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BOOK REVIEW

Izmailova, M. V. 1989. **Fauna of Spiders of Southeastern Siberia** (In Russian). Irkutsk State University, Irkutsk, USSR. 184 pp., figs.

This is a first book written about Siberian spiders. It includes data on 341 species belonging to 21 families from the southeastern Siberia. Data are based on the author's collections from 1967 to 1981 in the southern part of the Irkutsk Region, the Krasnoyarsk Region (Boguchansk District), the Buryatia and the western Chita Region. Eighty species are listed only from the literature and were not collected by the author. The chapters include: the history of araneological research in Siberia; physiographic description of East Siberia (very extensive and never referred to in later chapters), faunal list with localities (pictures of genitalia and synonymies are given for selected species), data on habitat distribution and ecological characteristics (for coniferous and mixed forests, shrubs, swamps and rocky habitats) and zoogeography.

The last monographic book on spiders from the Soviet Union was *Spiders of Tadjikistan* by E. M. Andreeva (1976). Thus, a serious treatment of the regional Siberian fauna would have been welcomed. However, this book is a disappointment. It contains many errors and underrepresents the current knowledge of Siberian spiders. Moreover, it does not adhere to the common standards for faunistic publications on spiders.

The chapters of this book dealing with systematics are full of mistakes. Besides numerous misspellings of Latin names, the author ignores (or is not aware of) recent changes in taxonomy. She lists many linyphiid species under their old generic names (e.g., *Sintula flavescens*, instead of *Maro f.* , *Mengea warburtoni* instead of *Allomengea w.*). Synonyms *Cornicularia karpinskii* and *Wideria k.* are listed as two different species. Many generic names in the Araneidae and some in the Theridiidae and Salticidae are outdated. Junior synonyms of many species are not listed. Although the author likely had at her disposal very limited reference sources, Russian arachnologists often exchange information. Thus, there appears to be little reason not to check all synonymies and update references.

Of the 226 spider species collected or identified by the author, 121 are represented only by one or two adult specimens. Ten species are represented only by juveniles. Surprisingly, only one drawing, that of *Sitticus finschi*, shows the genitalia for both males and females. All other 166 pictures show either palp or epigyne. Moreover, judging from these pictures, many species are misidentified: e.g., *Pisaura mirabilis* should be *P. ancora*, *Araneus grossus* should be *Aculepeira carbonarioides*, *Zelotes subterraneaus* should be *Z. fratris*, and many others. Synonymy of some species is not checked, and they are listed twice, under both valid name and a junior synonym. *Acantholycosa norvegica* is listed the second time as *A. fedotovi*; *Alopecosa sibirica* – as *A. pinnata*; *Alopecosa solivaga* – as *A. poecila*; *Steatoda bipunctata* – as *Lithyphanthes corollatus*, etc. Many species are listed under the names that became junior synonyms long ago. In one case, Izmailova discovers a new homonymy (*Gnaphosa punctata* Kulczynski and *G. punctata* Tullgren) but does not discuss it and does not give a new name to the junior homonym.

Two new species are described by M. Izmailova: *Alopecosa litvinovi* and *Pardosa* "sp.n."; the latter one is not given any name. In both descriptions, no diagnosis is provided, holotype specimens are not designated, and the place of their deposit is not given.

The distribution information for more than 70 species is incorrect (e. g., circum-Holarctic species *Gnaphosa borea* is referred to as "endemic of East Siberia"). Listed as "endemics of the Asiatic USSR" are *G. borea*, *Clubiona interjecta*, *Xysticus lectus* (=*X. britcheri*), *X. transsibiricus* (=*X. ephippiatus*), *Linyphia tridens* (=*Estrandia grandeva*); however, these spiders are found also in North America and/or China, Mongolia and Japan. Among the "first records for the USSR" are *Xysticus britcheri*, *Gnaphosa chaffanjoni*, *Haplodrassus moderatus*, *Evarcha albaria*–all of which were recorded for the USSR before.

Unfortunately, this book cannot serve as a guide to Siberian spiders. It is outdated in references and synonymy, and it has numerous mistakes.

Yuri Marusik: Institute of the Biological Problems of the North, Russian Academy of Sciences, Magadan 685010, Russia.

Victor Fet: Department of Biological Sciences, Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118, USA.

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