

Book reviews — Buchbesprechungen — Analyses

MEDVEDEV, G. S. (ED.), 1990 : *Keys to the insects of the European part of the USSR*. Vol. IV, part 2. English translation by Dr. B. R. Sharma. x + 1092 pp., 675 figs, cloth, size 24.5 × 16 cm. E. J. Brill, Leiden. ISBN 90 04 08926 8. Price : 280 Dutch Guilders.

This is the English translation of the original Russian edition *Opredelitel' Nasekomykh Evropeiskoi Chasti SSSR, Tom IV, Cheshuekrylye, Vtoraia Chast'* published by Nauka, Leningrad in 1981. The families treated in this second part are the Euplocamidae, Tineidae, Hieroxestidae, Eriocottidae and Ochsenheimeriidae, followed by 28 families systematically from the Choreutidae to the Gelechiidae, but excluding the Coleophoridae, which as far as the reviewer is aware has not yet appeared in the original Russian series.

The Russian edition was much valued by western European microlepidopterists, but for most of us only for the line illustrations of wing venation and pattern, larval feedings, genitalia and other morphological structures. The male genitalia are figured for all species (approx. 1280), many for the first time, whereas the female genitalia are figured for some families only (e.g. for the Gracillariinae, but not for the Lithocolletinae or Gelechiidae).

With this translation, the text can also now be appreciated. Keys are provided to the families, genera and species, using external characters and the genitalia, sometimes separately but usually combined. Diagnostic features for each species are given, followed by their distribution and known foodplants. Unfortunately, the keys to the species of Lithocolletinae are separated according to the foodplant. So if the latter is not known the keys will be of no use. The illustrations used have often been copied from other works, e.g. the Elachistidae have been taken from TRAUGOTT-OLSEN and NIELSEN (Faun. Ent. Scand. 6). The distributions may not always be correct, as *Micrurapteryx gradatella* H.-S. is claimed to occur in Switzerland, whereas as far as the reviewer is aware this species has never been taken there.

On the whole, the English (or rather American) is very good, although some odd terms and phrases are sometimes used (e.g. 'leaf-chewing species' and 'musty yellow'). Fortunately an index of plant names is included so that we can find out for instance that the American Shadbush (Juneberry) is *Amelanchier* and that the American (and German) Linden is the English Lime Tree. Some errors have crept in which were not in the original, e.g. 'warmiella' for 'wormiella' on p. 1009. One improvement on the original edition is that the list of contents is now easily found at the front of the book. The index takes some getting used to as it refers only to the pages of the original edition, which are printed in the margin of the English text. These however are not always in the correct order due to the different disposition of the illustrations.

Compared to the original, the illustrations are sometimes a little weak, with corresponding loss of detail, and some have been reduced slightly. The English edition is also less handy to use — due to the slightly smaller page size, the total number of pages is 300 more than in the original edition, and it is also much heavier. It is however well bound.

Despite these minor criticisms, this book is an amazing achievement and will continue to be a valuable tool for all microlepidopterists.

S. WHITEBREAD

ZAGULAJEV, A. K., 1989 : *Fauna of the USSR. Lepidoptera*. Vol. IV, No. 5. Clothes Moths (Tineidae), part 5. English translation by Dr. B. R. Sharma. xix + 547 pp., 319 figs, 5 b/w pls, 3 col. pls cloth, size 24.5 × 16 cm. E. J. Brill, Leiden. ISBN 90 04 08872 5. Price : 125 Dutch Guilders.

This work was first published in 1975 in its original Russian edition : *Fauna SSSR : Nasekomye Cheshuekrylye, IV, 5. Nastoyashchie Moli (Tineidae)*, 5, by Nauka, Leningrad. As explained in the foreword, written by the Scientific Editor Dr. D.R. DAVIS, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, two parts of the original four have already been translated into English : Nemapogoninae (1968) and Tineinae (1975). The present volume covers the Myrmecozelinae, while the Scardiinae have yet to be published.

This work treats not only the Myrmecozelinae occurring in the territories of the old USSR, but all 95 Palearctic species of that subfamily. A systematic list of species is followed by the two main parts of the work : An extensive introduction to the subfamily and the taxonomic treatment of species.

Most of my comments on the text and illustrations of *Keys to the insects of the European part of the USSR*, IV, 2. can also be applied here. However, this work is much more detailed, with each species fully described, including the genitalia, and information on distribution and biology are given. Very few of the adults are illustrated, although 18 species are figured, greatly enlarged, on three coloured plates.

Some important remarks are made by Donald DAVIS in the foreword which I would like to quote here : “The literature review is particularly valuable in that it includes numerous Russian references usually overlooked by Western entomologists. ZAGULAJEV’S overall treatment and many of his conclusions reflect a knowledgeable familiarity of most species’ biology and habitat preference. Similar to his earlier works, however, he sometimes relies too heavily on antiquated and frequently erroneous references concerning extra-limital fauna. The quality of his work throughout the entire series could have benefited greatly had he been able to examine firsthand the extensive collections of a few major Western institutions”. With the political changes now taking place, it is to be hoped that this latter point can now be realized.

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