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# Amphizoidae, Aspidytidae, Haliplidae, Noteridae, and Paelobiidae (Coleoptera, Adephaga) A. N. Nilsson, B. J. Vondel Van . 2005. Amphizoidae, Aspidytidae, Haliplidae, Noteridae, and...

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### BOOK REVIEW

NILSSON, A. N. AND VONDEL, B. J. Van. 2005. **Amphizoidae, Aspdytidae, Haliplidae, Noteridae, and Paelobiidae (Coleoptera, Adephaga)**. *In*: World Catalogue of Insects, Volume 7. Apollo Books. Stenstrup, Denmark. 171 pages pp. ISBN 87-88757-49-8. US\$55.20 (hard cover) ([www.apollobooks.com](http://www.apollobooks.com)).

This is the second volume of this series to cover aquatic Adephaga, the previous one being volume 3 on the Dytiscidae (Nilsson 2001). Like earlier volumes of the series, this current volume is amazingly thorough and covers 467 valid species (up to December 31, 2004) in five of the eight known Hydradephaga families: Amphizoidae (5), Aspdytidae (2), Haliplidae (204), Noteridae (250), and Paelobiidae (6). Bernhard van Vondel covers the Haliplidae, and Anders Nilsson the rest. The volume begins with an eight-page introduction providing basic information on the organization of the catalogue. Each family is treated individually. For each family, a historical statement on the classification and phylogeny is provided along with a breakdown of the classification used, followed by the annotated catalog and an extensive bibliography. All taxa of the same rank are listed alphabetically instead of systematically which facilitates fast retrieval of names without explicit knowledge of current views on relationships. An outline of the modern distribution of each taxon name is given, which refers to major zoogeographical regions. The existing type specimens are characterized as holotype, lectotype, neotype, or syntype. Type localities are located to a specific nation when possible and the type depository is given. References to works

including a modern description and synonyms are also provided. All synonyms are listed in chronological order under the valid name along with a reference to the first publication in which the synonym was established and the type locality.

This volume adheres in most aspects to the previous volume on the Dytiscidae (Nilsson 2001). It deviates, however, in two major aspects. First, the faunistic part incorporates a bibliography focusing on faunistic records including all published combinations, and not available names like *nomina nuda*, infrasubspecific names, and misidentifications. Secondly, the geographical distribution of each valid species is broken down into provinces/states of Australia, Canada, China, Russia, and the United States, which proves to be incommensurate in value. Each family treatment is followed by a detailed bibliography with titles and journal names written out in full. Taxonomic research depends to a much higher degree than other research on availability of old and often rare publications, which must be seen only for checking certain formal data, such as correct spelling and authorship of name, year of publication, etc. In this regard, this bibliography is an invaluable source of information.

Some taxonomic decisions are attempted in this volume. For example, the enigmatic *Amphizoa smetanai* Roughley *et al.* is postulated to represent a junior synonym of *A. davidis* Lucas, which brings back to five the number of species of *Amphizoa* LeConte worldwide; no subfamily or tribal structures are recognized for the Haliplidae owing to a lack of knowledge of phylogenetic relationships; *Haliplus laminatus* (Schaller) is kept within the subgenus *Liaphlus*, thereby invalidating use of the generic name *Haliaplus* Ádám; the Noteridae are organized into three subfamilies and five tribes, necessitating the description of the new tribe Pronoterini; and finally, the family name Paelobiidae Erichson is introduced as a replacement to the name Hygrobiidae.

This volume closes with a comprehensive index to taxa, which combines family- genus- and species-group names as well as synonyms and unavailable names.

Nilsson and Vondel's catalogue is a great achievement for Hydradephaga systematics. The plan and execution of the catalogue is excellent and it is well produced on good paper and is solidly bound. This catalogue is a must for anyone working on this diverse group of families. The publication of this volume, along with the previous volume on the Dytiscidae (Nilsson 2001), gives us coverage of all Hydradephaga but two families: the Gyrinidae and the recently described Meruidae (Spangler and Steiner 2005). It is a necessity for every entomological library and every aquatic coleopterist. I recommend this book highly.

### Literature Cited

- Nilsson, A. N. 2001. Dytiscidae (Coleoptera). World Catalogue of Insects 3. Apollo Books, Stenstrup, Denmark, 385 pp.
- Spangler, P. J., and W. Steiner. 2005. A new aquatic beetle family, Meruidae, from Venezuela (Coleoptera: Adepaga). Systematic Entomology 30:339–359.

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