

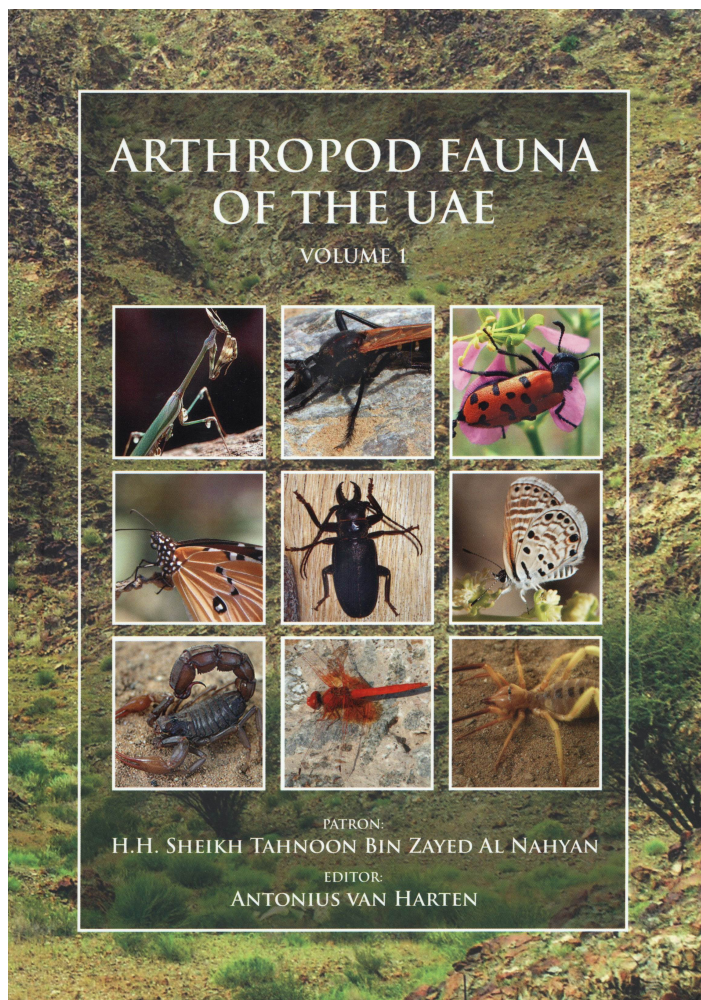
## BOOK REVIEW

**H.H. Sheikh Tahnoon Bin Zayed Al Nahyan (patron), Antonius van Harten (editor). *Arthropod fauna of the United Arab Emirates. Volume 1. Dar Al Ummah Printing, Publishing & Advertising, 2008. 754 pages, 17 x 24 cm. ISBN 978-9948-03-642-5. Price: 35 € (incl. postage).***

In 2004, on the initiative of His Highness Sheikh Tahnoon Bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a comprehensive programme aimed at producing an inventory of the UAE arthropod fauna was commenced. The idea underlying the programme was to study biological diversity of a poorly known area exposed to rapidly progressing urbanization and environmental degradation. The programme is coordinated by Antonius van Harten who managed to involve more than 150 experts from all over the world. The programme is envisaged to produce a series of reports the first volume of which, "Arthropod fauna of the United Arab Emirates. Volume 1" came out in January 2008. The book is intended for both professional and amateur entomologist.

The volume consists of groups of chapters: the first group provides general information and includes *Preface, Introduction*, and a description of *Collecting methods and localities*, while the second group deals with systematics and is divided into parts entitled *Mites and Insects of the UAE, List of taxonomic novelties in this volume* and *Zoological index*. Each of the 56 chapters of the systematics group provides the most important information on biology, knowledge of the taxon dealt with and a review of species recorded in the UAE. The list includes amply illustrated (more than 600, mostly colour, figures) diagnoses, identification keys and remarks on the taxonomic position, variability, ecology, etc. The first volume covers 79 families of 12 arthropod orders, and was written by 50 authors from 19 countries. The publication added 570 species to the known UAE fauna, including 83 species (numbers given below), 4 subspecies (italicized), and 5 genera (bolded) new for science. The studies have also resulted in 10 new synonyms and 7 new combinations.

Mites: Prostigmata (Calligonellidae 1). Insects: Zygentoma (Lepismatidae **1**, 1); Ephemeroptera (Baetidae 4, Leptophlebiidae, Caenidae 1); Blattoptera (Blattidae, Polyphagidae 1, Blattellidae, Blaberidae); Psocoptera (Trogidae 1, Psyllipsocidae, Amphientomidae, Liposcelididae, Pachytroctidae 1, Asiopsocidae, Lachesillidae, Ectopsocidae, Elipsocidae, Mesopsocidae 2, Psocidae **1**, 1); Thysanoptera (Aeolothripidae, Melanthripidae, Adiheterothripidae, Thripidae, Phlaeothripidae); Hemiptera (Cicadidae, Tibicinidae 1, Psyllidae, Triozidae); Coleoptera (Histeridae **1**, 3, *1*, Elateridae **1**, 2, Melyridae, Endomychidae, Coccinellidae, Latridiidae, Rhipiphoridae, Tenebrionidae 1, Oedemeridae 1, Anthicidae 4, Cerambycidae *1*, Chrysomelidae 3, *1*); Strepsiptera (Stylopidae); Hymenoptera (Platygastridae 11, Eulophidae 4, Dryinidae 1, Sclerogibbidae, Chrysididae 1, *1*, Scoliidae, Bradynobaenidae 3, Heterogynaidae); Lepidoptera (Ethmiidae, Elachistidae 1, Scythrididae, Batrachedridae, Coleophoridae 1, Autostichidae, Brachodidae,



Tortricidae, Pterophoridae 1, Pyralidae 1, 12, Crambidae 3, Geometridae 2); Diptera (Stratiomyidae 1, Mydidae, Phoridae 1, Conopidae, Lonchaeidae, Tephritidae 2, Chamaemyiidae 1, Sepsidae, Anthomyzidae, Canacidae 2, Heleomyzidae, Chyromyidae 5, Sphaeroceridae, Curtonotidae, Muscidae, Calliphoridae 1, Rhinophoridae 2).

Noteworthy are an exceptionally pleasing cover, excellent graphics, and reasonable price of the volume, which encourages the purchase of this valuable publication.

Wojciech GILKA, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, University of Gdańsk, Al. Piłsudskiego 46, 81-378 Gdynia, Poland, e-mail: scorpio@ocean.univ.gda.pl