

## Besprechung / Review

STÜBEN, P. E. 2018: *The Cryptorhynchinae of the Western Palearctic / Die Cryptorhynchinae der Westpaläarktis (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)*. – Selbstverlag, Mönchengladbach: 518 pp., 3999 photographs mounted on 871 plates, 416 maps, 30 dendrograms (English and German) print & order *Curculio Institute*, Germany: Mönchengladbach, curculio@t-online.de.

The author, whose passion for the ‘nocturnal goblins’, *Acalles* & Co, is well-known, has presented an unusually richly illustrated monograph, covering a broad spectrum of scientific topics that are unparalleled in their depth and diversity.

Full-page focus-stacked photos of the habitus (dorsal/lateral) and the aedeagi are given for all 394 species of the subfamily Cryptorhynchinae from the entire Western Palearctic; with notes on ecology, biology and molecular biology, taxonomy and phylogenetic systematics. The distribution of every species is depicted on maps, and interesting photos taken in their natural habitat are presented for most species. Keys are given to each genus with numerous images that will enable quickly and precise identification of the species. DNA sequences (CO1, 16S, 28S) for 334 species, deposited in GenBank, form the basis of 30 dendrograms, presented for each genus as Bayes trees as well as maximum-likelihood trees and neighbour-joining trees. This illustrated handbook presents itself as a contribution to an ‘Integrative Taxonomy’ – and in this case this is more than just a catchword!

Furthermore, 15 species and one genus are newly described, taxonomic changes are presented, and a valuable DVD is provided as an annex (which can also be used for hard drive installation). It contains all 200 publications of the author (reprints as PDF or HTML), all high resolution images of the species in their original size (many descriptions of characters, given in the keys of the book, can be easily followed and verified this way) and an overview of all 182 valid taxa that were described by the author in the past.

The introduction to each genus communicates the latest position of the research. They are presented in German language for the first time. This is not a disadvantage, since most of these contributions have already been published in numerous international journals and are fully reprinted on the enclosed DVD (see above).

This epochal book, a synopsis after two decades of intensive research on the Western Palearctic Cryptorhynchinae, allows scientists as well as collectors and newcomers to navigate quickly through the large number of species. Indeed, it is a passionately executed and unparalleled work in form and content, and we fully agree with the author’s conclusion: “In this way, the familiarization time in the fascinating world of the ‘nocturnal goblins’ can be reduced to a minimum.” In short, it is an indispensable reference work for all who are interested in weevils, and because of its exemplary high standard, can be recommended more generally to entomologists.

L. BEHNE

