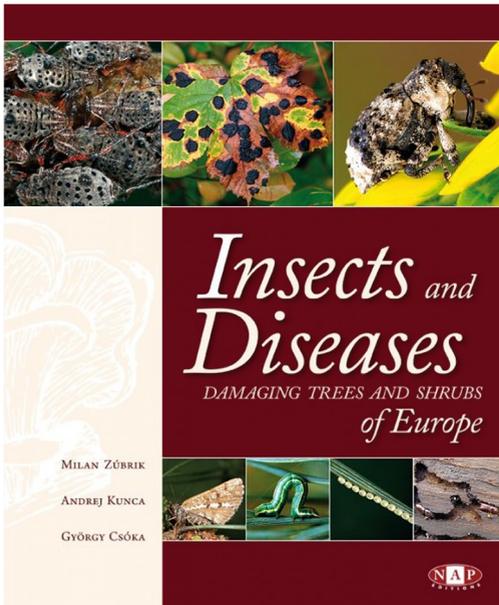


Book review

Milan Zúbrík, Andrej Kunca & György Csòka, 2013. **Insects and Diseases Damaging Trees and Shrubs of Europe**. Napeditio. Hardback cover, 24 × 29 cm, 535 pages. ISBN 978-2-913688-17-9. Price €139.00.



This heavy book contains a comprehensive atlas to insects and other diseases, including mites and fungi, damaging trees and shrubs in Europe. The over 4300 colour photographs show more than 1100 species in life, usually showing the damage and often also the organism itself, at least in the damaging stage. The photos are arranged alphabetically by hostplant genus or species, usually first the insects and mites and then the fungi. The descriptions are kept short, more than two thirds of the pages consists of photographs.

The photos and the printing are of high quality and form the strength of this book. I do not think that ever such a large selection and diversity of pests

was brought together and it is very interesting to see all these damage patterns together.

Will this book indeed be the guide to identify these diseases? The problem of such a book always is that it can never be complete, and choices had to be made. But making choices also has the risk that species will be misidentified when the reader does not realise that. Unfortunately the authors have in many cases not indicated that there are more similar species, nor giving references to keys for those. This can lead to unbalance: e.g. it is easy to identify all nepticulid leafmines on *Fagus* with this book: they are both treated. However, for *Quercus* this is impossible since just a few of the many Nepticulidae are listed and no references are given to the many recent sources on internet, nor others. The authors merely advise to check 'internet' without providing reliable sources. Another problem is that oligophagous species are only treated under one host, without reference (for polyphagous broadleaved and coniferous trees there are separate sections, though). So it is impossible to identify the mine of *Stigmella microtheriella* on *Corylus*, unless one stumbles upon *Carpinus* where that species is treated. It is clear that for such problems internet technology is far superior, but on the other hand a book with so many different species together also has its advantages and attractiveness.

Mistakes are likely to occur in such a work, and forgivable, just a few that I noticed:

P 71 *Stigmella lapponica* larva is not green but yellow;

P 315 *Phyllocnistis suffusella*: correct current name is *Ph. unipunctella*;

P 339 the photo with *Stigmella prunetorum* also shows a mine (left top) of *Ectoedemia spinosella*;

P 398 the middle photos are unlikely to belong to *Heliozela sericiella*.

Despite the criticism, I can warmly advise the book for foresters, naturalists, ecologists and others who are interested in all that lives on and from trees, although the price is rather high.

Erik van Nieuwerkerken

