

Book reviews — Buchbesprechungen — Analyses

The butterflies of the Greek island of Ródos: Taxonomy, faunistics, ecology and phenology, with a tentative synthesis on the biogeography of the butterflies of Kríti (Crete), Kárpathos, Ródos, the Eastern Aegean islands and Kípros (Cyprus) (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea). Alain OTHIER. 250 pp., 21 Figs, 6 Pls (2 in colour), 17 Tables, 20.7 × 14.7 cm, paperback. Vlaamse Vereniging voor Entomologie. Antwerpen, 1993. Obtainable from: V.V.v.E., General Secretary, Diksmuidelaan 176, B-2600 Antwerp, Belgium. Price: 1450 BEF.

This is a splendidly detailed account of the 47 butterfly species of the island and those of Rhodes and neighbouring Aegean islands. It is unusual for a faunistic work to include a detailed analysis of the taxonomy of the species concerned. However, the taxonomical status of island species is always problematical and it is therefore a valuable addition to this work.

Apart from the short introduction, references and postscript, the book is split into three parts: 1. General background, covering geography, climate, geology, vegetation and lepidopterological history; 2. Systematic part, including principles and methods, treatment of individual species, and doubtful and erroneous records; 3. Biogeography: Endemism and species composition, ecology and phenology, geological history, present patterns and past processes: a tentative synthesis.

Probably the most important finding to emerge from this work is that of the 13 supposed endemic subspecies, only two can be upheld: *Gonepteryx cleopatra fiorii* Turati & Fiori, 1930 and *Hipparchia syriaca ghigii* (Turati, 1929). All other species occur in the same subspecies as on the Turkish mainland. Lectotypes of *Maniola telmessia* (Zeller, 1847) and *M. cypricola* (Graves, 1928) are designated. Lists of species are provided for each of the other Aegean islands mentioned in the title, and the differences in fauna composition are discussed in the biogeography section.

The material is clearly presented and the English is on the whole very good, but the text should have been checked through to exclude errors such as "I haven't seen material from neither Ródos nor Kós ..." (p. 110). When describing the various habitats from the island, the author missed the opportunity of giving the characteristic butterfly species occurring in these biotopes. The treatment of *M. telmessia* is disproportionately long (35 pp.) and much of this material could have been published separately.

'Rhopalocerists' must not think that during their next visit to Rhodes they can just sit on the beach and relax. This work provides a sound basis for further research. There is still much to be discovered about the early stages.

foodplants etc., and new species could still be discovered. There are also many interesting moths on the island !

Steven WHITEBREAD

The distribution of European macrolepidoptera. Noctuidae, Vol. 1, Noctuidae I. Poul SVENDSEN (Ed.) & Michael FIBIGER. 293 pp., 134 Figs, 24 × 16.5 cm, paperback. European Faunistical Press (E.F.P.), under the auspices of the European Invertebrate Survey (EIS), 1992. ISBN 87-89414-004. Obtainable from E.F.P., Karavelvej 16, DK-4040 Jyllinge, Denmark. Price : DKK 280.

This is the first in a series aimed at providing distribution maps for all of the European Noctuidae, and later, the Geometridae. This volume covers the same 134 species of Noctuidae that were included in Vol. 1 of Noctuidae Europaeae (for review, see *Nota lepid.* 14(2) : 191-192). The two works were originally planned as one, as explained in the introduction, and can be considered as companion volumes.

The records were compiled by 64 cooperators covering all European countries, including Russia to the Ural mountains. Each cooperator was invited to write a short note ('preface') on the coverage of records and other relevant information (in English, French or German), and to supply a list of references used for compiling their records. Wedged between the prefaces and references, we find short notes on each taxa, covering synonyms and distribution. The last half of the book comprises the distribution maps, one per page, based on a 50 × 50 km UTM grid. Open circles represent records pre 1960, smaller closed circles, post 1960, and large closed circles represent data for both periods. A map to show the total coverage of records is unfortunately not shown, which makes interpretation of the maps more difficult. The disposition of the maps could have been improved. They are printed sideways, and the one on the left hand page faces to the left, and that on the right, to the right. If both were facing to the right, one could at least have studied two maps together. Alternatively, they could easily have been reduced slightly to fit upright on the page.

