

BOOK REVIEW

CATALOGUE OF THE JUMPING SPIDERS OF NORTHERN ASIA (ARACHNIDA, ARANEAE, SALTICIDAE)

By **D. V. Logunov and Y. M. Marusik**

299 pages. 14.5 x 20.0 cm. Hard covers. KMK Sci. Press, Moscow. 2000. Please order from Dr Dmitri V. Logunov, Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, MANCHESTER, M13 9PL, UK. e-mail: dmitri.v.logunov@man.ac.uk. US \$25 (excluding p.+ p.) or GB £20 (including p.+ p.). ISBN 5-87317-081-9.

This impressive catalogue covers a huge area: Russia from the Urals to the Pacific Ocean, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, and the northern parts of Kazakhstan, China and Japan (Hokkaido). Looking at a map one can see that the area considered is mainly mountainous, but that there are also flat and marshy regions in western Siberia, and coastal, riparian, and other habitats.

The catalogue starts, as is often the case, with a historical review. This is followed by biogeographical distribution patterns and by an introduction to the cataloguing of the 41 genera and 216 species of jumping spiders. As Peter Merrett comments in the preface, the low number of species (for a catalogue) allows the possibility of providing more detail than is usual. For each species the taxonomic part is followed by distribution notes (even for outside N Asia). Every record is connected to its geographical co-ordinates, its political and geographical relationships and its citations. So the catalogue is, in an exemplary way, both transparent and repeatable. Habitat details (with citations) are given for each species, also informal comments on incorrect and doubtful determinations, taxonomic notes and, finally, citations in checklists and other catalogues. Fifty-five distribution maps (several species to each map) enhance the very good overall impression.

The catalogue ends with lists of *nomina dubia* and *nomina oblita* (this term is incorrectly used, in my opinion), wrongly determined and doubtful species records (this critical review of published records shows the way for the future), the literature used (314 sources), and an index.

Unfortunately, the authors do not follow the international consensus in a few cases (mostly concerning first years of description). For example, all Clerck's 1757 species are attributed to 1758; *Ballus depressus* (pre-occupied) is used instead of *B. chalybeius*; *Philaeus chrysops* Poda, 1776 instead of 1761. However, I could only find one missing species: *Phintella cavaleriei* (Schenkel, 1963) from Korea. Of all the catalogues that I know, this is the one with the least number of faults.

In conclusion: for all who are interested in jumping spiders in particular and Asiatic spiders in general, for all who want to know the distribution of Palaeartic spiders in Asia and, finally, for all who want to see or to own an exemplary spider catalogue, this book is a 'must have'.

Theo Blick