

BOOK REVIEW

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Coleoptera, Passalidae: Morfologia y division en grandes grupos; generos Americanos by Pedro Reyes-Castillo. 1970. Folia Entomologica Mexicana 20-22:1-240; 3 Photos, 186 Fig.

Pedro Reyes-Castillo, member of the Department of Zoology in the National School of Biological Sciences, I.P.N., Mexico, has once again illustrated his dedication to the study of the family Passalidae, both as a biologist in the field and a taxonomist in the laboratory. His present monograph is eminently successful in modernizing and simplifying the classification of the whole family, and in completely revising it to the boundary of generic differentiation, so far as the American representation is concerned. The magnitude of this task can only be fully appreciated by making a close study of the monograph, which I have been privileged to do.

The death, in 1961, of my close friend and colleague Dr. W. D. Hincks, robbed the Passalidae of its most indefatigable worker upon its classification during the past half century. The Reyes' monograph calls for considerable revision of the Hincks-Dibb Coleopterorum Catalogus (Junk) of 1935 and 1958, due to the newly erected basic classification. This demands but 2 subfamily divisions viz. Aulacocyclinae and Passalinae, in place of the former 7 subfamilies. In turn, the provision now made of most valuable comparative morphological studies from a large number of specimens of the American species (together with the clearing up of much former misuse of convergent characters) has resulted in extensive alterations in synonymy. With regard to tribal divisions, the major revision of the Proculini with its new diagnostic table, is of special importance owing to the need, now demonstrated, to break up the genera *Popilius* and *Proculejus*, to accommodate the appropriate species within the revised generic characterization which, in turn, has called for the creation of additional genera.

The work has been divided into 2 sections. 1) Estudio Morfológico y Valoración Taxonómico de los Distintos Caracteres—the comparative morphological studies; and 2) Parte Sistemática, comprises the characterization of the family, subfamilies and tribes, followed by a detailed revision of the New World genera. Both sections are expertly illustrated wherever the text demands such additional clarification. The morphological studies include description of form, color and size, together with the necessary descriptive detail of the principal external structures. Nor have the internal structures, usable for differentiation purposes, been neglected.

The systematic section is especially comprehensive, and references to the known fossils are given. The new taxonomy of subfamilies, tribes and genera, is a model of clarity, and one new species is described. Type species are indicated; the species content of the genera are listed; synonymy is brought up to date, the generic affinities are mentioned; all the materials studied are diagnosed and commented upon, and the geographical distribution, limiting factors, and ecological associations are discussed. An extensive bibliography is included.

In conclusion, it is not possible to over-estimate the value of this carefully worked out expansive sectional revision of one of the most interesting families of Coleoptera. Pedro Reyes-Castillo has strikingly succeeded in significantly advancing our knowledge of the Passalidae.