

Arthropod Fauna of the UAE Volume 2

Antonius van Harten ISBN 978-9948-15-090-9

Having reviewed "Arthropod Fauna of the UAE Volume 1" for WME News Vol 3 Issue 1 over a year ago I was amazed at the detail and dedication of the contributing entomologists to this project. With the arrival of Volume 2, I was interested to see whether the same level of accuracy and detail would be included. I was not disappointed and was glad to find that the high standards set in Volume 1 were again maintained in Volume 2 and that an equally high number of new species to the UAE and science are reported here. This book describes 63 families (making a total of 125 different families for both volumes) of which 26 families had not been recorded from the UAE previously. In total there has been an additional 390 new species added to those already known to the UAE. Of these, 83 species and 2 subspecies have been identified for the first time as new to science. As with Volume 1, descriptions, identification keys, plates and figures are included to help future zoologists and entomologists who might work in the region in their identification process.

Although members of the Pseudoscorpiones were first reported from the Arabian Peninsula as far back as 1882, it wasn't until this publication that they were reported from the UAE when 12 species belonging to five families were identified. Two species were reported as new to science and two as new to the Arabian Peninsula.

One of the largest families of beetles studied were the Carabidae of which there were 7,858 specimens collected. From these there were 70 species identified to species level of which 62 were not reported previously from the UAE. However, as most specimens were collected using light traps, it was not clear whether all specimens collected originated from the UAE or neighbouring countries. Conversely as the light trap was the main source for specimens it was felt that there were probably many more terrestrial species which were not identified.

For the bees of the UAE (Order Hymenoptera, superfamily Apoidea) a total of 100 species were identified to species level and 45 of these were recorded as new to the UAE. As bees are bound to certain qualities of their habitat such as flowering plants, and numerous species of those recorded were from single specimens, it is felt that in time many more bee species will be identified for the UAE.

Perhaps the largest family of lepidopterans reported in this book are the Noctuidae of which 169 species were reported from the UAE and three of these are new to science. Although many parasitic species were described from different Orders such as those from the Lepidoptera, which could have serious economic impact on agriculture, of concern to zoological collections was the finding of a single larva of the *Oestrus variolosus* (nasal botfly) from an ibex (*Capra ibex nubiana*). Although only a single specimen, there is anecdotal evidence of infestation of Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) with similar parasitic species.

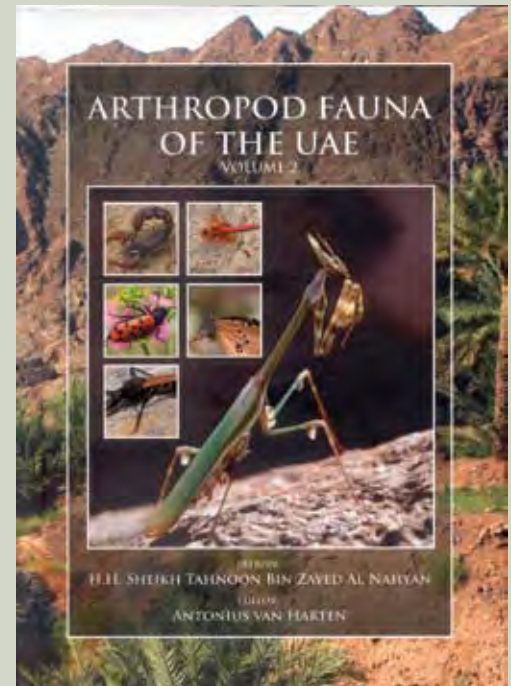


Fig1. Arthropod Fauna of the UAE Volume 2.

Antonius van Harten and colleagues have again produced a volume of papers which will be indispensable to future entomological studies within the UAE and Middle East in general. It is also heartening to see the support offered by Sheikh Tahnoon Bin Zayed to this project. While not a coffee table book it is a must have for anyone interested in arthropods in the Middle East.

Reviewed by Declan O'Donovan

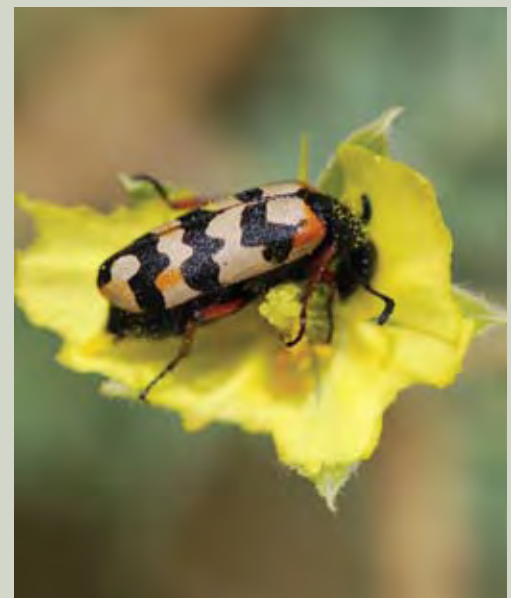


Fig2. Meloidae sp. (Martin Hauser)