der Schriftenreihe “Fauna und Flora in Rheinland-Pfalz.” Gesellschaft für Naturschutz
und Ornithologie Rheinland-Pfalz e. V., Mainz, 713 pp. Available from the publisher: Gnor,
Osteinstraße 7-9, 55118 Mainz, Germany: www.gnor.de, for €39.90 + shipping.

This hard cover volume (size: 17 × 22 cm) is an incredibly detailed faunistic presentation of
83 species and subspecies that are known to occur in the Rheinland-Pfalz and Saarland region
of southwestern Germany. This volume joins recent buprestid faunistic volumes from Bulgaria
(Sakalian 2003), Greece (Mühle et al. 2000), Hungary (Muskovits and Hegyessy 2002), the
Iberian peninsula (Verdugo 2005) and Italy (Curletti 1994) and together these volumes have likely
contributed, more or less, to the anticipated new catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera (Kubán et al.
in press).

The text is in German, which immediately made me wish that my four years of German
language study in high school (way back when) could be redeployed into modern service. Major
sections of the book provide an impressive wealth of information (roughly translated): 1. General
(pp. 15–121): 1.1 Introduction; 1.2 Goals, Materials, Methods, Collaborators, Acknowledgments;
1.3 Regional characterization; 1.4 Jewel beetle investigations in the region; 2. Historical
investigations and species (pp. 122–492): 2.1 Historical level of investigations; 2.2 Systematic
species list of region; 2.3 Species chapters; 3. Discussion (pp. 493–609): 3.1 Selected ecological
guilds; 3.2 Jewel beetle fauna of regional subsections; 3.3 Species list of selected areas (tabular
summary of 3.2; 3.4 Biogeographic elements and relics; 3.5 Recent changes in jewel beetle fauna
(extinctions and invasions); 3.6 Origins of distribution; 4. Nature and species protection (pp. 610–
634); 4.1 Comments on German government protections laws; 4.2 Remarks on the Bern
Convention (Central European wildlife conservation laws); 4.3 Remarks on initiatives to protect
jewel beetles; 4.4 Red data list of extinct/endangered jewel beetles in the region; 5. Literature (pp.
635–658); 6. Specimen examined data (pp. 659–697); and 7. Index (pp. 698–711). A single page
of Addenda/Corrigenda is found on p. 713.

Within those sections are discussions about buprestids: as indicator species; in art and culture
(including three color plates illustrating most of the world’s postage stamps featuring buprestids);
in advertising and trade; and in the media. There are incredibly detailed accounts of the historical
studies of buprestids within the study area, including maps that show examined specimens in four
chronological categories (before 1850, 1851–1900, 1901–1950, post 1951) as well as more general
European and German maps indicating the country and state occurrence respectively. In nearly
every species chapter, there is at least one in situ color photo (if not, then dorsal habitus of museum
specimens), photos of hosts and habitats and in many cases larval damage and habitus of larvae
and pupae. There is literally nothing that I can think of that the author has not included.

The volume is well-appointed, with a nice layout; I found no typos but since it is in German,
I doubt that I am discerning enough. Simply put, this volume should serve as a model for all
faunistic works. The amount of detail both in introducing the subject and setting the stage through
summarizing what is known about each discussed taxon widely in the Palaearctic and critically
within the focal part of Germany seems virtually complete. All in all, this is a superlative
contribution and belongs on the shelves of the specialist, coleopterists from the region, and those
interested in the entomofauna and/or natural history of Germany or Europe.

Acknowledgements

I thank the author for sending a copy to be included in my world catalogue. I thank Martin
Hauser, currently at this address, for helping translate and thus make more of this beautiful volume
available for my edification.

Literature Cited

Apollo Books, Stenstrup (in press).