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There is something about the Australian insect fauna and/or psyche that seems to inspire ambitious entomological projects. Whether it's Arthur Lea describing a large proportion of the Coleoptera, the publication of textbooks covering all insect orders, or Elwood Zimmerman's embarking on revising the entire weevil fauna when he was in his 60s; there is a certain panache to the Australian way. This would be a sort of hubris, if the end products were not so extraordinarily successful and useful. The latest in these efforts is the spectacular *Australian Beetles Volume 3* that brings the vast and extravagant weevil (Curculionioidea) fauna of Australia (plus the lamiine long-horn beetles (Cerambycidae), for good measure) into a single, 720 page book.



Each of the over 800 genera known from the broader Australian territory (including Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands) has a entry consisting of a list of species, a summary of its distribution at the state level, and notes on their classification and biology. Dichotomous keys are provided to guide

the identification of the genera. But the real highlight of this work is the rich store of illustrations it contains. The literally 1000s of images in the book include colour habitus photographs (of nearly every genus covered), clear in-situ photographs of live specimens, multitudes of plates of SEM photographs of disarticulated specimens, and wonderful line drawings and black-and-white habitus drawings. The number of illustrations risks becoming overwhelming; but it is an uplifting experience to just sit down with the book and enjoy page after page of pictures of weevils.

Although most of the broader weevil groups and some genera are shared between Australia and New Zealand, the high endemism of both countries makes this book a poor entry point for those seeking to learn the weevils of New Zealand. Attempts to do so will be frustrated by those assemblages that are diverse in Australia but poorly represented or absent in New Zealand (e.g. Amycterini, Aterpini, Cyphicerini, Gonipterini) and hindered by those taxa in New Zealand that comprise a more dominant part of the fauna than their Australian relatives (e.g. Cossoninae, Eugnomini, Phrynixini). However, for those wanting to place the New Zealand fauna in its global context, this book will provide a rich source of data and guidance for evaluating connections with the Australian weevils. In particular, the comprehensive treatment of groups such as the Cryptorhynchini will assist in revealing previously unrecognised affinities between the Australian and New Zealand fauna. Unfortunately, the authors found themselves unable to compile a key to the Cossoninae; however they provide abundant illustrative material that will be a useful source of data for those who wish to work on the group.

In a book of this size and complexity, mistakes are unavoidable. It was not difficult to find some instances of incorrect figure citations or head phrases in captions. The vast majority of illustrations are correctly identified; but the drawings of *Gonipterus* “*scutellatus*” larvae from New Zealand in Fig 44.196 are properly of *G. platensis* and the photograph of a “*Camptorhinus*” on plate 22 is an *Acicnemis* species. There are also some instances of name usages that differ from current usage. For example, a species of New Zealand Eugnominae recently found in Tasmania is treated as *Stephanorhynchus*, though the authors cite the recent work that placed this species into the genus *Pittosporobius*. More chapter-level subdivisions between subfamilies would have been helpful for organising the book. Given the preponderance of images in the book, it would also have been helpful if the index indicated which pages referred to illustrations.

The addition of the Lamiinae is an interesting choice. I am unconvinced about the broader value of its addition that results in separating the Cerambycidae across two volumes of this series. The Cerambycidae of Australia has recently been covered in greater detail as a 2-volume book series by the same editors as the present volume, so perhaps they thought there wasn't much that needed updating. Even so, I feel for those workers on Cerambycidae who are looking at having to purchase (another!) two large books to cover their taxon of interest. With only four genera shared between Australia and New Zealand, it is unlikely that those interested in the New Zealand Lamiinae will find much of value in this section that isn't covered in Australian Longhorn Beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) Volume 1.

Overall, however, this book is a *tour de force*. It costs \$280 AUD and is available as a large, well-bound, impressive-looking, hard-cover book for those who like such things, or as an eBook that might be better for navigating through the book. Although its direct applicability to the New Zealand fauna is somewhat limited, as a textbook on weevil morphology and relationships it is unsurpassed; and for those who need or want to work with the Australian fauna it is essential. There is much more to be discovered in the Australian weevil fauna and I hope that this volume will inspire and support increased taxonomic research on Australian weevils, especially at the species level, which will ultimately assist in greater understanding of the weevils of Aotearoa.