

BOOK REVIEW

The Complete Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Australia (Second Edition)

Günther Theischinger, John Hawking, Albert Orr (2021)
Published by CSIRO Publishing, ISBN 9781486313747, 424pp. RRP A\$49.95 (paperback)

A popular field guide among amateur and expert naturalists alike, the first edition of '*The Complete Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Australia*' was reprinted three times without substantial revisions to dragonfly systematics and geographical distributions. Fourteen years later, Theischinger and Hawking are back with a revised second edition of their comprehensive field guide, and they do not disappoint.

The purpose and layout of the second edition is similar to the first. There are three distinct sections of the book: an introduction, a species guide, and information on identification and resources. The introduction provides an overview of the unique nature of Australian endemic odonates, including the life cycle, ecology, habitat and conservation of species. This brief section is helpful to the hobbyist but is a review for the entomologist.

The bulk of the text is dedicated to the species guide. Updated descriptive information on morphology, as well as notable facts on ecology and geographic distribution accompanied by stunning photographs and drawings by Orr make this section invaluable for both the hobbyist and entomologist alike. The first edition comprised 324 species spanning 30 families, while the second edition includes nine new species and revises the number of families down to 18 with 11 genera in uncertain placement. The taxonomic keys for both final instar nymphs and adults have been updated accordingly.

The final section on identification and resources is also a lengthy section of the book, but rightfully so. While the quality of some photographs may make identification of some species difficult, new drawings and diagrams provided by Orr make the difficult task of capturing these striking insects the most challenging aspect of identification easier. Furthermore, anglers interested in using specific dragonfly nymphs as bait will find this section appealing. Similarly, entomologists interested in landmark resources on advancements of dragonfly knowledge globally will find the references and further resources section appealing.

Although the first edition of this field guide will still greatly assist both the amateur and expert naturalist in the complexities of dragonfly identification, the significant taxonomic revisions as well as the addition of Orr's illustrations make the second edition of this field guide a vital resource for all to have.

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