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Book Review: Revision of the genus Spermophagus Schoenherr (Coleoptera, Bruchidae, Amblycerinae)

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Book Review

Revision of the genus Spermophagus Schoenherr (Coleoptera, Bruchidae, Amblycerinae). Lech Borowiec. Genus, International Journal of Invertebrate Taxonomy (Supplement), Biologica Silesiae. 1991. 198 p. (Price not given).

Species in the genus Spermophagus are found in all of the Old World regions except Australia. Prior to this fine monograph, the taxonomy was a hodgepodge of local faunal treatments and single species descriptions with few usable keys or illustrations. Now we have available keys to 90 species with full descriptions, geographical distributions, and excellent illustrations of dorsal habitus, male genitalia, and many of the female genital valves.

Host plants of species of Spermophagus are to be found mostly in the Convolvulaceae and Malvaceae, but isolated species have been associated with Asteraceae, Caesalpiniaceae, Fabaceae, and Mimosaceae. Host lists include a number of economically important weedy plant species, especially in the Convolvulaceae, and might lead to a consideration of the bruchids as biocontrol agents.

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