

Book review

Hartmann M., Weipert J. (Eds) 2015. Biodiversität und Naturlausstattung im Himalaya, Band V/Biodiversity and Natural heritage of the Himalayas, Vol. V. Verein der Freunde und Förderer des Naturkundemuseums Erfurt e.V., 580 pp.

Since 2002, the Museum of Natural History of Erfurt (Thuringia, Germany) is conducting a research project on the Biodiversity of the Himalayas, supported by the local association of Friends and Patrons of the Museum (Verein der Freunde und Förderer des Naturkundemuseums Erfurt). Every three years, the association has held a Symposium on Biodiversity and Natural Heritage of the Himalayas, inviting many foreign zoologists and botanists, with a special attention for those from the nations geographically concerned, as India and Nepal. After one year from each symposium, like clockwork, the conference organizers managed to publish a multi-authored volume of scientific papers dealing with geological, climatological, botanical and zoological issues. The major organizer, whose name appeared as editor of all five volumes published, was Matthias Hartmann, expert in beetles and plant taxonomy, currently the Director of the Museum. For editing the first volume (in 2003), Hartmann was seconded by Henryk Baumbach, the President of the association supporting the Museum; for the other four volumes (2006, 2009, 2012, 2015) he was flanked by Jörg Weipert, a specialist of Diptera, responsible for fly collections of the Museum.

Each volume of the series “Biodiversität und Naturlausstattung im Himalaya / Biodiversity and Natural heritage of the Himalayas” includes 30 - 40 articles on various topics concerning nature of the Himalayan region, and is illustrated by a large number of color photos, anatomical drawings and graphs. The large format (29x 26 cm) of the volume allows publication of full-page high resolution photos of insects and clearly readable tables. The entomological articles vary from the description of single species to the revision of genera or higher taxonomic groups, and include both regional checklists and ecological studies of insect communities.

The fifth volume, printed in 2015, includes many articles on insect taxonomy, ecology and biogeography. Herein, we list the articles by a short description of their contents, in order to facilitate the spread of information.

Taxonomic studies on insects of the Himalayas:

- an annotated checklist of Mantodea of Nepal, reporting 49 species, all illustrated by color pictures (by R. Ehrmann & M. Borer);
- an identification key of Orthoptera Tetrigidae occurring in Nepal (by J. Tumbrinck);

- a revision of *Reicheiodes* (Coleoptera Carabidae) from the Himalayas (by M. Balkenohl);
- a new species of *Amerizus* (Coleoptera Carabidae) first record of the genus for Pakistan (by W. Marggi & L. Toledano);
- two new species of *Anthracus* (Coleoptera Carabidae) from Nepal (by B. Jaeger);
- a taxonomic review of *Kareya* and description of the new genus *Siopelophonus* (Coleoptera Carabidae) (by B. Kataev);
- a revision of *Nazeris* (Coleoptera Staphylinidae), with three new species (by V. Assing);
- new taxa of *Helcophorus* (Coleoptera Lycidae) with an identification key (by S. Kazantsev);
- a new species of *Lamellipalodes* (Coleoptera Lampyridae Ototretinae) (by S. Kazantsev);
- new species of *Malthinus* (Coleoptera Cantharidae) with identification key (by A. Kopetz);
- new species of Coleoptera Dasytidae of Nepal, with identification keys (by R. Constantin);
- new taxa of Coleoptera Malachiidae, with identification keys (by S. Tshernyshev);
- a new species of *Thaumaglossa* (Coleoptera Dermestidae) from Nepal, with identification key (by J. Hava);
- two new species of Coleoptera Cleridae from the Himalayas (by R. Gerstmeier);
- a new species of *Pseudopyrochroa* (Coleoptera Pyrochroidae) from Nepal (by D. Young);
- twelve new species of *Laena* (Coleoptera Tenebrionidae) from Nepal (by W. Schawaller);
- two new species of Coleoptera Cerambycidae from Nepal (C. Holzschuh);
- new and poorly known species of Coleoptera Chrysomelidae (by L. Medvedev);
- a review of Coleoptera Rhynchitidae in the Himalayas, with identification key (by A. Legalov).

Faunistic/ ecological/ biogeographic studies on insects of the Himalayas:

- a review of Himalayan dragonflies of mountainous rainforests, with emphasis on their ecology and conservation, color photos of species and their habitats (by T. Brockhaus);
- a catalogue of the Himalayan Xantholinini (Coleoptera Staphylinidae) (by A. Bordoni);

- the fauna of caddisflies (Trichoptera) from Nepal (D. Mattern);
- a preliminary checklist of butterflies of Bhutan, from a joint research project between Italian and Bhutanese researchers (V. Sbordoni et al.).

The volumes of the series:

Hartmann M., Baumbach H. (Eds) 2003. Biodiversität und Naturlausstattung im Himalaya, Band I. Verein der Freunde und Förderer des Naturkundemuseums Erfurt e.V., Erfurt, 389 pp.

Hartmann M., Weipert J. (Eds) 2006. Biodiversität und Naturlausstattung im Himalaya, Band II. Verein der Freunde und Förderer des Naturkundemuseums Erfurt e.V., Erfurt, 533 pp.

Hartmann M., Weipert J. (Eds) 2009. Biodiversität und Naturlausstattung im Himalaya, Band III. Verein der Freunde und Förderer des Naturkundemuseums Erfurt e.V., Erfurt, 477 pp.

Hartmann M., Weipert J. (Eds) 2012. Biodiversität und Naturlausstattung im Himalaya, Band IV. Verein der Freunde und Förderer des Naturkundemuseums Erfurt e.V., Erfurt, 492 pp.

Hartmann M., Weipert J. (Eds) 2015. Biodiversität und Naturlausstattung im Himalaya, Band V. Verein der Freunde und Förderer des Naturkundemuseums Erfurt e.V., 580 pp.

Giuseppe Maria Carpaneto

Department of Science - Roma Tre University, Italy