



Book Review

Australian Longhorn Beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) Volume 1: Introduction and Subfamily Lamiinae, by Adam Ślipiński and Hermes E. Escalona. Collingwood, Australia: CSIRO Publishing, 2013. 484 pp. Hardback. ISBN 9781486300037. AU \$150.00.

I met the first author several times in China and I admired his knowledge of Coleoptera very much. Since I heard his plan to write a book about the Cerambycidae, I had been looking forward to reading it.

Volume 1 provides a general introduction to the Australian Cerambycidae with sections on the biology, phylogeny and morphology of adults and larvae, followed by keys to the subfamilies and an overview of the 74 genera of the subfamily Lamiinae occurring in Australia. All Lamiinae genera are diagnosed, described and illustrated, and an illustrated key to their identification is provided.

The clear figures are one of the best things in this book. There are lots of excellent pictures; a total of 221 plates are included covering nearly half of the 484 pages. There are 39 plates of type specimens and 120 of common specimens dissected and intact, and 5 plates of drawings for the keys, which help readers to understand the key characters. There are also 20 plates of SEM images, an uncommon feature for similar beetle books. The focus is on the generic level and the Australian species are listed following the generic descriptions. It is very surprising that the

authors propose 75 generic synonymies (only 59 are listed in Appendix 1), but only 13 new species synonymies. I felt that the authors' definition of genera is broader than some other authorities, for example the genus *Rhytiphora* is considered to contain 28 (only 24 are listed in Appendix 1) new synonymies. It may be difficult to gain early acceptance of this wider definition and system.

The Australian genera of Lamiinae are arranged in alphabetical order, providing the tribal assignment without discussion. I was expecting to find some resolution of the tribal problems, but the authors state that 'the current tribal classification of Lamiinae is artificial and should be abandoned' and that monophyletic groups 'can be only established from a worldwide perspective through comprehensive phylogenetic research'. Apparently there is a comprehensive longhorn molecular phylogeny now in preparation.

There are some small errors, such as the inconsistent numbers of synonymies in different parts of the book and in the citation of family name and first name for Chinese authors. But this doesn't matter much. The 26-page bibliography provides valuable references for readers seeking more in-depth information and the index is comprehensive. The book reflects its title and is a must for people wanting to know more about the beetle fauna of Australia. For longicornists working on other regions, this book is also very helpful.

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