

BOOK REVIEWS

KUZNETSOV, V. N. 1997. Ladybeetles of the Russian Far East. Center for Systematic Entomology; Gainesville, Florida. Memoir 1, 248 p. ISBN 1-877743-25-5. Hardback. Price per copy \$58 (\$29 to members of CSE) plus \$1.65 postage and handling to USA addresses, from The Treasurer, Center for Systematic Entomology, P.O. Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100.

This is the first volume of the Memoir Series of the Center for Systematic Entomology (CSE), an organization which is a direct support group for the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, the 6th largest public insect collection in the USA, with 7.5 million specimens housed. The reduced price to members is intended to attract new members to CSE for an annual subscription of US\$35.00 (for which members receive issues of *Insecta Mundi*, a quarterly journal of insect systematics, and a quarterly newsletter). Prospective new members should write to Dr. Avas Hamon, Treasurer, Center for Systematic Entomology [address above]. CSE supports insect systematics not only in Florida, but throughout the world. There is no better bargain in insect systematics in the USA: where else can systematists publish their works in a reputable peer-reviewed journal without page charges?

This book was published in English thanks to a facilitation grant from the National Biological Control Institute, USDA-APHIS. Translation from Russian was made by S. S. Ishevsky and M. S. Ishevskaya. It provides keys, species descriptions, illustrations (drawings), and some information on food and behavior of the coccinellid species of the Russian Far East. It draws its information from numerous publications in Russian (and some in other languages) as well as the decades of experience of its author Victor Kuznetsov, including a book that he published in Russian in 1993. Thus, it is indispensable to all serious students of Coccinellidae. It does not fail to point out, that members of the genera *Halyzia*, *Vidibia* and *Psyllobora* (tribe Psylloborini) feed on mildew, and that *Henosepilachna*, *Epilachna*, *Subcoccinella* and *Cynegetis* (subfamily Epilachninae) are phytophagous, and some of them are important pests. It does not discuss the controversy caused by introduction of *Harmonia axyridis* into the USA as a generalist predator of aphids. It offers essential information to biological control practitioners who would import predatory coccinellid species from the Russian Far East to control pest Homoptera.

Three other publishers in Gainesville specialize in entomological books. One of them is The Sandhill Crane Press, which in 1996 published "The Beetles of northeastern North America" by N. M. Downie and R. H. Arnett, Jr., 2 vols. (for a review see Florida Entomologist 79: 471-473). The second is Associated Publishers, which in 1995 published Memoirs on Entomology, International, vol. 3 "Rove beetles of the subtribe Philonthina of America north of Mexico (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae), classification, phylogeny and taxonomic revision" by A. Smetana (for a review, see Florida Entomologist 79: 81-82). The third is Scientific Publishers, which in 1996 published "Damselflies of North America" by M. J. Westfall, Jr. and M. L. May. The Florida Entomological Society publishes Florida Entomologist but no books. The Center for Systematic Entomology is a new entrant in the Gainesville book-publishing scene.

The introductory materials of the book occupy pages that are numbered in Roman numerals i-xii, but which are also (curiously) considered to be pages 1-12. Pages 13-72 then consist of an historical review of Coccinellidae of the area of interest, methods, many pages on general morphology, including a morphology of larvae, and sections on biology and ecology, on natural enemies, and on employment of Coccinellidae in bio-

logical control of homopterous pests in the former USSR. Then comes the major part of the text, on taxonomy, down to the species level, and including notes on food, habitat, and seasonality. This is extremely useful to anyone concerned with taxonomy of Coccinellidae, including persons concerned with importation of Russian species for biological control purposes.

Literature cited occupies p. 229-244. It translates Russian titles of papers and book chapters and books into English, and transliterates names of Russian journals from Cyrillic into Roman characters. For readers who need to go no further (the vast majority), this is ideal: the work of translating, summarizing, and integrating the Russian literature has been done.

For readers who are taxonomists and bibliophiles and want to go further by obtaining copies of items cited, this bibliography will cause problems because it defies conventions. If you can read the languages of the original references, you will note errors and peculiarities in the bibliography. Your inter-library-loan librarian also will have trouble with it if you try to request copies of the articles cited. For example, it omits all diacritical marks (accents) in French, German, Spanish, Swedish, and Italian. For another example, where the latest C.B.E. style manual recommends that book citations should list the name of the city of publication and name of publisher (in that order, separated by a semi-colon, and using the English name of the place of publication) the reader will not find such a scheme in citations of this bibliography such as "Moscow, Leningrad" or "New York, London" or "Hafniae" or "Lipsiae" or "Wien" (the words "Hafniae" and "Lipsiae" are the genitive case of the Latin names of the cities Copenhagen and Leipzig). It seldom gives the name of the publisher. Where it transliterates Russian into English, it frequently slips into non-standard conventions, for example by writing ЭНТОМОЛОГИЧЕСКОЕ as "entomologicheskoe" rather than the standard "entomologicheskoe" for no apparent reason. Where it transliterates the Russian word "и" (meaning "and") into the Roman character "i" it uses a capital "I", which looks very strange among a string of words all in lower case. On the other hand, all these foreign-language publications will be useful only to people who can read the languages, and they—potential users—will simply have to explain the correct spellings to their inter-library-loan librarians—to the rest of the world it does not matter.

The final chapter, p. 245-248, is called a taxonomic index but is, in fact, a useful non-alphabetical classification that lists page numbers of the main entries in the chapter on taxonomy. An additional, alphabetical index would have given additional value especially because it could have included information from all chapters.

J. H. Frank
Entomology & Nematology Dept.
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-0630