

Book reviews - Buchbesprechungen - Analyses

Peder SKOU, 1991 : *Nordens Ugler*. Danmarks Dyreliv, Bind 5. pp. 566, col. pls. 37, b/w figs 530, cloth, 17.5 × 25 cm. Apollo Books, Kirkeby Sand 19, DK-5771 Stenstrup. ISBN 87-88757-26-9. Price : DKK 600.

This book follows the same pattern as the previous volumes of the series and treats all species of Herminiidae and Noctuidae from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland. The nomenclature used follows the Danish list of SCHNACK et al. (1985) ; unfortunately, a separate systematic list is not included in this volume. The total number of species treated is nowhere stated, but the reviewer makes it 467.

The Danish text gives for each species a short comparative description, the distribution, description of the habitat, flight period and biology. The text is supported by 37 colour plates of photographed set specimens, distribution maps for each species based on the zoogeographical districts and 530 black and white figures of habitats, genitalia, adults and larvae. As in previous volumes, it will be these illustrations that will be of most use to non-Danish lepidopterists. The colour plates are of the usual excellent quality, although the choice and arrangement of specimens could have been better. For instance, *Xestia ditrapezium* and *X. triangulum* are figured on different plates making comparison more difficult. The poor quality of many of the specimens can be judged by comparing with the noctuid plates in *Moths of the British Isles* by B. SKINNER.

A plus for this work is the large number of photographs of larvae, depicting 275 species (59%). Although not in colour, they will still help in the often difficult task of identifying noctuid larvae. For most subfamilies, larvae are figured for at least 50% of the species treated, the exceptions being the Acontiinae, with just one of ten species, and the Nolinae and Heliiothinae with none of the species depicted as larvae.

Scientific names used in older standard works of the region have been placed as 'synonyms'. This may result in some confusion, as for instance *Noctua janthina* D. & S. is quoted as a 'synonym' of *Noctua janthe* BORKH., whereas it is also listed as a separate species. The same applies to *Bena prasinana* L.

This book will be the standard reference work for northern European Noctuidae and Herminiidae for many years to come and can be warmly recommended to all lepidopterists interested in these families.

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ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Nota lepidopterologica](#)

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