

BOOK REVIEW

BARRITON A.T. & LITSINGER J.A.: *RICELAND SPIDERS OF SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA*. CAB International in association with the International Rice Research Institute. University Press, Cambridge, 1995, xix + 700 pp., 414 figures, 339 maps, 16 colour plates. ISBN 0-85198-967-5.

This large-format book is a comprehensive illustrated guide which is intended to be used by both specialist and novices to identify spiders of rice in South and Southeast Asia. The majority of the species included were collected from diverse habitats in the Philippines. The bulk of the book consists of descriptions and keys to the identification of families, genera and species of Philippine spiders. A total of 342 species are recognized; of these, 258

species and eight genera are described as new, remaining species are redescribed, and all species are illustrated. Line drawings depict the whole body shape, male palp, female epigyne and numerous other morphological details, although these should have included scale bars and details expressed as in European and American literature. Distribution maps for all species (mostly with one record in the case of new species) are also provided. A glossary contains 310 terms, and 120 references are given. Overall, the work represents a major contribution to the literature for those interested in spiders of South and Southeast Asia.

V. Růžička