

BOOK REVIEW

EDMUND GITTENBERGER

Naturalis Biodiversity Center, P.O. Box 9517, NL-2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands; edi.gittenberger@naturalis.nl

ROLANDA MARIA ALBUQUERQUE DE MATOS, 2014. Atlas dos caracóis terrestres e de águas doces e salobras Portugal continental, iv & 258 pp, 188 figures (nearly all in colour and original), 125 distribution maps. Depósito legal 370072/14. ISBN 978-989-20-4480-4. Price unknown. In Portuguese.

This book deals with 89 terrestrial and 37 freshwater snail species occurring in Portugal. It may be considered the successor of the monographs of Morelet (1845), Locard (1899) and Nobre (1941), and it is the first modern taxonomic and biogeographic book on non-marine Portuguese snails. Slugs are not dealt with.

After some general introductory chapters (pp. 1-6), geographical and geophysical data are presented (pp. 7-16), followed by a description of the administrative divisions of Portugal and the UTM-grid distribution maps (pp. 17-20), a summary of previous malacological studies regarding Portugal (pp. 21-23), a systematic list of the species that are dealt with (pp. 24-28), and the atlas, which comprises the largest part of the book (pp. 29-233), ending with the references (pp. 234-249), an index (pp. 250-257), and one page with additional references in the most recent literature (p. 258).

The shells of all species are figured in at least two views. Records dating from prior to 1941 and more recent records are indicated with different symbols on distribution maps. In the accompanying text, the species are shortly characterized morphologically, with additional data on their habitat and rareness, the general distribution, and the literature; this may be expanded with various notes and details on conservation issues and paleontological data.

Identification keys are lacking, so that the unexperienced reader has to start with the illustrations. Since the shells of all species are illustrated, this should not really be problematical. With few exceptions (e.g. *Radix peregra*, *Hydrobia ventrosa* ? *Hydrobia stagnalis*), the nomenclature is up to date. Inevitably for a first work of this kind, several details ask for more study. Some illustrations show shells that deviate from the usual shape of the alleged species, so that a more detailed investigation is required. This applies in particular to the shells identified as *Stagnicola palustris* (fig. 36), *Anisus spirorbis* (fig. 54), *Plagyrona placida* (fig. 84), *Pupilla muscorum* (fig. 87, = *Lauria* like), *Abida secale* (fig. 93, = slender *Chondrina lusitanica*), *Cochlicella conoidea* (fig. 147), and some of the many Iberian Hygromiinae species.

This first attractive book on the Portuguese snails, in Portuguese, may open the eyes for the beauty of shells and stimulate further malacological research in Portugal, especially also by local malacologists. I sincerely hope that this goal will be achieved.