

BOOK REVIEW

HARVESTMEN: THE BIOLOGY OF OPILIONES

RICARDO PINTO-DA-ROCHA, GLAUCO MACHADO & GONZALO GIRIBET (EDITORS),
HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2007

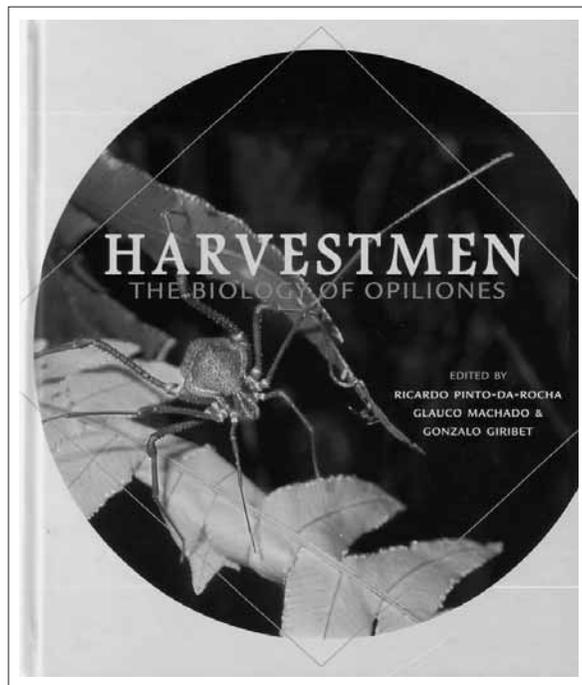
John Hancock

Though my primary passion has always been with Araneae and I am reluctant to learn a new group of arachnids, I am consistently drawn toward Opiliones. However, with encouragement from Robert Holmberg and the fact that I collected the amazing *Taracus* species in my study area, I have taken the first step with this new work on Harvestmen.

This voluminous work covers every conceivable aspect of the biology of Opiliones. The Contents page clearly demonstrates its breadth: morphology, functional anatomy, phylogeny, biogeography, taxonomy, paleontology, cytogenetics, ecology, diet and foraging, natural enemies, defense mechanisms, social behavior, reproduction, development, ecophysiology, along with methods and study techniques.

Twenty-five contributors pooled their knowledge to make 15 chapters. Together, they answered relevant questions within each of the diverse fields listed above. The extensive references are a great help. My only criticism of this work from a student's perspective is a conspicuously missing glossary.

Like many people I love good books and I can heartily recommend this work on Opiliones. In fact, I treated myself to a hard-back copy.



ARACHNIDS ON THE WEB

Eurospiders: <http://www.eurospiders.com> (Stefan Sollfors)

Spiders of Europe: <http://jorgenlissner.dk> (Jørgen Lissner)

Coelotinae: <http://www.amaurobiidae.com> (Xinping Wang)

Oonopidae: <http://research.amnh.org/oonopidae/> (AMNH, Planetary Biodiversity Inventory)

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