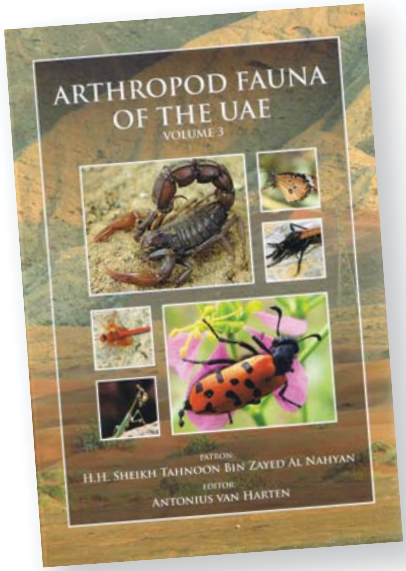
ARTHROPOD FAUNA OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, VOLUME 3

Antonius van Harten (Ed.), Dar Al Ummah Printing, Publishing, Distributing & Advertising, 700 pp., ISBN 948-15-616-1

Reviewed by Prof. Dr. R.K. Schuster, DipEVPC, FTA Parasitology, FTA Tropical Veterinary Medicine, Central Veterinary Research Laboratory, PO Box 597, Dubai, United Arab Emirates



The 3rd volume of the arthropod fauna of the UAE was delivered in April 2010. An international team of forty-six scientists contributed to the 45 systematic chapters. Representatives of spiders (2 families), beetles (10 families), flies (9 families), bugs (3 families), wasps (12 families), moths (8 families), net winged insects (1 family), grasshoppers, crickets and locusts (7 families) recorded in the UAE were characterized in the current book. Together with the two previous volumes more than 170 families are covered.

It is not surprising that in a country with a relatively young arachno-entomological science quite a number of species have been found and described for the first time. Among nearly 540 arthropods in almost 340 genera 72 new species were described and one new genus was found. With species names like harteni and vanharteni the collector and editor was honored 11 times in this volume.

The family of darkening beetles with 65 species in 47 genera in 4 subfamilies is the group with the biggest variety of species. This family has been studied extensively in Arabia by different authors before. Contrary to this, 7 out of the 10 small aquatic beetles found in the UAE were new species. The jumping spiders were studied for the first time in the UAE and resulted in the description of 11 new species.

Although chapters were structured in a similar way the systematic account shows a broad heterogeneity. While some authors presented their material as an illustrated checklist others included determination keys and provided data on biology and distribution of the species in other countries.

Since many of the treated groups contain representatives known as vermin and others include useful species like pollinators, parasitoids and predators this book is recommended to be in the bookshelf of experts in the field of applied zoology like pest control and agriculture. Representatives of the orthoptera, coleoptera and diptera can act as intermediate hosts for cestodes, trematodes, nematodes and acanthocephalans. Therefore it might also be of interest for parasitologists.

The book impresses with its illustrations, high quality colour photographs, line drawings and SEM pictures.

Transmissible Diseases Handbook

Editor: Jacques Kaandorp (j.kaandorp@beeksebergen.nl); Co-editors: Norin Chai, Ayla Bayens
http://www.eaza.net/activities/Pages/Transmissible%20Diseases%20Handbook.aspx

The fourth edition of the Transmissible Diseases Handbook, compiled by the Infectious Diseases Working Group (IDWG) was published in February 2010 by the European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (EAZWV). EAZA strongly supported the release and distributed the handbook as a CD-ROM to all of its members. It has also been made available to the authorities of SANCO in Brussels, members of the EU Animal Health Strategy Committee, the CVOs (Central Veterinary Officers) of all 27 EU Member States and the OIE.

The handbook summarises information on various diseases: susceptible animals, zoonotic potential, clinical symptoms, pathology, diagnostic methods, qualified laboratories, treatment, prevention, experts who may be consulted, legislation (especially European laws) and relevant literature. From this page you can download the individual chapters of the handbook, the relevant European decisions, directives and regulations, and 133 fact sheets in a standardised format.