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Book Review: *Scarab Beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) of South Carolina* (HARPOOTLIAN, PHILLIP J. 2001)

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BOOK REVIEW

HARPOOTLIAN, PHILLIP J. 2001. **Scarab Beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) of South Carolina**. Biota of South Carolina, Volume 2. Clemson University, Clemson, SC. 157 pp. ISBN 0-9712527-0-X. Soft cover. Available from Clemson University, Public Service Bulletin Room, 96 Poole Agricultural Center, Clemson, SC 29634-0129, U.S.A., and at <http://cufan.clemson.edu/olos/>. Price: \$37.50.

In *Scarab Beetles of South Carolina*, Harpootlian has clearly channeled a love of collecting and nomenclature into a valuable publication that fills a void in the identification of the North American scarab fauna. This effectively illustrated work covers 289 taxa and provides keys to adults for all genera and species of scarabs from South Carolina. Each species treatment includes synonymies, brief descriptions, months of adult activity, South Carolina county records, and broad geographical distribution. Whenever possible, the author has included additional remarks highlighting life history information or label data that all researchers and collectors crave. Generic synonymies and descriptions are provided as well and are broadly useful, since virtually all commonly encountered eastern North American genera are covered.

The stated goal of this publication is to provide a means of identifying adult scarab beetles of South Carolina. However, the impact of Harpootlian's work exceeds that somewhat narrow scope, as the content is more broadly useful over much of the eastern half of the continent. As an example, information on 122 of the 187 species of scarabs (*sensu* Harpootlian) currently known to occur in Iowa (E. Freese and D. A. Veal, unpubl. data) can be found in *Scarab Beetles of South Carolina*.

A limitation to the publication is the use of the three-family higher classification within the Scarabaeoidea, with the subsequent exclusion of the Lucanidae and Passalidae. The missing families are so disregarded that they do not even merit a mention in the classification of the superfamily (p. 5), but this oversight is a symptom of the traditionally narrow definition of "scarab." As lucanids and passalids are arguably no less scarabs than are trogids or geotrupids, future state surveys and checklists should be more inclusive.

Scarabs are commonly encountered and often economically important. With Harpootlian's contribution, the group is becoming increasingly straightforward to identify. This book is recommended to any scientist, professional, or amateur who either needs or wants to determine scarabs from South Carolina, or requires information on species common to much of the eastern United States.

A compilation of addenda to the text is in the works (Harpootlian, pers. comm.), and will eventually be posted online at: <http://entweb.clemson.edu/insectinfo/biota.htm>.

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