

their various features without causing damage. I did use the key to identify several curated Tasmanian damselfies and dragonflies and did so without too much difficulty. Like any key on a group of species you need to spend a little time understanding the terminology and diagrams and becoming familiar with the taxa.

One of the helpful features of the keys is the location of diagrams right next to the couplets to help make a decision. The keys allow identification to family level and then you are directed to keys for families that allow identification to genera and some species, from which you must then go to the species guide to complete the identification. The keys would have benefited from having page numbers next to the family, genera or species name to direct you straight to the next appropriate section without having to flip through pages or refer to the contents. Little information on ecology or features of interest is provided for each dragonfly species, which may disappoint some naturalists. However such notes would have greatly increased the size of the book and for most species this basic information remains to be collected – a challenge for all naturalists, now that that this field guide has been published, is to go out and learn more about dragonflies.

In summary my criticisms are minor and I can highly recommend this book. From a Tasmanian perspective it is the only book available to identify the 29 Tasmanian species including five endemic species. A previous black and white field guide *Tasmanian Odonata* written by Piers Allbrook in 1979 is out of print and largely out of date.

Despite our modest number of dragonflies we have several species of considerable scientific interest and in recent years the State has been visited by several international scientists studying the phylogeny of the worlds dragonfly fauna. The Ancient Greenling *Hemiphlebia mirabilis* is as its name indicates an ancient species having characteristics of damselflies recorded from the Permian period. It is a rare species found only in Victoria and recently in northeast Tasmania. The Tasmanian Redspot *Archipetalia auriculata*, the only member of its family, and the Tasmanian Spotwing *Synthemipterus gomphomacromioidesis*, the only member of its genus (and has the longest scientific name for a dragonfly in Australia), are both Tasmanian endemics and are thought to be relicts of early dragonfly evolution that occurred in Antarctica.

A Systematic List of the Marine Molluscs of Tasmania by Simon J. Grove, Ron C. Kershaw, Brian J. Smith & Elizabeth Turner, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Occasional Paper No. 8 (2006), 120 pages.

REVIEWED BY: Kevin Bonham, 410 Macquarie Street, South Hobart, Tasmania 7004, email: k_bonham@tassie.net.au.

Surprisingly it has been nearly fifty years since a full listing of Tasmania's marine mollusc fauna was produced, Kershaw's 1955 list and Macpherson's 1958 revision of May's *Illustrated Index of Tasmanian Shells* (1923) being the most recent contributions of

this type. Meanwhile, several dozen new species occurring in Tasmanian waters have been described, others have been newly recorded, and taxonomy above species level has changed dramatically, especially thanks to the advances made possible by genetic studies. Kershaw's 1955 list recorded almost 1200 species as Tasmanian: the new list records 1357 (not counting species from and surrounding Macquarie Island), of which nine are considered introduced and two suspected extinct from the State. The list includes those species sometimes referred to as "marginal marine" or "saltmarsh" species, for example the five recorded species of ellobiid. Uncertain species (whether for taxonomic reasons or because records are unconfirmed) are noted as mysteries that may someday be resolved.

This publication includes an alphabetic index of species, genera and subgenera, a two-page non-exhaustive reference list, and an introduction that discusses the fauna's geographic affinities and the preparation of the list in question, as well as the taxonomic list itself. The authors have been cautious with the placement of some of the more contentious or unclear groups and thus a small number of species, genera and families appear as "unplaced" listings (most notably, several families appear as "order unplaced" at the end of Subclass Eogastropoda).

As a terrestrial malacologist who dabbles selectively in the marine fauna I have learnt quite a deal from perusing this list already. For instance, those disappointed with Tasmania's cone shell fauna (usually quoted as two species, *Conus anemone* and *C. rutilus*, the latter being scarce) will be interested to note not only that the authors record a third species in the genus, *C. clarus*, but also that several genera formerly considered to be turrids have now joined the Family Conidae.

This list has been a work in progress for many years, alas outliving two of its co-authors, to whom it is dedicated (Kershaw passed away in 2003, Smith in 2006). Both would have been very pleased to see this latest step in the documentation of the State's marine fauna finally published.

Weeds of the South-east: An Identification Guide for Australia by F.J. Richardson, R.G. Richardson & R.C.H. Shepherd, R.G. and F.J. Richardson, 2006, full colour, soft cover, 438 pages.

REVIEWED BY: Matthew Baker, Curator (Weed Taxonomy), Tasmanian Herbarium, Private Bag 4, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, email: matthew.baker@tmag.tas.gov.au.

With weeds, in particular environmental weeds, becoming more of an issue and as our knowledge increases about the impacts of weeds in many sectors, it is very timely that this book has been produced. Identifying weeds is the first step in managing them. Once identified, further information on the control of the species, its poisonous properties or if in fact it is a weed rather than a native can be sought.