

WATABE H. 1977: *Drosophila* survey of Hokkaido, XXXIV. Seasonal variations of body color of *Drosophila testacea*. *J. Fac. Sci. Hokkaido Univ.* **21**: 21–30.

Received February 24, 1994; accepted October 20, 1994

Eur. J. Entomol. **92**: 442, 1995
ISSN 1210–5759

BOOK REVIEW

GULLAN P.J. & CRANSTON P.S.: *THE INSECTS. AN OUTLINE OF ENTOMOLOGY*. Chapman & Hall, London, 1994, 492 pp. ISBN 0-1412-49360-8. Price GBP 25.–.

The entomologists in Australia are well known for their knowledge of insect life, systematics and morphology, their professional approach to the study and teaching of entomology, and for friendly and co-operative attitudes. These were the conditions which permitted the production, four years ago, of the excellent monograph *The Insects of Australia*. Another book from Australia on insects in general appeared last year. This comprehensive text-book on all aspects of entomology is valuable for students and scientists all over the world.

The well-organized and balanced 15 chapters give us brief but valuable and modern information on all theoretical and practical branches of entomological science. The book commences with introduction on insect importance and diversity. Next five chapters describe morphology, anatomy, physiology, behaviour, reproduction and development of insects generally, as well as cases of special interest. Various approaches are combined in explaining the function of insect body and the processes during individual life stages, so that even less experienced readers may comprehend the questions in a thorough manner.

The seventh chapter outlines hypotheses on insect phylogeny and evolution, while there is only a brief list of higher hexapod taxa with their characterization. There is no treatment of insect systematics nor keys to the identification of higher taxa.

The six following chapters discuss special adaptations for life in diverse environments and for diverse positions in the food-web: life in the soil, litter, carrion and dung, on and in water, interactions with plants, aggregation and sociality, predation and parasitism, and defence against enemies, including mimicry.

Practical importance of insects is overviewed in last two chapters: medical and veterinary entomology, and pest management.

Since intended as a text book, it is completed with glossary – an explanatory vocabulary of scientific terms. References are not cited and listed in a manner of a scientific work, there are only those references related to figures and boxes, and a list of books recommended for further reading is attached at the end of every chapter. The book is closed by a combined index.

While listing the merits of the book, the beautiful and precise illustrations made by Karina Hansen McInnes must be emphasized. Scientists working in any field of entomology are unlikely to find new and surprising information about their subject, but will learn more about other specialized branches of insect science. The intelligibility of text and figures makes it easy to read and study for all graduate students, even non-Anglophones, although I hope that this book will be translated into many languages. Gullan and Cranston's book is recommended as a welcome addition to the shelves of all entomologists.

O. Nedvěd