

Constantin CIUBUC, 2020. *ATLAS. Carabidae din România/Carabidae from Romania*. Pim Publishing House, Iași, 794 pages.

The *ATLAS* is the result of a long activity, measured over many years, in the field, with Barber traps installed at ground level and mercury vapor light traps, but also in the laboratory, under the microscope, in front of the laptop or on the camera, by the researcher Constantin Ciubuc, PhD in biology, Director for 21 years of the Sinaia Zoological Station, which belongs to the University of Bucharest.

In Romania, Carabidae species have been approached by several researchers, from different generations, but never so assiduously investigated and spectacularly presented, as in this “*ATLAS, Carabidae from Romania*”, with 794 pages, published in exceptional conditions in Pim Publishing House from Iași.

The experience of more than 100 works published by the author, also materialized in the creation of this valuable *ATLAS*, dedicated to terrestrial insects, the Carabidae family, with more than 40,000 species worldwide, included in the order Coleoptera (beetles), an order that includes probably the largest number of species of organisms on Earth (about 500,000).

From the fauna of Romania, the author managed to identify 386 carabid species, based on the analysis of 82,324 specimens, the *Index* at the end of the paper indicating an impressive number of 187 sampling stations, from different areas of Romania.

The author’s orientation towards the investigation of this family of insects, in addition to his passion as an entomologist, is also explained by the knowledge of their particularly important role in nature, but also of their importance for humans.

Approached from the point of view of their role in nature, carabid species are important in the structure and functioning of ecological systems, being major components of biocenoses in terrestrial ecosystems, especially epigeal ones.

Through the large number of species and specimens, they are involved in the circuit of matter, the numerous predatory species being at the same time factors of the control of the populations of other species, being the main factor of stability in the communities of invertebrates, especially insects, from the ground level, of maintaining them, within a stability level, compatible with temporal and spatial persistence. Carabids are therefore directly involved in achieving two of the three functions of ecosystems, the function of circulation of matter and the function of self-regulation, but through the action of phytophagous species on plants, they also influence the energy function.

From a trophic point of view, as predators, along with parasitoids (mainly from the Hymenoptera order), predatory carabids, like predators from other orders, are included into the category considered by UNESCO as “living natural resources”, as biotic factors of populations control of some species, considered harmful from an anthropocentric point of view.

Seen as a whole, the *ATLAS* primarily reflects the author’s rigor as a researcher, his attention for the appearance of the work, presentation of some elements of external morphology, including details of sexual dimorphism, genitalia, thorax, legs, etc., necessary for the determination of species, reflects also the correctness of the presentation of synonymy and distribution data in Romania, on almost the entire territory, but also in Europe.

The value of the work increased by faithfully rendering the color of the species, knowing that a description, no matter how rigorous and thorough, cannot be compared to an image, especially color.

The bilingual presentation of the text increases access to information, to the external dissemination of the data and images contained in the *ATLAS*, to their inclusion in works with European and world fauna, but it also stimulates the interest of researchers from other areas, to approach, compare, complete the data presented in the *ATLAS*.

The finding of individual variability within many of species, of the existence of some subspecies, to specify the specimen from which he made the description of each species, author indicated the number with it is registered in his personal collection.

From the point of view of the negative effects of climate change on all species, the *ATLAS* also has another message, being able to be viewed in the future as “an old, family photo” of contemporary beings with us.

The *ATLAS* “gives us” another proof of the rigor of the researcher, of their passion and admiration for nature, but also of the desire to transmit to the young generation, the urge for research, for knowledge, for actions, as an informed and active protector of nature, of all species affected by various human activities and effects at the planetary level, more significant at present.

The *ATLAS* can also be seen as a subliminal plea for the human, as the rational species, who now lives on Earth in the “Age of Insects” (in which does not know enough, ignore or destroy insects), to sustain the efforts of researchers, specialists from different fields, as a call to change direction in one’s own approach, training, attitude, personality, evolution.

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Professor Univ. Dr. IRINA TEODORESCU
Faculty of Biology, University of Bucharest