

Book reviews — Buchbesprechungen — Analyses

O. KUDRNA : *Butterflies of Europe. 1. Concise Bibliography of European Butterflies.* Aula Verlag, Wiesbaden, DM 248.-

The book under review represents the first — long awaited and much delayed — volume of a planned eight volumes monograph on the butterflies (Papilionoidea) of Europe. After an author's preface and introduction, it contains some 6000 bibliographic references, alphabetically arranged and progressively numbered. They represent something like one third of all publications on European butterflies published in the period between ca. 1900 to 1984. The starting point of this bibliography has been chosen because the period between 1750 and 1900 has already been comprehensively covered by other bibliographies. The volume is closed by a subject index where some key references (systematic, geographical and selected key-words) are listed by reference number of subject headings.

The book is technically well produced, although it is a pity that technical difficulties have made it impossible to include all diacritical marks, as characteristic of almost every European language. As a matter of fact, making this additional effort could have improved the editorial aspect of the book.

It may be argued that one or another additional reference should have been included or left out, or that the subject index could have been considerably extended. Yet, one can of course make some allowance for the ever increasing amount of published information on European butterflies, that make a comprehensive bibliography covering this century hardly possible even for a well known publisher, like AULA. It is a pity, however, that some countries, such as Switzerland and — to some extent — France, are slightly less covered than others by this bibliography.

If one considers the number of copies of this book that are going to be sold, it is likely that the AULA could even be praised for keeping the price reasonably low. Some serious non-professional students of butterflies, who like many others, will certainly need the book, and whose cooperation is often necessary to produce it, might however find it rather too expensive.

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