BOOK REVIEW


This long-awaited update closely follows the format of the 2006 edition except for the elimination of the two-page chapter on Biogeography. The chapter in the first edition on Phylogeny and Taxonomy is renamed Systematics and Taxonomy in the second edition, but the content is basically the same.

Readers will immediately note that all of the former “subgenera” (except Tribonia Rivalier, which has been dismissed) have been elevated to full genera. Moreover, a number of species have been reassigned between Cicindela Linnaeus and Cicindelidia Rivalier, and also between Habroscelimorpha Dokhturow and Eunota Rivalier (the latter contained only togata Laferte-Senectere in the 2006 edition). Time to start re-memorizing.

As with the first edition, the “vital organs” of the second edition are the excellent Illustrated Keys to genera and species, the Color Plates, and the Species Accounts themselves. Some surprises (see below) may startle some of those who are familiar with the first edition.

The Illustrated Keys had 22 pages in the first edition and now 25 pages in the second edition because more taxa are included. Vernacular names are “adjusted” in some cases (i.e., the genus Tetracha, formerly as “Big-headed Tiger Beetles,” are now “Metallic Tiger Beetles,” etc.) and the names do seem more meaningful.

The Species Accounts in the first edition had 129 pages, but the addition of more taxa expanded the coverage to 147 pages in the second edition. This chapter contains a number of stunning changes in nomenclature. The long-accepted distinction between Cicindela longilabris Say and C. nebraskana Casey is no more. The new member of the authors’ group has spent much time on molecular studies and has concluded that the two taxa are now conspecific. In addition, they have dropped the formerly recognized subspecies of C. longilabris into synonymy—and that’s just the beginning.

Many of the species formerly included in the genus Cylindera are now carried in a “new” (still not officially named/described as of this writing) genus Parvindela, with the exception of Cylindera unipunctata which has now been moved to the Southeast Asian genus Apterodela! Four “new” species of Dromochorus (still not officially named/described as of this writing) are added besides those originally included in the first edition. Again the differences are largely based upon molecular studies because in the Illustrated Keys, several of the “new” taxa are separated based upon locality and habitat with no morphologic differentiation. These new taxa (plus D. pruininus Casey - finally recognized as a full species) warrant their own color plate.

Several of the other color plates have been nicely reworked to accommodate newly recognized species and subspecies, and the eight additional plates with 13 life images...