

Book reviews – Buchbesprechungen – Analyses

A. Maitland EMMET and the late John HEATH (Eds): *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, volume 7, part 1. HesperIIDae-NymphalIDae: *The Butterflies*. Illustrated by Richard LEWINGTON (colour plates) and Tim FREED (line drawings). ix + 370 pp., incl. 24 col. pls, 22 text figs and 83 maps., 26 × 21 cm, cloth. Harley Books, Colchester, England. Price £ 49.50. ISBN 0 946589 25 9.

After the first four volumes (1, 2, 9 and 10), we have now received part 1 of the long awaited vol. 7 of the series "The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland". The publication of this volume was considerably delayed due to the death in 1987 of the co-editor and initiator of the series, John HEATH. It was originally planned to include the Lasiocampidae, Saturniidae, Endromidae, Drepanidae and Thyatiridae. However, it became clear that there was too much material to include in one volume and so last year the publishers decided to split the volume into two parts, devoting part 1 to the butterflies only. Part two is scheduled for publication early in 1990.

The book is dedicated to John HEATH and begins with an appreciation of his contribution to lepidopterology and to this series in particular. Chapter 1 is a very readable and interesting account of the history of the study of British butterflies and their vernacular names by Maitland EMMET. This is followed by a chapter by Michael MORRIS and Jeremy THOMAS on the re-establishment of insect populations, with special reference to butterflies. This is an excellent review covering the objectives of introductions, ecological characteristics and conservation of butterfly populations, and examples of introductions and re-establishments.

The systematic section starts with a check list of the 111 species of Rhopalocera that have been taken in Britain and Ireland, with an indication of their status. The list could have been arranged more clearly. This is demonstrated by the fact that the proof readers did not notice that *Papilio machaon gorganus* FRUHSTORFER has accidentally become a good species! The check list is followed by another review, this time on the history of butterfly classification.

All native and common migrant species are extensively treated, each covering 2-4 pages. Full descriptions of the imago and early stages, and detailed life histories are followed by the distribution and history of the species' occurrence in Britain and vernacular name. Very correctly, for each species, the text authors (29 in all) are stated. The well known distribution maps have been updated to December 1988.

The species are depicted on 24 superb plates, painted by a new artist to the series, Richard LEWINGTON. These are some of the finest I have ever seen and certainly better than in previous volumes of the series. The last four plates show separately 30 species that have only been taken as accidentals e.g. *Parnassius phoebus* and

Junonia villida, or which are considered to be very rare migrants e.g. *Parnassius apollo* (!) and *Vanessa indica*. Considering the historical accent found throughout this book, it may have been more interesting to have depicted actual specimens taken in Britain.

The work is completed by a comprehensive glossary of entomological terms used in the book, a list of references and a complete index of English and scientific names for insects and plants.

The book has been so professionally produced that it is difficult to find any criticisms, and errors are almost non-existent. Records of *Papilio machaon britannicus* for the Channel Islands have mysteriously appeared on the distribution map. Recent literature on the nomenclature of Berger's Clouded Yellow and the Dappled White has not been taken into account, and *Ladoga* is still retained as genus name for *camilla* on account of its hairy eyes, a character also present (to a much lesser extent) in *Limenitis populi*. Of great interest to continental lepidopterists will be the figures illustrating the genitalia of *Colias hyale* and *alfacariensis*. It is claimed that the two species can be separated in the male by the number and form of the cornuti (not the correct term here) in the aedeagus and the shape of the valvae, and the form of the signum in the female. Unfortunately, more details are not stated e.g. how many "cornuti" each species has or the degree of intra-specific variation. Until now, it has not been considered possible to separate the species with certainty using genitalic characters.

In summary, Harley Books have produced a superb book which will be the standard reference work on the butterflies of Britain and Ireland for many years to come. It is a must for all lepidopterists and conservationists, not only in Britain, but also on the continent.

S. E. WHITEBREAD

PALM, E. : Nordeuropas Prydvinger (Lepidoptera : Oecophoridae). Danmarks Dyreliv, Bind 4. 247 pp., incl. 8 col. pls, 214 text figs and 200 maps, 25 × 18.5 cm, cloth. Fauna Bøger, Copenhagen, Denmark. Price : DKK 420. ISBN 87-87738-08-06. In Danish with short English summaries after each species.