Despite the obvious lack of data from some areas (e.g. from Spain and France), the maps will be extremely useful as zoogeographical tools. It is stated that only records based on accurately identified specimens have been applied to the maps. However, considering the difficulties in identifying many of the treated species, especially of the genus *Euxoa*, it is likely that misidentifications have slipped through.

The prefaces make interesting reading, but are very variable in content. The references, arranged per country, will be a useful literature source, but there are virtually none for some countries which had the data already at hand, e.g. Austria and Great Britain. The species notes could have been dispensed with, and are not always accurate. For instance, *Standfussiana wiskottii* is

claimed to occur only in the French and Swiss Alps, whereas the distribution map clearly shows it to be well distributed in the Italian and Austrian Alps as well. More useful would have been a table indicating in which countries the species occur. One must assume that future volumes will be slimmer, as there should be no need to repeat the prefaces and references found in the present volume.

This is a very valuable book, not only for students of the Noctuidae, but for all lepidopterists interested in mapping and distribution. It will provide a further motivation for all collaborators to continue their work for future volumes and maybe to others to work on groups not covered by the present series, e.g. the Rhopalocera.

Steven WHITEBREAD

Die Schmetterlinge Österreichs (Lepidoptera). Systematisches Verzeichnis mit Verbreitungsangaben für die einzelnen Bundesländer. [The butterflies and moths of Austria. Systematic list with distribution data for the individual federal provinces]. Peter HUEMER & Gerhard TARMANN. 224 pp., 24.1 × 16.1 cm, paperback. Veröffentlichungen des Museum Ferdinandeum 75, Beilageband 5, 1993. ISBN 3-9500278-0-7; ISSN 0379-0231. Obtainable from: Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Museumstrasse 15, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria. Price: 200 Schillings plus postage & packing.

Despite the great lepidopterological traditions of Austria, this is the first such list ever to be produced. The authors are well known for their repeated discoveries of new species from the alpine regions, and their expertise in solving difficult taxonomical problems. This list is the natural result of these activities.

Like the Danish list (Schnack *et al.*, 1985), it not only lists the 3963 species occurring in Austria, it also indicates in which province each species has been found. After a short introduction, a few explanatory notes are given in German, including a list of 44 species which have been reported from the country, but are excluded for various reasons, although these are not stated for the individual species. Chapter 3 presents the higher systematics, down to subfamily, used in the list, giving also the number of species known to occur in Austria for each superfamily, family and subfamily. A table giving the number of species occurring in each province is also given in this section. The actual list is followed by 129 faunistic and taxonomic notes to individual taxa, a comprehensive selection of references and indices to genera and species.

Two different versions of the higher classification of the Lepidoptera have recently been published (Common, 1990 and Scoble, 1992). In a number of points, the present list is different yet again. At the superfamily level, the Gracillarioidea, as used by Scoble, is not recognised here, whereas we now have the Choreutoidea and Lasiocampoidea. The latter superfamily and the

Bombycoidea are placed before the Hesperioidea. Lower down, we find that the Plutellidae, Bedelliidae, Crambidae and Satyridae are recognised, whereas the Hermeniidae is not. The Ethmiinae and the Depressariinae are moved from the Oecophoridae to the Elachistidae. *Heterogenea* is placed in the Limacodidae, and the Nolinae are accepted as part of the Noctuidae. Generic synonyms are not listed. The authors appear to have incorporated nearly all of the recently published nomenclatural changes, although some of the more controversial have been accepted with some reservation. Unfortunately the list is already out of date, as the very recently published changes proposed by Mikkola and Honey (*The Noctuoidea (Lepidoptera) described by Linnaeus*. — Zool. J. Linn. Soc. 108 : 103-169, 1993) could not be included. Only time will tell whether the systematic and nomenclatural changes will receive general acceptance outside Austria.

