

Book reviews - Buchbesprechungen - Analyses

Die Schmetterlinge Baden-Württembergs. Band 3 & 4, Nachtfalter I & II. Gunter EBERT (Ed.). 518 pp., 344 col. Figs, 166 diagrams, 64 distribution maps (Vol. 3) + 535 pp., 488 col. Figs, 204 diagrams, 112 distribution maps (Vol. 4), 18 x 24.5 cm, hardback. Verlag Eugen Ulmer, 1994. ISBN 3-8001-3472-1 & 3-8001-3474-8. Price/Vol. : DM 79.

This series deals with the butterflies and moths of Baden-Württemberg in south-west Germany. The butterflies, including the skippers, were covered in volumes 1 & 2, published in 1991. The series is now continued with the larger moths, Vol. 3 treating the families Hepialidae, Cossidae, Zygaenidae, Limacodidae, Psychidae and Thyrididae, and Vol. 4 the Bombycidae, Endromidae, Lasiocampidae, Lemoniidae, Saturniidae, Sphingidae, Notodontidae, Dilobiidae, Thaumetopoeidae, Drepanidae, Thyatiridae, Lymantriidae, Nolidae and Ctenuchidae. The Arctiidae and Sesiidae will follow in Vol. 5 and the Noctuidae are planned for Vols 6 & 7.

No serious European lepidopterist should be without this series in his library, even if his knowledge of German is weak or non-existent (a few pages of explanations in English and French are included). I know of no other work giving so much detail for most of these families. Information is given on distribution (global, regional — with map, and vertical), phenology (adult and early stages), ecology (biotope, foodplants of the larva and adult, microhabitat, behaviour and parasites) and red list status. The colour photographs are all of a very high standard and depict living adults and early stages of most species, their habitats, foodplants, parasites etc.

Introductory chapters in Vol. 3 include the following interesting topics : Methods for observing moths (the word “collecting” is carefully avoided !), aspects of competition for food among moths, categories and lists of endangered species. An index to taxa is provided for each volume, but the comprehensive list of references is given at the end of vol. 4 only. A subject index is not given.

This is not an identification work and no descriptions of the adults or larvae, or colour identification plates will be found. However, in a few cases, distinguishing characters of close species are illustrated, including a few genitalia figures. The classification and nomenclature used by the various authors are very heterogeneous, but this does not detract from the work.

The work provides an excellent basis, so urgently required, for the further study of these families, not only in Baden-Württemberg, but also in the rest of Europe.

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ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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