

## Book review — Buchbesprechung — Analyse

*An Illustrated Key to European Sesiidae (Lepidoptera)*. Z. LAŠTŮVKA & A. LAŠTŮVKA. 174 pp, numerous b/w and 8 col. pls. 15 × 21 cm, paperback. Faculty of Agronomy MUAFF, Brno, Czech Republic, 1995. ISBN : 80-7157-151-2. Obtainable from : Department of Zoology and Apiculture, Faculty of Agronomy MUAFF, Zemědělská 1, 613 00 Brno, Czech Republic. Price : CK 600 (= DM 34 ; postage DM 6).

This book represents a milestone in modern clearwing research. It is the first work covering the entire European clearwing moth fauna since Bartel *in* Seitz (1912). Considering the price and the aim of this volume, there is little that can be faulted.

After short introductory chapters covering such topics as phylogeny and classification, biology, collecting and rearing, keys to the genera and species based entirely on external characters are given, with many references to the figures found in the main part of the work. A short description is given for each of the 105 species, together with information on bionomics and habitat, and distribution. Diagnostic characters are illustrated in an accompanying plate, e.g. parts of the male and female genitalia, abdominal rings and forewings. The plate also includes a small distribution map. Adults of all species are illustrated in eight photographic coloured plates.

The authors honestly state that while most species can be identified easily with the use of the keys, to determine other species requires considerable experience. For some species, resort to the genitalia will solve the problem, but for others even a combination of external characters and genitalia will not lead to a satisfactory result. In these cases one will require knowledge of the foodplant. Of course, to be able to use the keys at all, it is essential that specimens are in good condition.

The coloured plates of adults are very good and the diagnostic features well presented. The distribution maps give one a good overview of where each species is known to occur. *Synansphecchia triannuliformis* is not given for Switzerland, whereas it has been recorded from many localities in the south of the country.

This book will persuade many more European lepidopterists to study this difficult family and it will help them to focus on the problem species and poorly studied areas of Europe.

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