

Book reviews — Buchbesprechungen — Analyses

The butterflies of Kent, an atlas of their distribution. Eric G. PHILP. iv, 58 pp., 46 maps, 12 col. photos. 21.1 × 14.9 cm, paperback. Transactions of the Kent Field Club, Vol. 12, 1993. ISBN 0-950-1696-7-6. Obtainable from K. Palmer, 62 Judd Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2NJ, England. Price : £ 6.50.

Being a native of Kent, and having been involved with the Lepidoptera recording scheme of the County in the early seventies, I am delighted to see the publication of this work. Kent is the English County stretching from Dover to London, once-called the "Garden of England", but now more like the "Road-works of England" !

A most comprehensive work on the butterflies and moths of Kent was published by J.M. Chalmers-Hunt between 1960 and 1981 in parts, in the Entomologist's Record.

The Kent Biological Archives and Records Centre was set up in 1971 at the County Museum at Maidstone, for the purpose of centralising all animal and plant records for the County. This was due to the efforts of the curator of the museum's natural history department, Eric Philp, one of the best all-round naturalists that I have ever met. Initially, the Centre concentrated on recording the plant species, and the *Atlas of the Kent Flora* was published in 1982. For the next ten year period, 1981-1990, it was decided to concentrate on the butterflies, including the skippers, to provide a baseline for future studies.

The recording unit is the tetrad, 2 × 2km, of which there are 1042 in the County. During the ten year period, the 148 recorders were able to provide records for all except 23, mostly border, tetrads. Distribution maps are provided for 40 of the 43 native species recorded over the period, and for one migrant. The three exceptions being *Hesperia comma* and *Boloria selene*, which both occur in just a single tetrad and *Apatura iris*, which was considered extinct, but may be spreading into the County again from Sussex. In 123 tetrads, 21 or more species were recorded. The highest number of species recorded from a single tetrad was 32. Maps are provided showing the urban areas, the main wooded areas and the higher ground. A single map representing the distribution of *Hippocrepis comosa*, the foodplant of *Lysandra coridon* and *L. bellargus*, is provided, demonstrating the maximum possible range of these two species.

For each species, a short commentary on the status and biology is provided. All species not recorded during the period, but known to have occurred in

the past, are mentioned. Eight species are considered to have become extinct over the last 100 years: *Leptidea sinapis*, *Aporia crataegi*, *Thecla betulae*, *Plebejus argus*, *Cyaniris semiargus*, *Argynnis adippe*, *Eurodryas aurinia* and *Melitaea cinxia*.

A useful addition would have been a map depicting the geological regions used in *Butterflies and moths of Kent* by J.M. Chalmers-Hunt, so that a comparison could be made.

Hopefully, this book will inspire even more Kentish naturalists to spend time recording butterflies, and other insects, so that trends can be more closely monitored. Now that the Channel Tunnel has been completed, this will be more important than ever.

Steven WHITEBREAD

Tineid Genera of Australia. Monographs on Australian Lepidoptera, vol. 2. Gaden S. ROBINSON and Ebbe S. NIELSEN. xvi, 344 pp., 734 Figs. 25.9 × 18.2 cm, hardback. CSIRO Publications, 1993. ISBN 0 643 05025 6. Obtainable from CSIRO Publications, 314 Albert St., East Melbourne, Victoria 3002, Australia, or Apollo Books, Kirkeby Sand 19, DK-5771 Stenstrup, Denmark. Price: \$US 80, or \$AS 80 in Australia. A discount of 25% is given to subscribers of the series.

This is the second volume in the series of Monographs on Australian Lepidoptera (for a review of the first volume, see *Nota lepid.* 14(3): 291-292), and treats in depth the 44 genera of Tineidae known from Australia. Four genera are new. So far, 187 species have been described. However, almost twice this number are known, but are not yet described. Because many genera and species of Tineidae are cosmopolitan, and are pests of stored products, natural fibres etc., this book is bound to attract more interest from outside Australia than the first volume, which covered a single genus of hepialid moths.

The introductory chapters are titled "Phylogeny and Family Definition", "Morphology", "Biology" and "Diversity and Distribution". They are well written and interesting to read. The authors do not bring anything new on the phylogeny of the higher classification at the superfamily and family levels, but they have attempted to find evidence of monophyly in each of the 15 recognised tineid subfamilies (11 occur in Australia). In only two could they not find evidence, the Myrmecozelinae and Meessiinae, but they have nevertheless retained these for the moment. A phylogenetic analysis has apparently not yet proved possible and no explanation is given for the order of subfamilies used in the work. Likewise, the systematic order of genera and species must be considered to be tentative.

A key to the genera is provided, based entirely on external morphological features. Each genus is fully described, with sections headed "Adults" (wingspan, head, thorax, wings, wing scales, pregenital abdomen, male

genitalia and female genitalia), "Diagnosis" (comparisons with related genera), "Distribution" (world and Australia), "Biology" (substrates given, but no descriptions of the larvae where these are known), "Remarks" and "Constituent species" (all described Australian species are listed, with full synonymy).

The text is accompanied by numerous figures (usually black and white photographs, none in colour) of the adult moths, genitalia, wing venation, SEM photomicrographs of heads, antennae etc. All are of excellent quality. The genitalia preparations are always very clean and clear.

We are now becoming accustomed to the high quality of entomological books produced in Australia and this work is no exception. Many of the genera and species treated and figured also occur in other regions of the world. I therefore have no hesitation to recommend it to anyone with an interest in the family.

Steven WHITEBREAD

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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