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## BOOK REVIEW

GRIFFITHS G.C.D.: Anthomyiidae. In Griffiths G.C.D. (ed.): *FLIES OF THE NEARCTIC REGION*. Vol. VIII, Pt. 2, No. 11. E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung (Nägele u. Obermiller), Stuttgart, 1996, 244 pp., 275 figs. ISBN 3-510-70022-8. Price DM 238.00.

The first issue of the series *Flies of the Nearctic Region* appeared in 1980 modelling the famous E. Lindner's *Die Fliegen der paläarktischen Region* (from 1924 up to the present) in both its form and style. The late Prof. Dr. E. Lindner in his foreword (written in June 1978) expressed his conviction that the new series will "succeed in assembling the works of American investigators and in stimulating and inspiring over the years and decades a new generation in the investigation of the North American fauna of Diptera".

Nevertheless, even the first part (Vol. I, Pt. 1, 1980) written by A. Stone and devoted to the history of Nearctic dipterology proved the indisputable importance of this compendium for the dipterists of the Old World as well. In the chapter on some leading specialists there may be found brief curricula vitae of 16 classical European authors beginning with J.C. Fabricius.

The present study of Anthomyiidae (1982–1996) consists of 11 parts embracing in total 1872 pages and 2039 figures. It represents a considerable progress towards clarifying the identity of the Nearctic species. In the 11th part the genera *Leucophora*,

*Eustalomyia*, *Heterostylodes*, *Boreophorbia*, *Oxyphorbia* and *Phorbia* are treated in detail, with *Oxyphorbia* being described as a new genus. Except for the last genus all the others are also well known in the Palaearctic region including several species each with a Holarctic type of distribution.

Each species is provided with a complete reference list, an exhaustive description of both sexes, life history data, taxonomic and distributional notes. Details of the male as well as female terminalia are illustrated in virtually all species and their distribution is documented by distributional maps for the majority of taxa. The introductory part of the large genera is accompanied by an argumentation schema of phylogenetic (cladistic) systematics. Thus, this excellent monograph of the Nearctic Anthomyiidae represents a very important source of information for all dipterists dealing not only with this family but with any family from the group of calyptate flies at least.

In addition to the above mentioned volumes (*History of Nearctic Dipterology and Anthomyiidae*), the following families have been treated in the framework of the *Flies of the Nearctic Region*: Blephariceridae (C.L. Hogue, 1987, 172 pp.), Bombyliidae (J.C. Hall and N.L. Evenhuis, 1980–1987, 6 parts, 656 pp.), Dolichopodidae (R.L. Hurley, 1985–1995, 2 parts, 224 pp.), and Diopsidae (H.J. Feijen, 1989, 122 pp.).

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