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BOOK REVIEW

P. Weygoldt (1969). *The Biology of Pseudoscorpions*.

Pp. xiv + 145; 114 photographs and text figures.
Cambridge: Harvard University Press; London: Oxford University Press. Price £2.90

The book is a revision and an expansion of the author's earlier German edition (1966: *Moos-und Bucherskorpione*, Die Neue Brehm-Bucherei. Wittenberg: A. Ziemsen Verlag.). Some sections, especially those on physiology and ecology, are fragmentary since little attention has been paid to these aspects in the past. Chapter 5 accounts for about half of the book and it is here that Weygoldt is most at home, describing his own notable contributions to our knowledge of pseudoscorpion reproduction and development.

Concise but comprehensive accounts are given of spermatophore formation, sperm transfer and mating dances, where they occur, among species drawn from all three sub-orders. Differences in embryonic development are elaborated with attention focussed on that unique structure, the pumping organ, which absorbs nutritive fluid from the transformed ovary whilst the embryos lie in a brood sac attached to the female's genitalia. The simple and direct text, not only of this chapter but, indeed, of the whole book is magnificently supported by photographs of high definition and drawings of superb quality.

Champagne normally comes in a bottle, sometimes, as in this case, it is contained in a book. With its up-to-date bibliography it will remain a standard biological text on the order for many years to come without losing any of its effervescence. Order a copy from your wine merchant now!

Peter D. Gabbutt