



Hans Turin, D. Johan Kotze, Stefan Mueller-Kroehling, Pavel Saska, John Spence, and Theodor Heijerman: Ecology and conservation of the Dutch ground beetle fauna

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Gábor L. Lövei^{1,2}

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Hans Turin is a respected member of the European carabidologist community, the author of a fine monograph of the *Carabus* genus, and a Dutch-language synthesis of the ground beetles in the Netherlands. In this book, he took up the task of summarising the results of the enormous effort of standardised pitfall trapping in his country, which has been running since 1953. To this end, he recruited an eminent team, mostly—but not only—from Europe. The result is a large-format book of 450 pages that presents this synthesis in seven sections. First the database, its organisation and analysis are described, followed by a habitat-based description of the Dutch ground beetle fauna, a section on population trends, and a general discussion on conservation. The sub-title says “lessons about 66 years of pitfall trapping” but the authors’ ambition is wider, testified by 55 pages of general discussion of various aspects of carabidology, which is longer than most reviews devoted to this group. There are other chapters or parts that summarise

more than Dutch material and 37 (!) pages of references. In summary, an enormous amount of data is presented, but in an occasionally questionable way. The book has full colour, with many photographs of species and habitats, as well as tables, figures, and distribution maps. The colour quality is excellent and the habitat photographs are very useful, but the species photographs have no scale, the tables have too many thick black lines and disharmonic colours, the letter types and sizes are often small and not readable enough, there is an excessive use of all capitals and hard-to-interpret circle diagrams. All this, alas, indicates the absence of a good graphical editor. In spite of these shortcomings, this is a remarkable achievement, and the patient reader will find much useful information in it.

✉ Gábor L. Lövei
gabor.lovei@agro.au.dk

¹ ELKH-DE Anthropocene Ecology Research Group,
University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary

² Department of Zoology and Ecology, Hungarian University
Agricultural Science, Gödöllő, Hungary