

Book reviews – Buchbesprechungen – Analyses

GONSETH, Yves: Atlas de distribution des Papillons diurnes de Suisse (Lepidoptera Rhopalocera). Documenta Faunistica Helvetiae 5 ; 242 pp., and Verbreitungsatlas der Tagfalter der Schweiz (Lepidoptera Rhopalocera). Documenta Faunistica Helvetiae 6 ; 242 S. Centres Suisse de cartographie de la faune, Neuchâtel (CSCF) and Schweizerischer Bund für Naturschutz, Basel (SBN), 1987. Paperback ; price, each volume SFr. 25. Orders : Musée d'histoire naturelle, Terreaux 14, CH-2000 Neuchâtel.

In 1983, the SBN (Swiss Society for Nature Conservation) initiated a project aimed at the protection of the Swiss butterfly fauna. All Swiss lepidopterists were asked to send in records and information to provide a basis for proposing suitable protection measures. In 1985, the CSCF (Swiss centre for faunistic records) was set up to store and analyse all faunistic data, primarily however on the Rhopalocera and Odonata. In 1986, the centre introduced the series 'Documenta Faunistica Helvetiae' with a booklet describing the methods used and a first faunistic work, on the Tipulidae (Diptera) of Switzerland (both in French). The Odonata and Rhopalocera followed (in both French and German) in 1987. The German editions were translated from the original French.

After a short introduction explaining the methods and presentation used, the distribution of each species (one per page), both within Switzerland and in Europe, is shortly discussed. Distribution maps based on squares of 5 km are given for all 198 resident and migrant species, except for *Erebia sudetica* STGR., *E. nivalis* LORK., *Coenonympha oedippus* F., *Maculinea teleius* BERGSTR. and *M. nausithous* BERGSTR. Data is split into pre 1970 (open squares with cross-line) and post 1970 (closed squares). Bargraphs are also given for the phenology and temperature dependence of each species. The book is completed by a 'red list', a table summarizing what needs to be done, how and by whom, to protect the Swiss butterfly fauna, a systematic list of species, a list of recorders, a species index, and a list of doubtful records.

The book is based on 64717 records obtained from the literature (39%), museum collections (21%) and individual recorders (40%). Some of these records would suggest that a more stringent control of the data may be necessary. However, a good idea as to the general distribution of each species is given although much more information for the post 1970 period is required. The estimated status of each species may have to be modified when more information is received. At present, no species are considered to have become extinct, although 19 (10%) are thought to be on the verge of extinction and a further 43 (22%) are threatened.

Altogether, this book makes a very good impression and it clearly shows that the CSCF has started on a sound footing. The book will be useful for all students of the European butterfly fauna, and should inspire them to pass on their own Swiss records.

This volume is intended to complement another book published at the same time by the SBN: 'Tagfalter und ihre Lebensräume' ('Butterflies and their habitats'), which will be reviewed in *Nota* at a later date. Both publications are examples of how well amateur and professional lepidopterists can work together with conservationists.

S. E. Whitebread

VI^{ème} Congrès Européen de Lépidoptérologie San Remo 5-9 avril 1988

La Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica (SEL) invite cordialement tous les lépidoptéristes à participer au VI^{ème} Congrès Européen de Lépidoptérologie qui aura lieu à San Remo du mardi 5 au samedi 9 avril 1988.

Les thèmes centraux sont les suivants :

- Adaptation biochimique et écologique chez les Lépidoptères.
- Bionomie des espèces menacées.
- Recherche génétique et cladistique sur la phylogénie des Lépidoptères.

Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez consulter le Secrétaire des Congrès : Prof. E. Balletto, Dipartimento di Biologia animale, Via Academia Albertina 17, I-10123 Torino (Italie).

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