

Book Review

Larvas de Coleoptera do Brasil. by Cleide Costa, Sergio A. Vanin, and Sonia A. Casari-Chan. Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brazil. 282 p., 165 pl. (Price not given).

This is a remarkable new book which is certainly well above all that has been done up to now in this field. Moreover, it deals with a fauna on which we have very few biological data. One hundred nine beetle families are reviewed, from the curious Micromalthidae to the Curculionidae. Mrs. Costa showed me the proofs of the book in 1987 in Sao Paulo, and I had the opportunity then to admire the good quality and even perfection of the drawings.

The book starts with a quick survey of the biology of the larvae: metamorphosis, main sorts of larvae, predators, defensive adaptations of larvae and pupae, sound production, and luminescence (we know that an adult Brazilian cerambycid copies perfectly the luminous organ of a lampyrid and we

don't understand clearly the reason for such mimicry). Then follows a detailed study of general morphology with excellent and clear drawings. An extensive, 27-page key to the larvae of the Brazilian families is then given. Then comes the biological and morphological description of typical larvae of each family. A bibliography, a glossary, and a taxonomic index complete the book. The book format is 28.5 x 21 cm.

It would be difficult to do better. However, we regret that the family examples are sometimes reduced to a few typical examples. For instance, the Chrysomelidae are represented by only one example each of *Calligrapha*, *Coelomera*, *Sceloenopla*, and *Botanochara*. The examples are, however, well-chosen and Cleide has elucidated the peculiar biology of *Coelomera cajennensis*, which lays eggs in the stems of *Cecropia* trees. Meanwhile, we remain hungry to know the real biology of *Megascelis* larvae, which are probably radicicolous like eumolpine larvae, but who knows? -- P. Jolivet, Paris.