

Book reviews — Buchbesprechungen — Analyses

Die Schmetterlinge Mitteleuropas. I. Band. Bestimmung – Verbreitung – Flugstandort – Bionomie. Drepanidae, Geometridae, Lasiocampidae, Endromidae, Lemoniidae, Saturniidae, Sphingidae, Notodontidae, Lymantriidae, Arctiidae. J. FAJCIK & F. SLAMKA. 113 pp. 21 s/w Tafeln, 20 Farbtafeln. 1996. Bestellungen an : F. Slamka, Racianska 61, SK-83102 Bratislava, Slowakei. Preis : 50,- DM zzgl. Porto.

Bereits ein Jahr nach Herausgabe eines handlichen Feldführers über die Zünslerfalter Mitteleuropas (vgl. *Nota lepid.* 18 (1) : 38) liegt nunmehr in ähnlich guter Ausstattung der erste Band über Großschmetterlinge vor. Die Zielsetzung der Autoren war wiederum die Produktion eines preisgünstigen Bestimmungsführers und diese Lücke wird auch tatsächlich gut abgedeckt.

Behandelt werden die Gruppen der Spinner s.l. (mit Ausnahme der „primitiven“ Familien) und Schwärmer sowie die Spanner, insgesamt 626 Arten. Gerade für die Geometriden existierte bisher in Mitteleuropa, im Gegensatz zu Nord-europa, ein eklatanter Mangel an handlichen Determinationsunterlagen. Die weit verbreiteten Werke von KOCH (1988) sowie FORSTER & WOHLFAHRT (1981) sind entweder unvollständig oder schon lange vergriffen.

Die geographische Abgrenzung umfaßt ähnlich wie im Band über die Zünsler das zentrale und östliche Mitteleuropa inkl. Deutschland, Österreich, Polen, Tschechische Republik, Slowakei und Ungarn. Bedauerlicherweise sind die alpinen Arten nur teilweise inkludiert, ansonsten wird die mitteleuropäische Fauna aber fast vollständig dargestellt und es fehlen nur wenige Taxa wie z.B. *Maganophra abruptaria*.

Von beinahe sämtlichen Arten (617 spp.) werden Farbfotos in annähernd natürlicher Größe und ansprechender Qualität gegeben. Weitere 9 Taxa werden in Form von Strichzeichnungen der Imagines oder der Genitalien charakterisiert. Genitalabbildungen für eine Auswahl schwieriger zu bestimmender Arten (z.B. Gattungen *Idaea* und *Eupithecia*) runden die Zweckmäßigkeit des Buches als Bestimmungsführer ab. Meistens stützen sich die Autoren dabei auf die Reproduktion bereits publizierten Materials und entsprechend unterschiedlich ist auch die Qualität der Zeichnungen. Das Ziel einer möglichst zuverlässigen Bestimmung wird aber fast immer erreichbar sein. Der knapp gehaltene Text ist zweisprachig, Slowakisch und Deutsch gehalten. Er bringt angefangen von Artnamen mit den wichtigsten Synonymen, einen groben Überblick über die Verbreitung in Mitteleuropa sowie knappe Angaben zur Habitatwahl und Bionomie von Raupen und Imagines. Besonders gut hat sich das einheitliche Nummernsystem für Text und Abbildungen bewährt, das ein leichtes Auffinden der jeweiligen Art ermöglicht.

Insgesamt ermöglicht dieses Buch einen guten Einstieg auch in bisher vernachlässigte Großschmetterlingsgruppen und kann auch angesichts des niedrigen Preises nur wärmstens empfohlen werden

Peter HUEMER

The Lepidoptera of Europe. A Distributional Checklist. Ole KARSHOLT & Józef RAZOWSKI (Editors). 380 pages, 5 tables, 21 × 29 cm, CD-rom enclosed, hardback. Apollo Books, Stenstrup, 1996. ISBN 87-88757-01-3. Obtainable from : Apollo Books Aps., Kirkeby Sand 19, DK-5771 Stenstrup, Denmark. Price : Danish Kroner 490, excl. postage.

