

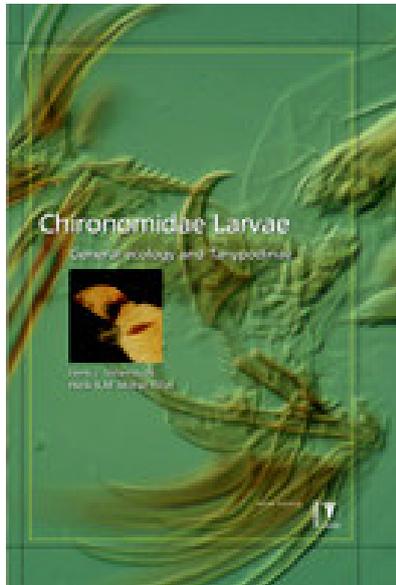
Book review

Henk J. Vallenduuk & Henk K.M. Moller Pillot, 2007:
Chironomidae Larvae - General ecology and Tanypodinae
KNNV uitgeverij, Zeist, 276p. ISBN 978 90 5011 2598.
Order at <http://www.knnvuitgeverij.nl>, € 69.50

Maarten van Hardenbroek

This comprehensive guide is a welcome addition for the specialized chironomid worker: a detailed overview of the distribution and ecology of Tanypodinae living in the Netherlands and adjacent lowlands.

The first chapter is a general introduction to Chironomidae, covering dispersal, life-history, methods for sampling and collecting, and effects of environmental conditions on the occurrence of chironomids. This chapter is followed by a list of the Dutch Tanypodinae species and an introduction to the identification keys that explains the terminology and includes detailed drawings of body parts that are important for identification.



The next part of the book consists of the keys for pupae and 3rd/4th instar larvae and contains matrices that give an overview of the characters (including size measurements) used in the keys. Many of these features are only visible if the complete larval body is available for identification, which make them not suitable for those who work with (sub)fossil material, that usually only has the head-capsules preserved. Useful features for palaeo-workers, however, are the overview of Langton's*) drawings of thoracic horns and the illustrations of the post-occipital margin of the larval head capsules. For Tanypodinae, the latter has not been described consistently and in such detail before. The illustrations of anterior parapod claws in the key and matrix may be of use for the palaeo-worker as well. However, the shape of the claws may vary too much to be useful for identification of (sub)fossil specimens. The book also has a set of beautiful color photographs that are generally of good quality and allow the recognition of features described in the key. It would have made more sense, however, if this section of the guide had been placed immediately after the keys and matrices rather than near the

end of the book to prevent flipping back- and forward.

The book continues with an extensive description of the systematics, biology and ecology of each of the Tanypodinae species that have been found in the Netherlands. This second part of the guide contains a wealth of detailed ecological and biogeographical information as well as many up-to-date references. The guide ends with four tables that summarize the ecological information, and which will make it a useful tool in water quality management. A word of caution: although some of the information can be used outside the North-west European lowlands, one should not rely on the guide too far away from this region.

In short, a useful book for specialized (palaeo)chironomidologists that require detailed ecological information about Tanypodinae in the Netherlands and surrounding lowlands. For those that are more generally interested, the book is probably focused on too small a geographic region to get a general overview of chironomids.

*) Langton, P.H., 1991, A key to pupal exuviae of West Palaearctic Chironomidae. P.H. Langton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (private publ.). 386 pp.