entstanden sind die Fotos im wesentlichen auf Truppenübungsplätzen, die idealen Rückzugs- und Aufzuchtgebiete für Wölfe. Trotz vielfach noch aktiver Nutzung, scheinen sich die Wölfe hier wohl und sicher zu fühlen. Sehr informativ und lehrreich ist das Kapitel "Leben mit Wölfen", v.a. die vorbildliche Einstellung und Haltung eines Schäfers, der fast ausschließlich auf seine Pyrenäen-Berghunde als Herdenschutzhunde baut. Im "Abspann" findet sich ein zoologisches Portrait zum Wolf, eine interessante Verbreitungskarte zum Vorkommen des Wolfes (die gibt es zwar aktualisierter beim NABU auch, aber nicht ganz so informativ) und Ansprechpartner zum Thema Wolf.

Ein absolut gelungenes und empfehlenswertes Buch, das hoffentlich zu einer besseren Akzeptanz gegenüber dieser faszinierenden (einheimischen!) Tierart führt.

R. Gerstmeier

SARTORE J.: **Artenreich.** Eine Hommage an die Vielfalt. – National Geographic Verlag, München, 2017. 400 S.

Der Fotograf Joel Sartore veröffentlicht seit über 25 Jahren seine Bilder in der Zeitschrift "National Geographic". Seit mehr als 10 Jahren arbeitet er an dem Projekt "Photo Ark", der fotografischen Dokumentation der Artenvielfalt unseres Planeten. Dies bedeutet für den Fotografen, jede der rund 12.000 in Gefangenschaft (menschlicher Obhut) lebenden Spezies der Erde abzulichten. Begonnen hat das Projekt 2005 im Lincoln-Kinderzoo, 2016 war die Hälfte geschafft.

Die in diesem Buch vorgestellten Tiere (ca. 400 Abbildungen) wurden im Studio oder entsprechenden Räumlichkeiten vor schwarzem oder weißem Hintergrund fotografiert, der Blick des Betrachters wird auf das wesentliche gelenkt, man begegnet den Tieren gewissermaßen auf Augenhöhe. Vielfach ergibt sich daraus auch die künstlerische Darstellung, wie z.B. die acht Kubaflamingos, die in einer mit schwarzem Samt ausgekleideten Foliere als Schwarm fotografiert wurden. Als Fotomodelle in diesem Buch

dienen überwiegend Wirbeltiere, leider nur wenige Wirbellose (d.h. kaum Insekten oder Spinnentiere). Somit ist eben auch die artenreichste Tiergruppe, die Käfer, deutlich unterrepräsentiert – aber dazu gibt es ja etliche andere Bücher. Die Bildlegenden sind spärlich, zu jeder abgebildeten Art wird aber der Gefährdungsgrad (nach IUCN) angegeben.

Am Ende des Buches findet sich das Verzeichnis der Tiere, in chronologischer Reihenfolge und auch die Angabe des Ortes, an dem das Foto entstanden ist (nach Möglichkeit mit Internetadresse). Evt. wäre ein alphabetischer Index auch nicht schlecht gewesen....?

Auf jeden Fall ist es ein großartiger, künstlerisch gestalteter, empfehlenswerter Bildband zum Thema zoologischer Artenvielfalt.

R. Gerstmeier

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