



different genera within this subfamily. Several new genera are discussed (e.g. *Kribiodorum*, *Xestochironomus*). Also, the sections for some genera have been expanded significantly. For example, the description of *Polypedilum* now includes a description of eight different subgenera within the genus and the description of *Micropsectra* includes notes on the phylogeny of this taxon. Similar changes and improvements are apparent in the other chapters that were already available in the 1983 version of the key (e.g. Prodiamesinae, Diamesinae), although the modifications in some of them (e.g. Telmatogetoninae, Podonominae) are really very minor.

At first glance not that dissimilar to the 1983 “Chironomidae of the Holarctic Region” larval key, the new book edited by Andersen and coworkers must nevertheless be considered a milestone for chironomid research. Thirty years after the publication of the original it again includes up-to-date diagnoses for the larvae of Holarctic chironomid genera in a single book, and provides detailed keys that will allow the identification of most fourth instar larvae, but also of many younger stages and fossil head capsules. The experienced chironomidologist will profit from the added information and the clear overview over Holarctic chironomid larvae compiled in the book. However, most of us have assembled our own little library of chironomid keys and publications and will know exactly which one to consult when dealing with certain chironomid subfamilies, genera or species collected from different parts of the Northern Hemisphere. It will be the novices and less experienced chironomid systematists, ecologists and palaeoecologists in training that will most significantly benefit from the new book. They will find an introduction to the collection, preparation and identification of all chironomid genera presently known for the Holarctic in a single reference manual, together with detailed descriptions and ecological notes on the discussed taxa. Since the book now includes more taxa from the southern Nearctic and eastern Palaearctic it is also more widely applicable than the 1983 version of the key.

The original “Chironomidae of the Holarctic Region” larval key edited by Wiederholm provided the basis for three decades of progress in the field of chironomid systematics and ecology, and allowed the expansion and growth of new subfields such as chironomid palaeoecology. The revised key edited by Andersen, Cranston and Epler will hopefully provide a similar stimulus for the field. The typesetting and printing of the revised book is of lower quality than the original, and I found a relatively large number of typographical and printing errors. However, the editors at *Insect Systematics & Evolution* have informed me that the book has now been corrected and reprinted, so hopefully many of these errors will have been removed. It is difficult to imagine the amount of work that must have gone into producing this revision - hopefully the authors and editors will be compensated by the satisfaction of seeing it widely used by students and experienced colleagues alike. I will certainly recommend the book to my own students and to colleagues working with fossil chironomid larvae, especially since it is available at what must be considered a very reasonable price for such an extensive compilation. I have already started using it in my own research, and have sent my own, old copy of the original 1983 version of the guide to its well-deserved retirement on the top shelf of my bookcase.

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For information on how to purchase a copy of the book, please see announcements on page 46.