

10. Post-Meeting Soirée. President Bellamy announced the get-together after the meeting would be at the Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery on Fountain Square.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Brett C. Ratcliffe, Secretary

The Coleopterists Bulletin, 58(1):147–148, 2004.

BOOK REVIEW

BELLAMY, C. L. 2003. **An illustrated summary of the higher classification of the superfamily Buprestoidea (Coleoptera).** Folia Heyrovskyana, Supplementum 10, 197 pages with 44 color plates. ISBN 80-86447-09-4, size 17 × 24 cm, hard cover. Available from Kabourek, Sokolska 3923, 760 01 Zlin, Czech Republic; e-mail: vit@kabourek.cz; <http://www.kabourek.cz/>. Price: 2,490 CZK (about 88 USD).

Nearly 20 years have elapsed since the author of this superb book published his first catalogue of the higher taxa of the Buprestidae (including the Schizopodidae) (Bellamy 1985). Since then, concepts regarding the higher classification of this popular, yet taxonomically challenging group of beetles have changed tremendously. Hołyński (1993) challenged traditional views with his subtribal system, aspects of which have been variously refuted or accepted by subsequent authors. More recent authors have presented alternative views of the phylogenetic affinities within the Buprestoidea based on detailed character analyses (*e.g.*, Jendek 2001 and Volkovitch 2001). In his new book, Dr. Bellamy amalgamates this recent progress into a proposed classification scheme for his highly anticipated world catalogue (in prep.). More than an update of his previous catalogue, this book is a handsome, authoritative reference work that should appeal to all with an interest in this group.

The book covers the two families, seven subfamilies, 47 tribes, 49 subtribes, 494 genera and 174 non-nominate subgenera (and all respective synonyms) currently recognized within the superfamily Buprestoidea. A brief introduction summarizes the recent history of the higher classification of the group and the author's objectives. This is followed by definitions of biogeographical regions and abbreviations used in the book and a discussion of the rationale used to order and assign authorship to the higher taxa names within the structure of the classification. Also included is a discussion of the availability of certain family- and genus-group names, in which one type genus designation and several type species designations are proposed.

The higher classification system comprises the next 89 pages and lists all supraspecific taxa from superfamily to subgenus. Author, date of publication, and page number are indicated for all valid taxa and their synonyms. Type genera and species are also indicated for all family- and genus-group names, respectively, along with the source of each designation. The gender, number of species, and known geographical distribution are summarized for each genus, and references are provided for synonymy proposals. Additional nomenclatural actions (*i.e.*, replacement names, transfers, reinstatements, and new synonymies) occur in this section as well, and notes are included to explain these actions or indicate current opinions, recent revisions, or uncertain placements. Fossil taxa are treated at the end of the section. The classification is impressively organized and, as far as I could discern, free of spelling errors. My only (trivial) suggestion would have been the use of bold text for subtribal headings, as is done with other suprageneric categories, to help them stand out in the text. The same would have also been helpful for subgenus names to distinguish them from synonyms under the same genus.

Without question, the outstanding feature of this book is the inclusion of forty-four color plates with dorsal habitus photographs of 453 taxa. By my count, these include 309 genera and 115 non-nominate subgenera (62.5% and 66.1% of the listed taxa, respectively). Never before has such a comprehensive representation of the known global diversity of this superfamily been presented in such extraordinary photographic fashion. The photos are clear in detail and true in color. The legs and antennae of most specimens are visible, often beautifully arranged, and it appears that

a special effort was made to photograph unpinned specimens whenever possible. Legends for each photograph are thoughtfully located on the same or facing page as the photo and note specimen length, source country, and page reference in the main classification. The sequence of photographs follows the higher classification, with subfamilial and tribal assignments indicated in the legend. The taxonomic utility of the photo assemblage is further augmented by the fact that 304 (again, by my count) of the 668 combined genera and subgenera are represented by the type species (or, in a few cases, that of one of its synonyms). A complete list of cited references and indices to illustrated species and supraspecific taxa are provided at the end.

The book is printed on high-quality, semi-gloss paper that is sewn and glued to an attractive, matte finish hard cover. This book is an absolute must for anyone interested in the Buprestoidea. The thorough systematic treatment, numerous taxonomic actions, and astounding diversity of beautifully photographed species—all in an attractively organized and printed volume—will make this book an indispensable reference for the serious systematist and casual collector alike.

Literature Cited

- Bellamy, C. L. 1985.** A catalogue of the higher taxa of the family Buprestidae (Coleoptera). *Navorsinge van die Nasionale Museum, Bloemfontein* 4:405–472.
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