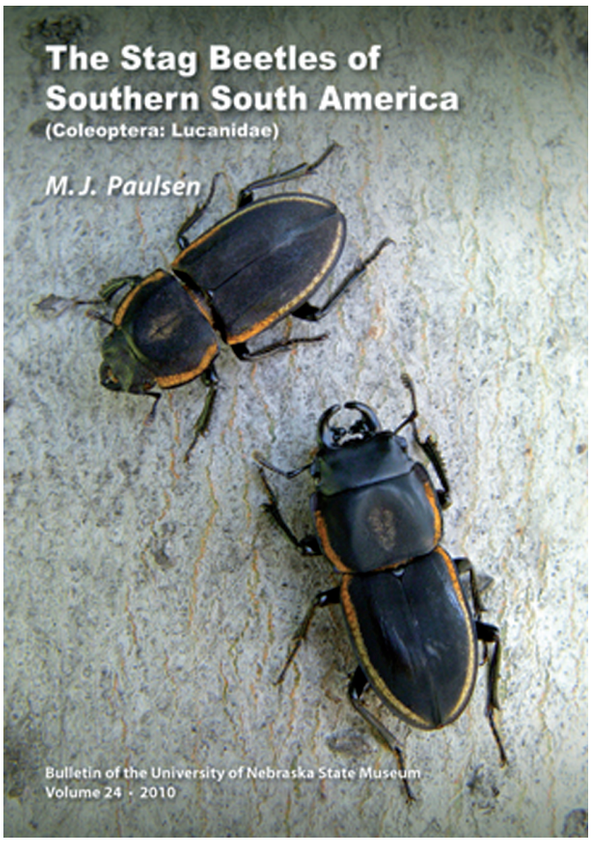
Paulsen MJ (2010) The Stag Beetles of Southern South America (Coleoptera: Lucanidae). Bulletin of the University of Nebraska State Museum Vol. 24: 148pp. 130 illus. + 29 maps. Gail Littrell, Publications Secretary, W436 Nebraska Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0514, U.S.A. E-mail: littrell@unlserve.unl.edu. FAX: (402) 472-8949.$40.



Matt's book is a monographic compilation of original and recent research on southern South American stag beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea: Lucanidae) which includes their taxonomic treatment, the study of their distribution but involves also the phylogenetic analysis of a selected genus, *Pycnosiphorus*. It was part of a research project that funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF)-PEET (Partnerships for Enhancing Expertise in Taxonomy; e.g. http://www-museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/PEET2Summary.htm) and which have produced a series of monographs and other taxonomic works but also attractive web sites. The endemic stag beetle fauna of the study area includes 31 species in three subfamilies. The author provides keys to species and genera of southern South American Lucanidae and updates information on genera that have been recently revised. All species are redescribed and keys are provided in English and Spanish when appropriate. The high quality images of male genitalia and habitus of species makes the book a MUST for South American Coleopterists but also aesthetically very nice. Distribution information presented by detailed maps is completed also by the knowledge of species phenology. In the context of the taxonomic treatment he discusses the systematic position of the monogeneric tribe Streptocerini Kikuta, 1986 which he placed into synonymy with Lamprimini.

The monograph concludes with an interesting appendix which represents a first molecular study of southern South American Lucanidae, namely on the genus *Pycnosiphorus,* using DNA of the 28s D2 region and ITS2 with a number of ca. 1500 base pairs. Although the sampling of the group was complete the author dedicated only little space for this analysis in regard of methodological details but also the discussion of the interesting results which would have been very exciting also for a more generally interested reader. In the meantime the produced sequence data were submitted to Genbank and though they can be extended or used in future molecular work by colleagues what makes the work are an even more valuable piece in the mosaic of beetle biodiversity exploration.

Dirk Ahrens
Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Bonn

