

Buchbesprechung / Book review

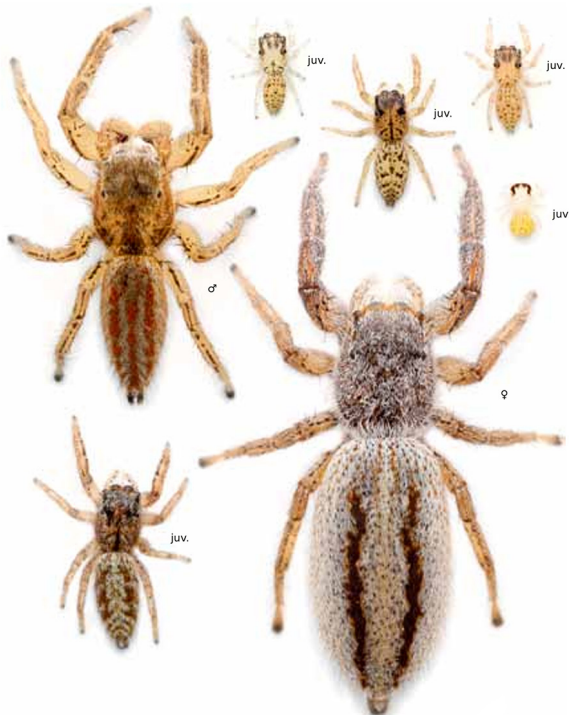
Karjalainen S 2022 Suomen hyppyhämähäkit [The Jumping Spiders of Finland]. Docendo Oy, Jyväskylä. 272 pp. [in Finnish; with English preface and short summaries]; hardback, ISBN 978-952-382-181-1

Orders and a sample of the book: <http://samikarjalainen.fi/hyppykki/howtobuy.html>

Two excellent books about certain arachnid groups in Finland have been published recently. The first book is “Suomen lukit ja valeskorpionit” dealing with Finnish harvestmen and pseudoscorpions by Annika Uddström and Veikko Rinne published in 2016 (see Koponen 2016) and the second “Suomen hyppyhämähäkit” (The Jumping Spiders of Finland) by Sami Karjalainen, 2022. Both books are in Finnish but contain a huge number of very good photographs. Due to the high-quality illustrations, both of these books might also attract arachnologists who do not understand Finnish.

The Jumping Spiders of Finland contains data for 42 Finnish jumping spider species. Beside the Finnish text, there is a preface of the book, and for each species a brief summary in English, describing its distribution and habitats. A distribution map at the level of Finnish biogeographical provinces is shown. In addition, 10 species from neighboring areas (Sweden and Estonia) are briefly presented in a table, also accompanied by photos of eight of them.

The author’s goal is to enable the identification of adult Finnish jumping spiders based on their external appearance. Thus, images of both sexes and often also young individuals are presented for each Finnish species. In addition to habitus photographs, impressive frontal images are shown. There are also good additional photos of several species, many of them shot in the field. For accurate determination, the book also includes detailed photographs of both male and female copulatory organs – naturally it is not always possible to identify species based only on appearance.



22. Ruokohyppykki
Marpissa radiata



Male pedipalps are usually photographed from four directions (ventral, prolateral, retrolateral and dorsal views). Female epigynes are shown with and without KOH-treatments. Magnification in the genital photographs is 50-fold and that of the spider figures 10-fold. Following the genital pictures, there are series of photographic plates entitled “jumping spiders from above” with males and females, and often also young individuals, and “jumping spiders from the front” with eyes and frontal colour patterns. These picture plates greatly help when comparing similar-looking species.

It is difficult to find anything to criticize in this book. Because all species are presented at the same scale, the colour patterns of small-sized species are sometimes difficult to see. The same issue concerns the genital images, as details of pedipalps and epigynes in small species may be difficult to detect. But as a whole, all photographs are of exceptional quality, and especially the “facial photos” and eyes characterize the entirety of this fine book.

Reference

Koponen S 2016 Finnish harvestmen and pseudoscorpions (“Suomen lukit ja valeskorpionit”) by Annika Uddström and Veikko Rinne. – Newsletter of the British Arachnological Society 137: 13

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