

BOOK ROUND-UP: THREE RECENT NON-MARINE PUBLICATIONS

Suomen kotilot ja etanat: opas maanilviäisten maailmaan [Finland's snails and slugs: a guide to the world of terrestrial molluscs] by Anne Koivunen, Pekka Malinen, Hannu Ormio, Juhani Terhivuo & Ilmari Valovirta. 2014. Hyönteistarvike Tibiale Oy, Helsinki. ISBN 978-952-67544-6-8. 376 pp., hardback, UK price approx. £70.

This lavishly prepared volume could make a terrestrial conchologist of anyone. The many photographs are arresting, not just because of their quality but the flair shown in the composition and design of the book. Of special note are the portraits of molluscs in their microhabitats – some worthy of Landseer perhaps? The natural history section includes mollusc ecology, pests, the collecting process from fieldwork to curation, and conservation. The rare *Quickella arenaria* and *Cochlicopa nitens* are added to the fauna. The species accounts are comprehensive with more photos, dot maps and microhabitat diagrams; each snail species is also shown on comparative plates and a key to families is included. The book's least attractive portion must be the set of drawings of genitalia, but as I myself know these are difficult to illustrate in a beginner's guide. Finnish 'common' names are used throughout, cross-referenced to scientific ones. The book's checklist includes empty boxes, as if to dare the reader to find and tick off all 94 species – a challenge many in Fennoscandia may go on to take up.

An illustrated guide to the land snails of the British Isles by Fred Naggs, Richard C. Preece, Roy Anderson, Amritha Peiris, Harold Taylor & Tom S. White. 2014. Joint Conchological Society / Malacological Society Publication, SRP Ltd., Exeter. 12 pp. UK price £1, or 7 for £10 (sic).

A must-have for naturalists in Britain and Ireland, this glossy concertina sheet is so light, durable and inexpensive it is readily carried everywhere, and for everyday use. As both a way of getting the beginner into the right area with an identification, and as an aide-memoire for the more experienced, it is excellent. The cut-out photographs of 99 species (shells and living animals) capture everything they can, and the text introduction raises the main points

of identification. However, as with most photo-guides of this type the lack of annotations is a distinct disadvantage. I would not be confident in records of, say, vertiginid species made using this guide alone, although readers are directed to more detailed publications. Its greatest value perhaps lies in being an introduction to the appeal of snails for absolute beginners. It may also help users realise when they have found additions to this well-studied fauna; for example, the common hothouse aliens are now easier to rule out than before (see also Preece & Naggs, p. 153).

Atlas dos Caracóis Terrestres e de Águas Doces e Salobras Portugal Continental [Atlas of Terrestrial, Fresh and Brackish-water Snails of continental Portugal] by Rolanda Maria Albuquerque de Matos. 2014. Published by the author. ISBN 978-989-20-4480-4. 258 pp., hardback, UK price approx. £80.

This is a handsome Atlas providing informative hectad (10 km) dot maps of the distributions of 130 non-marine species. These include several very rare aquatic species and other endemics, although not slugs other than Testacellidae and Parmacellidae. Each species is illustrated with photographs, and synonyms, references and interpretation are given, with invaluable references to paleontological records. The maps distinguish pre- and post-1941 records, showing apparent change in distributions clearly; furthermore, overlapping records of both types are given a symbol that indicates relative stability. For example, the post-1941 decline of *Cepaea nemoralis* in the south and east is discussed in terms of both climate change and overharvesting for food. Such maps can act as a great stimulus to collectors and recorders to gather further information. It is therefore a slight pity the wide-ranging geographical introduction omits a map of overall recording density to date. Such publications are inevitably an exciting 'snapshot'; as if to show the pace of ongoing work on the Iberian fauna, an addendum gives references to revisions published during its preparation.

Ben Rowson
National Museum of Wales