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Fauna Helvetica: a reply to J. Salmela and a rectification on Dienske (1987)

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A reply is given to the review by Salmela (2007) of Fauna Helvetica 14 (Podenas *et al.* 2006, Limoniidae and Pediciidae de Suisse). Most of the keys, even if adapted and enhanced with drawings, strictly follow the key to genera and subgenera by Dienske (1987) without citing the source. This is rectified here.

Keywords: Diptera, Limoniidae, Pediciidae, Fauna Helvetica, identification key.

INTRODUCTION

The fauna of Switzerland, despite its relatively small surface area, is allegedly species-rich and diverse due to its position in Central Europe at the intersection of several biogeographical boundaries and the large altitudinal gradient. The knowledge on the Swiss fauna, however, apart from a few well-studied, species-poor taxa such as vertebrates or butterflies, is too fragmentary to test this hypothesis. Burckhardt (2000) estimated that only about 75 % of hexapod species which actually occur in Switzerland have been recorded. One reason for this unsatisfactory situation is the lack of specialists, an international phenomenon which became particularly noticeable and severe over the last 20 years (Cuttelod 2006, Airoidi *et al.* 2007). A problem in studying the Swiss fauna very often arises due to the absence of good identification books or catalogues. The publication of Fauna Helvetica, an endeavour by the Swiss Entomological Society (SEG/SES) and the Swiss Centre for the Cartography of the Fauna (CSCF), both non profit organisations, is intended to provide a tool helping to promote faunistic research as well as applied studies using faunistic data. Despite very limited financial and personal resources 23 volumes have been published in the course of the last 10 years.

Recently Salmela (2007) published a book review of volume 14 which deals with the dipteran families Limoniidae and Pediciidae (Podenas *et al.* 2006). Here we would like to reply to this review.

THE REVIEW OF SALMELA (2007)

Salmela's (2007) review is serious and detailed. Some of his criticism is constructive, such as his comments that the introduction of the book (Podenas *et al.* 2006) is too short. The book would certainly have been more attractive for a gener-

al readership with a more elaborate and informative introduction. Other points, as for instance the arrangement of species in alphabetical order rather than according to relationship are, to a certain extent, a matter of taste and editorial policy. The major reproach, however, is one of plagiarism concerning major parts of the keys and most of the illustrations.

According to S. Podenas (pers. comm.) all illustrations were made by himself, mostly on the basis of specimens. The drawings are, as far as possible done always in the same position making them somewhat schematic but better for comparison. Some have been based on published drawings but have been redrawn and adapted to fit a homogeneous style. A similarity to published drawings is not surprising and difficult to avoid.

RECTIFICATION

The matter of the keys is different. Even if adapted and enriched with drawings, most of the keys strictly follow the key to genera and subgenera by Dieneske (1987) without citing the source. We apologize that this happened and acknowledge that most of the keys in Podenas *et al.* (2006) are those published by Dieneske (1987) (for details see Salmela 2007).

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