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Book reviews — Buchbesprechungen — Analyses

B. GOATER : British Pyralid Moths — A Guide to their Identification. 16 × 22 cm, 175 pp., 9 colour plates, 12 figs, Harley Books, Martins, Great Horkesley, Colchester, Essex C06 4AH, England, 1986, £ 18.95 (ISBN 0-946-58908-9).

Beirne's famous work "British Pyralid and Plume Moths" was published more than 30 years ago, and has been out of print for some time. Since its publication, more than 30 species of Pyralidae have been added to the British list. A modern revision was badly needed, and the present publication supplies this want. The book provides very good colour plates, comprising photographs of the 208 British species, from which entomologists will easily be able to identify most of their material. In the case of difficult species, the text points out the important wing pattern characters and other distinguishing features. In many cases, text figures illustrate wing venation or genitalia.

The good quality of the colour plates has allowed the text to be kept short, without losing too much information. For each species, a short description of the adult is given, together with some data on the early stages, the habitat, and distribution in Great Britain. The author uses an up-to-date nomenclature. The book contains a check-list of the British Pyralidae species, a glossary, and indexes of scientific insect and foodplant names. It is hoped that a similar book on the British Plume Moths will follow soon.

W. O. De Prins

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