

BOOK REVIEW

Ecology and effectiveness of aphidophaga. Proceedings of an International Symposium, held at Teresin, Poland, August 31-September 5, 1987. E. Niemczyk and A. F. G. Dixon (Eds.) SPB Academic Publishing bv, The Hague, The Netherlands 1988, 346 pp. Dfl. 170.00.

This volume is a record of papers and summaries of posters presented at the 3rd Symposium on aphidophagous insects. The 1st Symposium, held in 1965, gave rise to a proceedings volume which was so popular that it needed to be reprinted: it is still a goldmine of information on the biology of aphidophagous insects, particularly Coccinellidae. After a gap of 19 years, a second Symposium was organised, again in Czechoslovakia, and this 3rd meeting is the result of a decision to hold the meetings at 3-yearly intervals if possible. The meetings are held in Eastern European countries to overcome the financial barriers which would otherwise prevent the participation of most Eastern European scientists, and the result is a remarkable interchange of information representing work in both Eastern and Western Europe, North America, Asia, North Africa, the Middle East and Australia. I was fortunate to be able to attend the second meeting, and I well remember the international flavour of the papers and subsequent question sessions—it was not uncommon for a question to be translated into several languages (e.g. English-Japanese-German-Czech-Russian) and the discussion to proceed via a similar route. With native English speakers being definitely in the minority, we were humbly grateful for the efforts of our European and Asian colleagues in presenting their contributions in English. Some unevenness of English style in the written presentations, despite editorial intervention, should be regarded as an attractive reminder of our indebtedness.

The present volume is divided into 6 sections: Food Ecology/Ethology, Diapause/Life Cycle Strategies, Distribution in Habitats, Impact on Aphid Populations and Use in Biological and Integrated Control (by far the longest section, with 26 papers), Parasites, Predators and Pathogens of Aphidophaga, Resistance to Pesticides (2 papers only). Within each of these sections, a range of Aphidophaga appear; coccinellids continue to be perhaps disproportionately represented, but syrphids, parasitoids, cecidomyiids, heteropterans and non-specific predators receive attention as well.

One hesitates to select individual papers for special mention, as such selections are inevitably based on one's own interests: hence in Section 1, I found Junde Qin's paper on a simplified diet for coccinellids of most interest, and also Sook Ming Ng's paper on behaviour of starved coccinellid larvae. There are only 4 papers in Section 2, and they are disappointing from a physiologist's viewpoint, being entirely descriptive. In Section 3, Peter Duelli discusses (and discards) concepts of island biogeography in relation to colonisation of habitat by biocontrol agents, and Barbara Galecka relates coccinellid communities to habitat degradation in industrial and mining areas of Silesia. Hodek and Kindlmann lead off Section 4 with a mini-review on mathematical models in evaluation of the impact of aphid predators. In this section also, we find three Australian contributions. Wendy Milne reviews the effectiveness of aphidophagous insects in lucerne, and follows this up with a paper on successful rearing of *Aphidius ervi* for release, and Paul Wellings discusses the dynamics of sex-ratio in *A. ervi* in relation to male density and host size. This section contains several other papers of interest to biological/integrated control practitioners and ends with Mackauer's summary and proposals for future research directions. Section 5 commences with another partly Australian contribution, in which Mary Carver and Daniel Sullivan review encapsulation as a defence reaction of aphids against parasites and conclude that it is not a common response. The section also includes an interesting paper by Kristin on bird predation of coccinellids and syrphids, with sparrows accounting for large numbers of adult and larval ladybirds. So much for aposematic colouring! The final two papers record the toxicity of various pesticides for coccinellids (Zelany *et al.*) and chrysopids (Kowalska and Szczepanska).

While recommending the book for its content, I cannot leave this review without some strictures on production and presentation of the material (see also Carver 1987). Contributors to these symposia are usually requested to provide camera ready copy, double-spaced, 6 pages maximum length. Obviously this greatly limits the amount of detail that can be provided but one can accept that this is a necessary trade-off of length against cost. The next step is the objectionable one—all the manuscripts (after varying degrees of editorial change) are then re-typed, presumably by the publisher. Inevitably new errors are introduced in this process, but the authors are not given a chance to correct the new typescript or proofs. In most cases the errors (though too numerous to list) are insignificant and do not create ambiguity, but they are irritating for the reader and even more so for the author, who has already spent considerable time and possibly money on perfecting his/her typescript! The cosmetic benefits of retyping must surely be outweighed by its inefficiency and potential for introducing errors. The appearance of some manuscripts has actually deteriorated, with the addition of handwritten corrections, accents and Greek symbols. Modern technology is capable of something better, and authors deserve the courtesy of being allowed to check revised manuscripts. The figures have also suffered in the course of publication, frequently being so reduced in size that symbols or lettering are unclear and different kinds of hatching are indistinguishable.

In the tradition of the preceding volumes, the book ends with a series of photographs of participants at the meeting. Unfortunately this time most of the photos are very small and appear to have been taken in the dark. The latter criticism also applies to the cover photograph. Only one of the scientific papers includes photographs (scanning and transmission electron micrographs of aphidiid ovipositors) and these are fortunately reproduced at a satisfactory standard.

CARVER, M. (1987)—Book Review, Ecology of Aphidophaga 2. *J. Aust. ent. Soc.* 26: 152.

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