

Book Review

The Carabids of Serbia

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2007. Published by the Institute of Zoology, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade: 1083 p.

The coleopterological literature has gained recently a catalogue of the Serbian Carabidae. The book is the first complete survey on the ground beetles (excl. Cicindelinae) of Serbia since the little known for western readers catalogue of Matits published in Cyrillic in 1912. In fact, the new catalogue treats the ground beetle faunas of two contemporary states (Serbia and Kosovo) from the former federation Yugoslavia. The book is written in English, so that it is tempting to the world community of coleopterologists.

In the introduction the authors present a detailed retrospection of the studies of the Carabidae in Serbia. The following two chapters deal with the technical methods and procedures used in the course of work and methods of mapping. After that, the authors give detailed accounts of the natural conditions of the country (geology, tectonics, reliefs, hydrology, climatology, vegetation, etc.) and history of the biospeleological investigations of the group in Serbia.

The bulk of the book is taken up by two main sections: a catalogue of species (pp. 79-362) and UTM distribution maps (pp. 365-1045). The catalogue includes references to 576 species and 167 subspecies, 107 genera, 32 tribes and 10 subfamilies. A brief account concerning each species / subspecies gives a list of all citations and all known localities, summary data for the regional distribution, and information for the general distribution. UTM maps are given for 681 ground beetle taxa (537 species and 144 subspecies).

The reviewed book is concluded by the sections result and discussion, acknowledgements, list of the literature sources and index. The part result and discussion, is subdivided to five sub-chapters - species composition, taxa with doubtful presence in Serbia, distribution of species, zoogeographical analysis and conclusion. Among the doubtful species are listed 5 species and 4 subspecies.

In summary, this catalogue reflects quite well present faunistic knowledge of the Carabidae in Serbia and Kosovo and should be useful for all specialists interested in this group of beetles. The book is a useful addition to ground beetle fauna of the Balkans, following the catalogues of Bulgaria and Albania, already published by Pensoft Publishers.



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