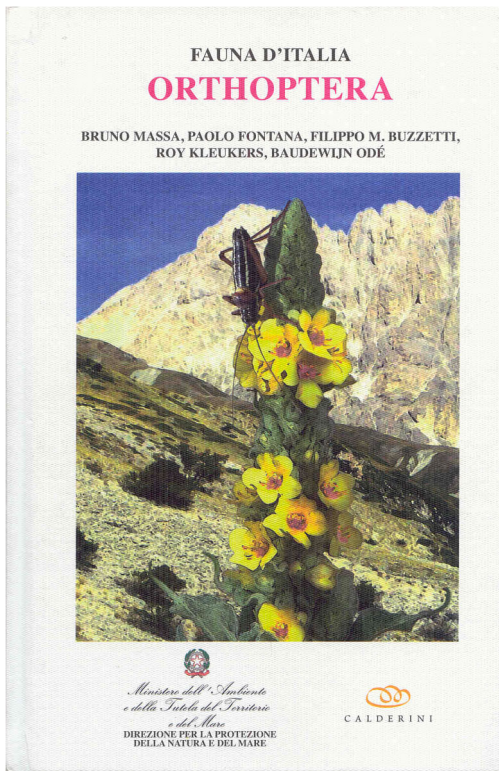


## Book review

Bruno Massa, Paolo Fontana, Filippo M. Buzzetti, Roy Kleukers & Baudewijn Odé, 2012. **Fauna d'Italia, Orthoptera**, Vol. 48. xxiv + 563 pages, with DVD. Edizione Calderini de Il Sole 24 Ore. ISBN 978-88-5065409-3. Price €48.00. <http://www.edagricole.it/>



In this long standing series on the fauna of Italy, the new volume treating the Orthoptera is different: in the first place because it is not only written in Italian, but has lengthy English summaries for each species, and further because the book contains a DVD with the songs of a large number of species and interactive keys.

The book is written by a consortium of three Italian and two Dutch authors who together share a large experience in the taxonomy, biology and songs of the Italian Orthoptera, as is shown by the detailed and thorough treatment of the Italian species.

The book covers 380 species and subspecies, of which 349 are full species. A very large number is endemic to Italy and/or its islands: 144 species and subspecies. Of 219 species the songs are given in 304 recordings.

The book starts with introductory chapters, dealing with morphology, methods, including a detailed description of song recording. After that follow long and detailed bilingual keys. The taxonomic part comprises relatively detailed and long descriptions, each with a brief English summary. There are many colour plates with details of collection specimens showing details of the external genitalia, the oviscapt and many other details. There are some photos of live adults, but they do not form an important part of this book. At the end of the book all detailed dot distribution maps are given as are the oscillograms of the songs.

The DVD shows the songs together with distribution maps, that can be enlarged (otherwise the dots are rather small), and photos. The interactive Keys on the DVD are very handy, seem to work well, although I haven't really tried them on actual specimens, and contain more nice photos. The book follows largely the naming of the last version if Fauna Europaea, with the disadvantage that this follows the oversplitting of especially the tettigoniid genera, which is hardly supported by phylogenetic evidence. This is in contrast to the website on European Orthoptera (<http://www.ortheur.org/>), where a more conservative approach is followed.

This is one of the most complete treatments of European Orthoptera and sets a new standard. The authors are to be congratulated for this thorough work, and I can warmly recommend this book, which for this price is really a bargain.

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