

Ground Beetles of Connecticut (Coleoptera: Carabidae, excluding Cicindelini): An Annotated Checklist 2001 by William L. Krinsky and Michael K. Oliver. State Geological and Natural History Survey, Bulletin 117. 307 pp. ISBN: 0942081-11-0. Paper. \$25.95 US.

There is no doubt that the title of this book reflects its content: it is essentially an annotated checklist of the carabid species recorded from Connecticut. Following each species name, the authors provide, by codes (such as VC for very common, C for common, R for rare, Str for stray, SC for species found on the "Connecticut's Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Species 1998" list), an opinion on the status of the species in Connecticut and, also by codes (such as NE for northeastern United States and Canada), a general indication of the geographic range of the species within North America. The authors also indicate the earliest and latest dates of capture, in any year, of the species in the state, the exact or approximate year when the species was first collected in the state, and a list of collections that house Connecticut material. This is followed by a general description of habitat preference and a list of habitat data found by the authors on Connecticut specimen labels. A map of Connecticut, divided into 169 towns as the basic locality units, is provided on the opposite page highlighting the towns from which the species has been recorded. In addition, each genus, with the exception of those in the subtribe Tachyina, is briefly described. This section, which is the core of the book (pp. 20–289), is preceded (pp. 1–19) by general remarks on Carabidae and a discussion of previous lists of Northeastern beetles. It is followed (pp. 290–307) by a short discussion concerning species abundance, habitat preferences, species decline, introduced species, life cycle patterns, by the literature cited, an alphabetical list of Connecticut Carabidae, and an index. Fifteen plates with colour photographs of 73 species (at least one species for each genus included) are incorporated near the middle of the book.

The information included in this book is of interest for all of us interested in North American Carabidae and the general presentation is of good quality. However, the authors made some decisions that are questionable in my opinion. I believe the tiger beetles should have been included (the authors did not give any reason for ignoring them). There are only 16 species recorded from the state, so the amount of space needed to treat them would have been minimal. The descriptions of genera are only marginally useful. In the absence of keys, novices cannot really identify their specimens to genera, and the experienced carabidologists have no need for such information in a book like this one. The habitus illustrations are not the best I have seen. The specimens used are usually poorly mounted and the pins are visible. A search for better mounted specimens and the use of a specialized software certainly could have improved the quality of the pictures. The genera within each tribe, and the species within each genus, are listed alphabetically. Some may find such presentation convenient, but it really does not give the reader the opportunity to compare easily the available information for related taxa. For example, the three species of *Bracteon* (genus *Bembidion*) found in Connecticut are spread over a number of pages and there is no way, within the book, to find that these species are indeed closely related. I believe it would have been preferable to use subtribes for large tribes, such as Bembidiini and Harpalini, and subgenera for large genera, such as *Bembidion* and *Pterostichus*.

Despite these remarks, which are more of personal preference than of scientific nature, there is no doubt in my mind that the fauna of Connecticut, in term of Carabidae, is now one of the best surveyed in the United States. The book provides a good picture in time of the carabid composition of Connecticut that could be invaluable for assessing biodiversity changes in the future and take

actions for environmental management. North American carabidologists will find in this book not only new and useful information about many eastern species but also a model, which could be improved, for similar surveys in other parts of the continent.

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