

BOOK REVIEW

Book Review: *Longhorned Woodboring Beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae and Disteniidae): Primary Types of the Smithsonian Institution* (edited by S. W. Lingafelter et al., Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press, Washington D.C., USA. 2014, 390 pages)

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This book was written by five authors. I had met two of them, the first and third author. The first author, Steven Wayne Lingafelter, is a research entomologist with the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, USDA, based at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. He has specialized on longhorned woodboring beetles for almost three decades and currently specializes on the Neotropical fauna. He was a former editor of the *Coleopterists Bulletin* and *ZooKeys*. The third author, Gérard Luc Tavakilian, was retired but is currently Attaché au Laboratoire d'Entomologie du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris. He is an expert on the fauna of French Guiana in South America. He spends most of his time adding data to the Titan database (<http://lis-02.snv.jussieu.fr/titan/>), which is the most important and useful database of Longhorned beetles in the world.

The Smithsonian Institution, holds the third largest collection (the first is the Muséum national d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris, the second is the Natural History Museum, London) in the world based on primary types and is the leading institution outside of Europe. This book is the first complete catalog of the 2156 longhorned beetle primary types housed at the Smithsonian and includes stunning full-color images of each primary type specimen. The preface presents a history of the collection, with biographies of the major systematists who contributed to its growth. The data for the taxa are sorted alphabetically by specific epithet, subspecific epithet (if applicable), author, and year. In this way, each species can be located rapidly without regard to different subsequent or future combinations and without needing an index. The disadvantage of this arrangement is when a reader wants to study a special group, such as I wanting to study the tribe Saperdini, and in this case it is more difficult to find all the types of that group quickly. But this can be resolved in the online database (<http://smithsoniancerambycidae.com/>) that was developed in concert with this book. There are 180 plates of type specimens in dorsal view (sometimes with lateral view) accompanied with photographs of the labels, which is one of the most useful things in this book. One plate includes 12 taxa, so the pictures are not big enough for detail characters, but larger pictures are available online (<http://smithsoniancerambycidae.com/>). Appendix 1 to 7 are professional and important, which clarify several taxonomic questions. The 17-page bibliography provides valuable references for readers seeking more in-depth information. The book reflects its title and is helpful for Longicornists all over the world, because the taxa included in the Smithsonian collection represent 81 countries. Also it is a good model for museum leaders and curators, on how to arrange the specimens and make them useful for more people.

Last but not least, I hope China will strive to follow the model of the Smithsonian Institution in promoting the study, enhancement, and diffusion of knowledge of their natural history collections, as the incredible diversity of the Chinese fauna demands.

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