

# BOOK REVIEW

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LINARES, E.L. & VERA, M.L., 2012. Catálogo de los moluscos continentales de Colombia. Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Facultad de Ciencias, Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Bogotá D.C., 360 pp. (Biblioteca José Jerónimo Triana, No. 23). Spanish. ISBN 978-958-761-168-7. Price unknown.

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This book on the Colombian non-marine molluscs is written by authors that are both authoritative with regard to the malacofauna of their country. Until now, a comprehensive list of this part of the biodiverse fauna of Colombia was missing, and the book fills this gap.

The book is well-written and has a neat lay-out; there are no illustrations. Besides the main part of the catalogue (covering 659 species arranged in 59 families), the book has chapters on the history of malacology in Colombia, taxonomy and diversity, and distribution. An extensive bibliography and index to scientific names makes this book important and useful.

The catalogue (p. 85-280) lists each species with reference to the original publication, type locality and depository of type material (if known). This is followed by distribution records within Colombia, arranged according to the Departments if specific localities are known. The altitudinal range is given and, if needed, further comments are supplied (e.g., precision of old historical localities which might not always be found in modern gazetteers). Finally, the main bibliographic sources for each species are listed.

The chapter on taxonomic diversity analyses the non-marine malacofauna with tables of the number of species per genus, the number of species known per Department within Colombia, and comparisons with the malacofauna of Peru and Brazil. The claim in the press release that Colombia is the third richest country in number of molluscs in the world appears to be incorrect; the book only compares Colombia, Peru and Brazil. As to be expected, the number of species

distributed within the country reflects the historical accessibility and species records are concentrated in the Andean regions. The most dominant families are the Orthalicidae (sensu Bouchet & Rocroi, 2005) for land snails (219 species, 40.3%) and the Ampullariidae for freshwater species (39 species, 33.6%).

The authors compiled the book with data from the literature, electronic databases from a number of museums in Europe and USA, and by consulting the collection of their Instituto de Ciencias Naturales (ICN).

A check on data quality was done using own data, which have partially been published (Borrero & Breure, 2011; Breure & Borrero, forthcoming), apparently after the authors had finalised their manuscript in mid-2011. Data for *Dryptus*, *Plekocheilus*, *Stenostylus* and *Drymaeus* all show the same pattern. Although many data are correct, there are frequently errors to be found: taxonomical errors (taxa listed as separate species which are accepted synonyms, e.g. *Plekocheilus bisuturalis*; or using incorrect names, e.g. *Drymaeus gracilis* (Lea, 1838) [not Hutton, 1834 = *D. leai* Pilsbry, 1898]), distributional errors (mainly by uncritically copying data from databases which are mislabeled or misidentified), and lacking data (localities mentioned without reference to vouchers, e.g. *Drymaeus spectatus*). Some taxa are listed for Colombia which are endemic to other countries (e.g. *Plekocheilus fusitorsus* [Venezuela], *P. rhodocheilus* [Brazil]), or of which presence in Colombia is very doubtful or based on unverified records. On the other hand, some interesting specific localities are mentioned for species which lacked these until now, mainly based on the ICN collection.

Despite the serious flaws mentioned above, and the lack of illustrations, this book is an important contribution to our knowledge of the Neotropical non-marine malacofauna.

## REFERENCES

- BORRERO, F.J. & BREURE, A.S.H., 2011. The Amphibulimidae (Mollusca, Gastropoda, Orthalicoidea) from Colombia and adjacent areas. - *Zootaxa* 3054: 1-59.
- BOUCHET, P. & ROCROI, J.-P., 2005. Classification and nomenclator of gastropod families. - *Malacologia* 47: 1-397.