The family Oecophoridae is represented in northern Europe by 119 species of the subfamilies Depressariinae, Ethmiinae, Oecophorinae, Deuterogoniinae and Chimaebachinae. These are treated in this 4th volume of the *Fauna of Denmark*. As in previous volumes, the systematic part is preceded by short general chapters on the family : e.g. diagnosis, zoogeography, morphology of the adults and early stages, economic importance, habitats, times of appearance and keys to subfamilies. Keys to the genera and species are found in the systematic part. For each species, a short description is followed by its distribution (with maps), life history and a short English summary.

However, for lepidopterists with no knowledge of the Danish language, the main interest in this book will be the excellent coloured plates photographed by David

WILSON depicting 137 species in 197 specimens and the large number of very useful text figures including black and white photographs of adults, genitalia and habitats. The plate figures are enlarged 2 × which is an obvious improvement over the previous *Pyrilidae* volume.

Errors are apparently very few (Danish text not checked), examples being on p. 118 & p. 169. A useful addition would have been a check list in tabular form indicating presence or absence in each of the countries covered. No lepidopterist interested in European Oecophoridae should be without this book. It can also be recommended to all macrolepidopterists who have previously ignored the 'micros' believing them to be too difficult to identify !

S. E. WHITEBREAD

Umweltschutzkalender 1990. WIESEN: Natur in Gefahr. Rettet die Wiesen Oekonzept Edition. Postfach 150234 Am Hackenbruch 85 BRD-4000 Düsseldorf 1. Auf Umweltschutzpapier DM 39.80 Postgiroamt Essen 6878-436 BLZ 360 100 43 Erhältlich bei Bioform (Insert in *Nota lepid.*), im Buchhandel und bei Oekonzept-Versand.

Dieser grosse Kalender (50 × 42 cm) über bedrohte Wiesen-Biotope (13 Farbphotos 34 × 34 cm) ist ebensogut für Schmetterlingsliebhaber bestimmt 1) weil ausgerechnet in diesen Biotopen auch bedrohte Schmetterlingsarten leben und 2) weil der Autor, SEL-Mitglied H. J. Weidemann aus Oberfranken/BRD, Verfasser des bekannten zweibändigen Standardwerkes „Tagfalter“, ist : Schmetterlinge werde also auch berücksichtigt.

Der Kalender entstand in Zusammenarbeit mit nicht weniger als 13 deutschen Naturschutzorganisationen, welche alle auf dem Deckblatt erwähnt sind.

Sieben der 13 grossen Farbphotos stammen von Weidemann selber ; dazu sind noch einzelne Tiere und Pflanzen farbig abgebildet.

Eine Einleitung „Rettet die Wiesen“ schliesst der Herausgeber Axel Köhler-Schnura wie folgt ab : „Mit dem vorliegenden Umweltschutzkalender wollen wir ... Wissen verbreiten und Verständnis erzeugen. Beides ist Voraussetzung für aktives und erfolgreiches Handeln zur Rettung der Wiesen“ — und damit auch der bedrohten Schmetterlinge deren Biotope sie sind. Denn — nota bene — alle abgebildete Biotope kaum mehr zu finden oder stark am Rückgang begriffen sind.

Wunderschön abgebildet und wissenschaftlich kommentiert, von Januar bis Dezember, sind also folgende Naturschätze :

Salbei-Glatthafer-Wiese	Deckblatt
Winter im Grasland	Januar
Nasswiese im Frankenjura	Februar
Der Steppenrasen erwacht	März
Streuobstwiesen	April
Frühsommerliche Blütenpracht	
im Magerrasen	Mai
Weichholzaue	Juni

Steppenheide	Juli
Westliche Beissschrecke	August
Trespen-Halbtrockenrasen	September
Pfeifengraswiese	Oktober
November : Nebel und Nässe über den Grashorsten	November
Winter : Schnee und Eis bedecken die Grashalme	Dezember

E. DE BROS

Corrigendum : In Suppl. No 1 1989 of *Nota lepid.* (VI. Congress of European Lepidopterology Sanremo 5-9.IV.1988) page 35 (Paper Z. Lorkovic) line 4, read "the F₁ hybrid *males* (not females !) were highly fertile".

Communiqué

Recherche descriptions originales Rhopalocères Maroc et Algérie, en photocopies, parues dans revues anciennes allemandes, françaises, anglaises et italiennes. Achat ou échange contre livres et revues lépidoptérologiques ou lépidoptères du Maroc et d'autres pays.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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Artikel/Article: [Book reviews • Buchbesprechungen • Analyses 233-236](#)