One very useful aspect of this work, in contrast to Leraut (1980), is the use of author parentheses to indicate the change of genera. Following the proposed change to the next edition of the Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, endings of specific names are not changed to agree with the gender of the genus. A negative aspect of the list is that nominate subspecies are not listed if they do not occur in Austria. There is therefore no way of finding out the author of the species when preparing local lists in which subspecies are not given. Due to the enormous number of changes compared to previously published lists, the index is very important. I personally do not see the reason for indexing the genera separately; a single index would have been more useful. The inclusion of the year of description in the index can cause confusion; I several times failed to find a species because I had in my haste mistaken the year for the species number. In fact, one wonders whether there is really a need for a species number at all. As will be found with the new edition of the 'Leraut list', due to appear at the beginning of next year, the eventual change of this number will cause great problems. Indeed, this has already been the case in Austria, where a large number of species already had a number for use in the national zoogeographical computer system ZOODAT. These numbers are also given in this list. The lists of Kloet & Hincks (1972) and Schnack *et al.* (1985) were exemplary in this respect, as no numbers were given.

The book has been very well produced, with only a few errors noted (e.g. 'Athetmia' for *Atethmia*, 'Gastropache' for *Gastropacha*, 'Eriocranoidea' on p. 13, 'menmosyne' on p. 146 and a number of non-italicised specific names in the notes). It can be warmly recommended to all European lepidopterists.

As the new French list is about to be published, one can only hope that there will be major agreeance in the systematics and nomenclature. Is it too much to hope that by the year 2000 we will have a European list, with distribution data for each country, and that further changes to the list would have to go through a recognised commission?

STEVEN WHITEBREAD

Catalogue of Moravian-Silesian Lepidoptera. Zdeněk LÁSTOVKA (Ed.), 130 pp., 21.6 × 16.5 cm, paperback. University of Agriculture, Faculty of Agronomy, Brno, Czech Republic, 1993. Price : approx. DM 6.

This work is rather more than just a list of 3087 species, as it gives a lot of additional information. For every species, reference is given to the first mention of this species in the area, very important information which is usually lacking in such works. Many of these are references to unpublished records of specimens in individual collections. Other information provided for many species is the habitat type (each described in the text), whether protected or red listed, reference to the taxonomical notes provided, degree of endangerment, the year in which the species was last seen, and reference to the faunistic notes provided.

The text is in Czech and German and covers the lepidopterological history of the area, species protection, taxonomical and nomenclatural notes and faunistic notes. A list of excluded species is given, again with reference to the work which cites them for the area. Finally, there is a list of references and indices to genera and species. The area covered by the list can be seen from the front cover of the book.

The higher classification followed in this work is on the whole very similar to that in the Austrian list (Huemmer & Tarmann, 1993). However, unlike that list, a number of recently published generic and specific name changes have not been accepted. Subspecies are not included. The species are not numbered, which will make the inevitable revision easy. Synonyms of species are given only sporadically.

Although this list has been rather cheaply printed, it has been well thought out and researched and will undoubtedly serve its purpose well as a tool to further the research on the Lepidoptera in these parts of the Czech Republic. It can be recommended to anyone interested in the Lepidopterous fauna of Central Europe. It is a timely publication, as the next SEL Congress will be held in Lednice, Moravia, and participants will be able to buy it there.

STEVEN WHITBREAD

A directory for entomologists. Mark COLVIN & Duncan REAVEY. 2nd revised edition, 62 pp., 20.8 × 14.8 cm, paperback. The Amateur Entomologists' Society, Pamphlet No. 14, 1993. ISBN 0-900054-57-3. Obtainable from AES Publications, The Hawthorns, Frating Road, Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex CO7 7JN, England. Price : not stated.

This publication is mainly directed at British entomologists, but could be useful to anybody wishing to make contact with British entomologists or institutions. Its aim is to provide all possible contact addresses useful for the field entomologist, both amateur and professional.

The topics covered are : Legislation & codes of conduct ; Conservation ; National societies & special interest groups ; Local societies & special interest groups ; National recording schemes ; Local recording schemes ; Field courses ; Education & training ; Research grants ; Entomological research libraries ; Periodicals ; Museums with significant entomological coverage ; Exhibitions ; Butterfly houses & farms ; Trade fairs ; Traders ; Other directories. If you know to whom you wish to write, but you do not know the address, the index will help you to find it immediately.

It is well known that the British are a nation of field naturalists. This is demonstrated to the full in this booklet. There are recording schemes and specialist societies for almost everything with six legs ! Young people are well catered for, and I particularly like the name 'The Underwings' for the junior section of the Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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Artikel/Article: [Book reviews — Buchbesprechungen — Analyses
The butterflies of the Greek island of Rôdos 163-168](#)