

BOOK REVIEW

BRIGHT, D. E. AND P. BOUCHARD. 2008. **Weevils of Canada and Alaska—Volume 2. Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Entiminae.** The Insects and Arachnids of Canada, Part 25. Softcover, xiv + 327 pp. National Research Council of Canada, NRC Research Press, Ottawa, Canada (<http://pubs.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/>). ISBN 978-0-660-19400-4. ISSN 0706-7313. Price: US \$59.95.

Donald Bright and Patrice Bouchard have added another valuable part to the excellent “Insects and Arachnids of Canada” handbook series. This is the senior author’s third contribution to the series, following his previous works on bark beetles (Bright 1976) and weevils excepting Curculionidae (Bright 1993). Together these volumes stand out as perhaps the most comprehensive species-level accounts of North American weevils since Blatchley and Leng (1916)! The present volume focuses on the diverse and ubiquitous “broad-nosed” weevils, placed in the subfamily Entiminae in the wide sense of (e.g.) Alonso-Zarazaga and Lyal (1999) and Anderson (2002). More than 12,000 species of overwhelmingly polyphagous entimine weevils are known to exist worldwide. Here the authors review 123 species placed in 49 genera that are either reported, or in some cases expected, to occur in Canada and Alaska. Of particular taxonomic significance are two newly described species, viz. *Dyslobus crinitus* Bright (p. 235) and *Panscopus spantoni* Bright (p. 264), three generic and nine species synonymies, three new combinations, a neotypification, and a type species assignment.

The volume is the outcome of an ambitious and authoritatively executed plan to review the broad-nosed weevil fauna of the region. The primary language is English, although the abstract and all keys are also provided in French (making me wonder what cross-section of the entomology literate readership will make use of just those translated keys). The core taxonomic section (pp. 24–277) is arranged alphabetically according to tribes, genera, and species. It is preceded by a short introduction to broad-nosed weevil biology and morphology, followed by an informative—if shudder inducing—recapitulation of the classificatory rearrangements of the group throughout the past 50 years. The authors then provide a key to the subfamilies of Curculionidae of Canada and Alaska that has much value beyond diagnosing entimines.

The main section starts off with a key to the entimine genera, with concise couplets that reference many of the volume’s clear illustrations (Figs. 1–49, including 20 detailed habitus illustrations) or “auto-montaged” color photographs (Figs. 50–117, all appearing after the appendix). The authors’ scholarship is on full display here and especially in the subsequent genus-level and species-level accounts that amount to no less than a monograph. Each generic entry comes with complete taxonomic citations (name + author + year + page number), type species, synonyms (also with their respective type species!), as well as previous citations of the genus in a number of relevant earlier treatments. All valid and invalid name references are listed at the end of the volume. The redescription ranges from approximately 120–300 words and concentrate on external diagnostic features. They are supplemented with valuable taxonomic comments that lead into the keys to species. The individual species accounts have the same format but furthermore include notes on distribution or, where sensible, dot maps of known records—56 in total. All distributional information is summarized in an appendix that lists the species occurrence by province. The species treatments are rounded off with often rather detailed and well-referenced notes on natural history, host plants, and economic significance.

In conclusion, the authors have produced an outstanding contribution to our knowledge of the beetle fauna of Canada and Alaska, with relevance well beyond the limits of its focal region. Their work is both high in practical value and in scholarship, and should serve as an inspiration and template for similar handbooks on Nearctic weevils. Now, if only “we” could plow an academically and economically viable path to get this essential and highly structured information transferred on-line.

Literature Cited

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Nico M. Franz, *Department of Biology, PO Box 9012, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, PR 00681, U.S.A., Email: franz@uprm.edu*

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