

BOOK REVIEWS

Northeastern Tiger Beetles. A Field Guide to Tiger Beetles of New England and Eastern Canada 1999 by J.G. Leonard and R.T. Bell. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL. 176pp. ISBN 0-8493-1915-3

Although the book's title would indicate that it deals only with NE Nearctic cicindelids, the book is essentially a primer on tiger beetles divided into sixteen sections.

The first three sections introduce the authors, give their backgrounds, and acknowledge those individuals and institutions that provided assistance with the project.

Following that, are sections dealing with the definition of a tiger beetle, definitions of what constitutes a species, and tiger beetle ecology. Ensuing sections deal with methods of capturing tiger beetles, curation of specimens and keys to adults and third-instar larvae. The keys are amply illustrated, especially the one dealing with larvae. Following the keys are sections dealing with the rearing of tiger beetles and their conservation in the field.

The species accounts that follow the above are broken down by the species' phenotypic expression (i.e., "GREEN SPECIES" or "DARK SPECIES WITH COMPLETE WHITE MACULATIONS", etc.) and each taxon has a brief adult and larval description, habitat preference, life cycle, geographic range and notes – where known. Each taxon also has accompanying range maps, showing its range within New England and eastern Canada. Also included within the species account sections are four pages of color plates illustrating twenty-four taxa.

The final four sections include a glossary of terms, references and suggested reading, an index and several blank pages for field notes.

My only criticisms of the book are related more to presentation than to content. An example would be Figure 6 (ventral view of *Cicindela sexguttata*), which is used to illustrate and identify ventral body segments. The figure makes no mention of epimera, mesosternum or episterna other than the proepisternum. Other examples involve the illustration of labra. The traditional method of illustrating a cicindelid labrum is to show it in dorsal aspect, with the labral dentition on the upper portion of the illustration. For some reason Leonard and Bell have chosen to display all labra in frontal aspect with the dentition on the bottom. Labral Figures 24 and 25 are credited to Willis (1968), but they are actually upside-down when compared to the way they appeared in that paper. These small glitches do little to diminish the quality of the book, but they should have been corrected during peer-review or editing.

This is an excellent source book for any novice with an interest in the Cicindelidae and should be on the shelf of any cicindelophile – if for no other reason than to reinforce why we study these fascinating beetles.

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