Book Review


This excellent book, which is entirely written in Spanish, starts with an introduction (pp. 11–13), followed by the acknowledgements (p. 14), and chapters on the phylogeny, classification and geographic distribution of the family Hydraenidae (pp. 14–23), on the morphology of adults and preimaginal stages (a key to the larvae of the three Iberian genera of Hydraenidae is included) (pp. 23–48), on the natural history (pp. 49–57), as well as on collection, preservation and study methods (pp. 57–61).

In my opinion, the information provided in the phylogeny chapter should have been shortened, because it includes largely outdated information, which is of little relevance for a book entirely devoted to the Iberian fauna. The four trees shown in Fig. 1 are all based on morphology instead on molecular data.

The main part of the book (“Los Hydraenidae ibéricos”, pp. 61–445) contains a complete taxonomic summary of the (then) confirmed 156 Ibero-Balearic species (Hydraena: 66 spp., Limnebius: 24 spp., Ochthebius: 66 spp.), including keys to all species, genera, subgenera and species groups. For each species, information on its morphology, distribution and biology are provided. Distribution maps are not included, because – with very few exceptions – they were rather recently published by Millán et al. (2014: Atlas de los coleópteros acuáticos de España peninsular) – see book review in Koleopterologische Rundschau 85 (2015), p. 72. The list of species (pp. 62–66) includes four additional species (marked with an asterisk), which were doubtfully recorded from the Iberian Peninsula: Limnebius crinifer, Ochthebius foveolatus, O. gibbosus and O. pedicularius; they are treated separately under “Otras especies” (pp. 299, 443–445).

Since the publication of the book reviewed here, the number of Iberian species has increased to 157, because O. subpictus subpictus Wollaston, 1857 and O. s. deletus Rey, 1885 are meanwhile regarded as discrete species. The number of Iberian species will certainly continue to increase a little as soon as more molecular data will become available, especially in the genus Ochthebius.

The name “O. figueroaorum” is incorrect. This species, which was originally spelled O. figueroi, must be named O. figueroorum, because according to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999: Art. 31.1.2) -orum must be added to the stem of the personal name, and figuero- has been determined as the stem of the name Figueroa by action of the original authors (Garrido, Valladares & Régil 1992). The name figueroaorum Valladares et al., 2018 must be treated as an unjustified emendation and is therefore, according to ICZN (Art. 33.2.3), regarded as a junior objective synonym of O. figueroorum.

After the bibliography (pp. 447–475) there are two appendices (pp. 477–502), an alphabetical index (pp. 503–508) and one annex (pp. 511–516). Appendix 1 (pp. 477–498) provides a list of synonyms and combinations, appendix 2 (pp. 499–502) describes taxonomic and phylogenetic changes published by Villastrigo et al. (2019) [online since 2018]; because of the editorial deadline, these data could not be incorporated in the main text of the volume.

(to be continued on p. 122)