

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LITERATURE

Arthropod Fauna of the UAE Volume 1.

Antonius van Harten
ISBN 978-9948-03-642-5

The objective of the UAE Insect Project was to try and obtain as complete an inventory as possible of the terrestrial and aquatic arthropods occurring in the UAE. In 2005, van Harten as part of his preparation for this book, found only 830 species of insect recorded for the UAE.

As a result of his successive work, five new genera, 83 new species and 4 new subspecies have been included. Of the 79 families dealt with in the book, 43 had not been previously recorded in the UAE. This first volume contains only about 25% of contributing taxonomists work and only about 30% of families collected have been covered. Descriptions, identification keys, plates and figures are included to help future zoologists and entomologists that might work in the region in their identification process.

Examples of families covered include Psocoptera commonly known as booklice, barklice or barkflies. Up to the current publication only a few occasional records have been published from the Arabian Peninsula resulting in 13 species being previously recorded for this location. In the book 31 species were recorded from the UAE all being new and only three of the 31 species were reported before in the Arabian Peninsula.

The Histeridae, commonly known as clown beetles or hister beetles, had not been previously reported from the UAE so all those recorded were new to the country. 28 species were collected of which several are new to the Arabian Peninsula and three species and one subspecies appear to be new to science.

More commonly described species, for example, the Elanteridae or click beetles still had many gaps to be filled. Until 2005 there were only 5 species known for the UAE. Following the study, 23 species were described of which 18 were new to the UAE (although in the text only 17 were stated).

Another example would be from the family Coccinellidae (ladybird-beetles) where up until the study only 3 species were recorded in the UAE. Following this publication another 22 species were identified and 21 of these were new to the UAE.

Interestingly Rücker (Latridiidae) suggests that the fact that there were 4 genera and 12 species of the Latridiidae which are mycetophagus species is remarkable due to the dry nature of this country. Contrary to that, the Chrysomelidae leaf beetles were noticeable by the fact that there were recorded in low numbers. It was suggested that this could be due to the collection methods adopted. As a result of the Insect Survey six species and one sub species of this family were identified.

Altogether this is a very valuable book for any entomologist in the region. A total of 570 species are reported in this volume. We look forward to forthcoming volumes which will deal with the remaining families.

Reviewed by Declan O'Donovan

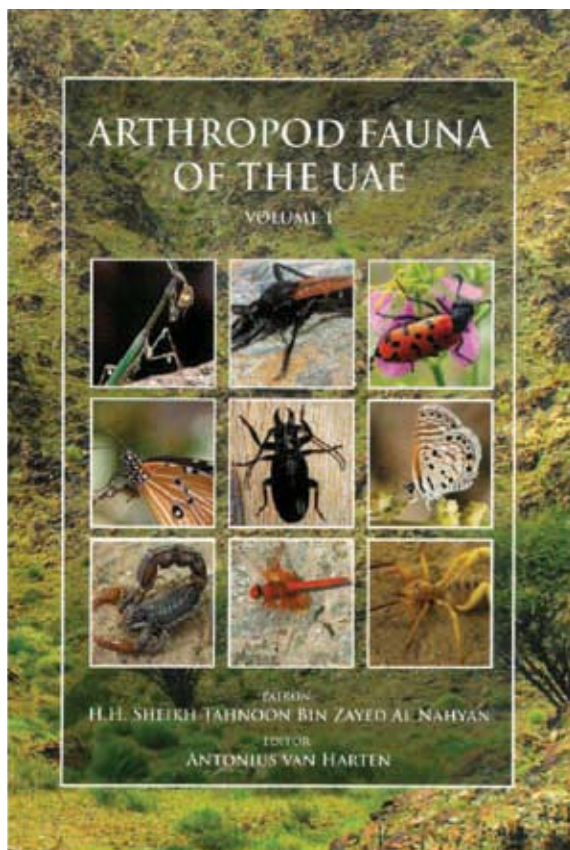


Fig 1. Arthropod Fauna of the UAE Volume 1.

Recent Scientific Papers

Kilgallon C, Bailey T, Arca-Ruibal B, Misheff M, O'Donovan D (2008) Blood gas and acid base parameters in non-tranquilised Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) in the UAE. *Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine: Vol. 39, No. 1 pp. 6–12.*

Saud Anajariyya (2008) Twenty years of Arabian oryx captive-breeding and conservation program in Saudi Arabia. *First International Wildlife Reintroduction Conference Applying Science to Conservation, April 15-16, 2008, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL USA*

Andrew Spalton, Salah Salim al Madhdouri, Yasser Hamdan al Kharousi (2008) The Arabian Oryx Project, Oman. *First International Wildlife Reintroduction Conference Applying Science to Conservation, April 15-16, 2008, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL USA.*

Abstracts or full versions of these are available for download as a pdf at the [wmenews website](http://www.wmenews.com)

