

Field identification key for Austrian Caelifera species

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The Austrian grasshopper fauna includes 134 taxa (Ensifera: 63 species, Caelifera: 71 taxa). In comparison to the neighbouring countries Austria takes the third places in terms of species richness behind Italy (349 species) and Slovenia (157 species). Although the literature on this rather small group of insects has increased in the last two decades, there is still no identification key that contains all native grasshopper species. This diploma thesis is the first step to fill this gap in the Austrian grasshopper literature and is dedicated to the development of a field identification key for the native Caelifera species. The key is kept mostly dichotom and specially created for beginners. Introductory to the identification key are chapters which cover the system of the Caelifera, an overview about their Biology as well as tips and tricks for finding, catching and handling grasshoppers in the field. Scaled drawings of the relevant characteristics were made for this purpose as well as QR-Codes which lead to characteristic songs of the males of species which are difficult to identify only by morphological characters.