

Book reviews - Buchbesprechungen - Analyses

The Nepticulidae of eastern Europe and Asia. Rimantas PUPLESIS. 291 pp. + 840 Figs, 16.8 x 24.7 cm, hardback. Backhuys Publishers, 1994. ISBN 90-73348-29-3. Obtainable from : Backhuys Universal Book Services, P.O. Box 321, NL-2300 AH Leiden, The Netherlands. Price : fl 210, excl. postage.

The family Nepticulidae comprise the smallest moths in the world, the majority ranging from about 2.5 to 6.5 mm in wingspan. Because of their small size, they have not been very well studied in the past. However, over the last 20 years there has been a veritable boom in the study of the world's Nepticulidae fauna. Major treatments of the Nepticulidae of South Africa, North America, Japan and Europe have appeared. The present book is the first taxonomic revision of the family from the rest of the Palaearctic Region, that vast expanse between Japan and Europe. The author is to be congratulated on this tremendous work, especially considering that much of the material was collected personally by him in the field, often under difficult conditions.

In all, 221 species are treated, 114 of which have been described by the author. For each species, adults, and male and female genitalia are described, where known, and figured in very good line drawings. Full details of the biology are also given, including a description of the mine and the species' known distribution is summarised. Unfortunately, keys to species are not given. Of general interest are the additional chapters on the methods used, adult morphology, phylogeny and classification, keys to the Holarctic genera, and remarks on bionomics and biogeography, including the biogeographic divisions of the Palaearctic recognised by the author.

The text is generally well written, clear and concise, but the publishers should have had the English checked more thoroughly. Inexcusably, an index is not provided. The title of this book is rather misleading, as eastern Europe is generally taken to include countries such as Rumania and Bulgaria. This is here not the case and the vast majority of material studied has come from the western and southern parts of the former Soviet Union. Relatively little has been collected from the vast areas of central, northern and eastern Russia.

The book will be of interest to all students of the Nepticulidae. Unfortunately, the high price (approx. £80) will deter many individuals from buying it.

Steven WHITEBREAD

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Whitebread Steven

Artikel/Article: [Book reviews - Buchbesprechungen - Analyses The Nepticulidae of eastern Europe and Asia 138](#)