

BOOK REVIEW

Toth, S. Magyarorszag csiposzunyog-faunaja (Diptera: Culicidae). [The mosquito fauna of Hungary] Natura Somogyiensis 6. Somogy. Kaposvar. 327 pages. 2004. ISSN-1587-1908, ISBN 963 7212 43 4 (in Hungarian) [ordering information Dr. Levente Abraham, levi@smmi.hu]

The monograph, written by Hungary's foremost mosquito specialist, is the first comprehensive faunistic work on Hungarian mosquitoes since Mihalyi & Gulyas's (1963) work. The volume is illustrated with 79 coloured photographs, 33 diagrams and 51 UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) maps. It is based on the author's research and examination of some 600 000 Hungarian mosquitoes over almost 40 years. The book begins with a detailed overview of the history of research on Hungarian mosquitoes and includes a table of the species described in publications and a checklist of mosquitoes in Hungary (48 species and 1 subspecies). The most important and detailed part of the monograph is the chapter dealing with capture data. The Hungarian mosquitoes are treated systematically and information is presented on their distribution, lifestyle and phenology. There are numerical ratings of the frequency and types of larval habitats that the species have been recorded from; the numbers of captured specimens (larvae, male and female adults); a description of the collecting methods (e.g. bait catches, sweep-netting) and the numbers captured. There are also details on the ecological requirements and lifestyle of each species as well as their public health nuisance.

A major feature of the book is the inclusion of a series of UTM maps showing the distribution of each species in Hungary, based on previously published records and new data presented in this book. For some species a critical evaluation of earlier data is also given, including mention of probable uncertain records. The phenological diagrams constitute a significant achievement in research on the population dynamics of mosquitoes. Diagrams are provided for both larval and imaginal stages of most species. However the author has not included diagrams where there is insufficient available data.

Besides filling a gap in Hungarian mosquito research, Dr. Sandor Toth's work records several achievements in terms of research on both the mosquito fauna and their ecology. *Culiseta fumipennis*, *Culiseta ochroptera* and *Ochlerotatus pullatus* are presented as new species in Hungary's fauna. Larvae of *Ochlerotatus geniculatus* and *Anopheles plumbeus* - previously known only from water-filled tree holes - have also been observed breeding in water-filled rock-holes.

The book ends with a list of references, an index, a short English summary and biographical details of the author.

Reference

Mihalyi F. & Gulyas M. (1963): Magyarorszag csipo szunyogjai. Leirasuk, eletmodjuk es az ellenuk valo vedekezes. [Mosquitoes in Hungary.] - Akademiai Kiado, Budapest, 229 pp. (in Hungarian)

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