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BOOK REVIEW

The Beetles of the Pacific Northwest, Part I: Introduction and Adephaga. By Melville H. Hatch. Univ. Wash. Publications in Biology, Vol. 16, pp. 1-340. Sept., 1953. Univ. Wash. Press, Seattle 5, \$5.

In this volume of 340 pages Professor Hatch has compiled an exhaustive survey of the beetles of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and British Columbia—through "Adephaga." To students and collectors in these areas the book is invaluable, and to the continent at large there will be many surprises: so many unexpected species have turned up, and the supposed range of several rarities have been greatly extended.

The book opens with an inspiring introduction, followed by a history of what has gone before—the literature, the collectors, and their collections. There are able discussions on the structure of coleoptera, geographical factors. Within the covers we find a list of introduced species, with a first available record for each. There is an ample bibliography, and an index system that is as perfect as may be conceived. There are thirty-seven plates that are pleasing to look at and of real help in identifying our species.

In the text itself each group is preceded by a key, then the species described in

more detail, with indications of range, etc. New species are described on the spot, thus pointing their positions. An important innovation is a complete bibliography of Northwestern references under each species.

To some it may be disconcerting that the placid system of classification we have been used to is somewhat disrupted: species are not where we expect to find them. Some of the synonyms may be disputed and some good species may have been relegated to lesser ranks. But (if the but exists) the book is packed with important information, and the amount of work and research that has gone into the making is beyond measure. We sense at once that the author is deeply interested in his subject, and he has presented his findings sincerely and without bias. The completeness of his system, perhaps foreshadowed by Blatchley, may well set a pattern for other States and Provinces to follow.

G. Stace Smith.