

NEW BOOKS

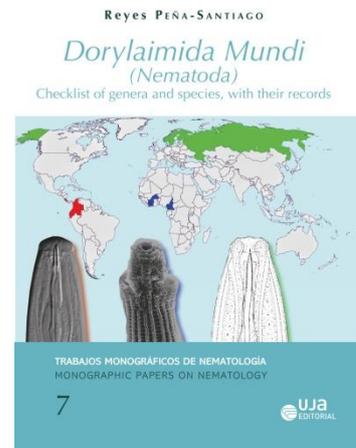
REYES PEÑA-SANTIAGO. *Dorylaimida Mundi (Nematoda): Checklist of genera and species, with their records*. Monographic Papers on Nematology 7. Jaén, Spain, UJA Editorial, 2021. xvi + 957 pp. ISBN: 978-849159456-7. Price: €95.00

The dorylaims form one of the most important nematode groups in the soil, being highly speciose with more than 3400 nominal species (3088 are regarded as valid in the current work) and 363 nominal genera, 285 being regarded as valid. Dorylaims display high diversity in their morphology, behaviour and ecology and are found in abundance in most soils around the world. As such, members of the group have particular potential as biological/environmental indicators in soil ecology studies. Being such a large and diverse group, the literature is often difficult to locate and access, this volume being designed to address that problem within the confines of its covers.

As might be expected, given the stated intention, this is a large tome weighing in at around 960 pages (Fig. 42). It provides a compendium of the available information (to the end of 2020) on dorylaim taxa together with their references. The book is divided into four sections: *i) List of genera and species, with their records* – comprising a catalogue of the currently recognised taxa with their synonyms and reference citations; *ii) References*; *iii) List of genera* – an alphabetical list of taxa at the generic and subgeneric levels, together with their synonyms; and *iv) List of species* – an alphabetical list of valid species names and their synonyms. As one would expect, the first section, at 664 pages, forms the majority of the 957 pages of the book; the References take up the next 172 pages, and the taxa indexes the remainder with the *List of genera* occupying ten pages and the *List of species*, some 108 pages. Valid taxa are clearly indicated in bold font.

The layout of the book is very clear and unambiguous. In the first section, for example, each genus heading is centred with its authority and taxonomic citations listed underneath as author, date and source (but, to save space, no title) together with indications in square brackets as to the scope of the reference, such as ‘Taxonomy’, ‘Compendium’, *etc.* The list of valid species then follows, the left-margined epithets in bold font followed by the complete authority. Junior synonyms, when appropriate, are listed below each name and fully sourced as per the genus heading. The Principle of Coordination is followed. An asterisk before a reference indicates that no taxonomic/morphological information but only distribution data are cited, whereas a question mark indicates that the recorded identity of the taxon in the reference may not be correct.

As to production, the book is hard bound and printed on a nice quality paper. To my (old) eyes the font is rather small and perhaps a trifle ‘spidery’ in appearance; for some reason the letter ‘t’ does not extend above the other letters in the Roman-style font text (letters such as ‘f’, ‘b’, ‘d’, and ‘l’ do...), although it does so in the even smaller, but rather pleasing, italic font. Use of larger fonts throughout would probably have necessitated a 2-volume approach, so I can well understand the production decision – the book is designed for information retrieval, not bedtime reading. Even so, this is one book where an electronic version would be a very definite advantage.



So, does the author succeed in his aim? Yes, indeed he does. The text should prove to be of inestimable value to both the dorylaim researcher and others interested in this group and represents a distillation of a lifetime's study and profound knowledge of this large and important group of soil animals. Reyes Peña-Santiago is to be congratulated for his care and attention in compiling such a taxonomic lexicon of the Dorylaimida.

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