The present work is a checklist presenting the distribution of 8470 species of Lepidoptera representing 1680 genera, 85 families, and 31 superfamilies in 31 European countries and 5 larger Mediterranean islands (Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Malta and Crete). The geographical coverage is shown on a map : in the East and South, the boundaries adopted extend along the eastern highlands of the Ural Mountains, along the Ural River, the northern coast of the Caspian Sea as far as the Kama-Manyth Depression, across the Azov Sea and Black Sea to the Bosphorus and then through the Aegean Sea, including all the Aegean islands. Included is also Iceland, but the Atlantic Islands (Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands) have been omitted, as well as Cyprus. The checklist summarizes current knowledge about the countries from which individual species have been recorded, coded by two-letter abbreviations. In this list the higher classification of superfamilies, families and subfamilies follows Kristensen (Ed.) in press, *Lepidoptera : Moths and Butterflies*, with few exceptions. Subspecies have not been included in the main list since opinions about the appropriate use of this category are very divided among lepidopterists. In the case of Psychidae separate entries have been made for parthenogenetic and bisexual forms. The notes (pp. 300-344) include information supplementary to the list, especially on matters of nomenclature and taxonomy, a few notes also deal with distributional problems. No less than 40 authors have contributed to the present work, each dealing with a particular group. The choice of some arbitrarily selected islands rather than others is questionable, as other ones (e.g. the Greek islands of Híos, Lésvos, Sámos, Ikária, Kárpathos and Níssiros) also have insular endemics or populations only occurring here within the boundaries of the area covered in the present book (e.g. *Maniola chia*, *Maniola megala*, *Maniola halicarnassus*, *Hipparchia mersina*, *Hipparchia pellucida*, *Hipparchia christenseni*, *Satyrium ledereri*, to name but a few among the Papilionoidea alone). The list of references is very limited, some important works have been omitted. The whole work is also contained on a CD-rom, produced together with the book. Although each 'specialist' will undoubtedly find some small omissions or mistakes here and there, this is a highly recommendable work, indispensable to all those working on European Lepidoptera.

Alain OLIVIER

The Conservation of Butterflies in Britain past and present. John FELT-WELL. x + 233 pages, 17 text figures, 12 tables, 14.8 × 21 cm, paperback. Wildlife Matters, Battle, Sussex, 1995. ISBN 0-907970-028. Obtainable from : Wildlife Matters, 'Marlham', Henley's Down, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 9BN, UK. Price : £ 9.50, incl. postage.

This comprehensive little work deals, within the frame of twelve chapters, with the various aspects of butterfly conservation in Great Britain, including general chapters (historical background ; why conserve butterflies ; flagship species ; habitat management ; threats ; legislation, etc.) and case studies (the Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon britannicus*, the Large Copper, *Lycaena dispar* and the Large Blue, *Maculinea arion*), in a very pleasant and readable style, constantly with a great attention to details. It was written to provide an insight into the conservation of butterflies in Britain, with its successes and failures, and concentrates on ecological issues when these are considered relevant. A series of appendices mention among other things a code for insect collecting, a code of conservation practice for insect re-establishment, conservation strategy, nature reserves. The book closes with a glossary and a very complete bibliography. This nice little book is recommended to people working on butterfly and, more generally, nature conservation, especially in Great Britain.

Alain OLIVIER

Checklist of the Lepidoptera of Australia (Monographs on Australian Lepidoptera Volume 4). E. S. NIELSEN, E. D. EDWARDS & T. V. RANGSI (Eds.) xiv + 529 pages, black-and-white photographs in text, 18 × 25.7 cm, CD-rom enclosed, hardback. CSIRO Division of Entomology, Canberra, Australia, 1996. ISBN 0-643-05028-0.

This volume represents the first edition of a checklist of the entire described Australian Lepidoptera fauna : a complete documentation of its taxonomy, nomenclature and classification, including all names correctly associated with Australian Lepidoptera, as well as some names previously used because of major misidentifications or misspellings. It is based on an alphabetical collection of all original descriptions of Lepidoptera named from Australia ; an archive of colour transparencies of the corresponding primary types ; a comparison of slides and type information with material in the Australian National Insect Collection and other collections plus other available data ; published literature and a computer database derived from the above information. The Introduction provides a detailed protocol for the development of the Checklist and a guide to users. A summary of the higher classification used in the Checklist is given. A complete systematic listing of all valid generic and specific names with their synonyms, major misspellings and important misidentifications is provided. Synonyms for the family group names are also given. Where required, numbered notes explain the application of names.

The Checklist is intended to demonstrate our current state of knowledge of the Australian fauna of Lepidoptera. It therefore includes a large number of nomenclatural changes formally published for the first time ; new synonyms, new combinations, changes of status and reinstatements are clearly indicated as new in the Checklist. A complete index of all names is included together with a CD-rom containing all the actual Checklist files in ASCII format. The Checklist is multi-authored with one or more authors responsible for each family with contributions by A. Atkins, I. F. B. Common, E. D. Edwards, K. D. Fairey, M. Horak, F. Komai, T. Kumata, M. S. Moulds, P. B. McQuillan, E. S. Nielsen, G. S. Robinson, M. Shaffer and G. Tarmann. The family classification adopted in this work is that developed by I. F. B. Common and E. S. Nielsen for Moths of Australia (Common, 1990) and the treatment of Lepidoptera in The Insects of Australia (Nielsen & Common, 1991), with minor changes. The editors are to be congratulated for the high professionalism of the present achievement. This work presents a wealth of information in concise form and is absolutely indispensable to anyone working on Australian Lepidoptera.

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Errata in and acknowledgement to *Nota lepidopterologica* Vol. 19, 1996

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In the articles of LOELIGER & KARRER, published 21.XI. and 21.XII.1996, pages 113-128 and 243-260, respectively, quantities of ecdysone injected into pupae are erroneously presented a thousand times too high in most instances, i.e. in mg instead of in μg . Correct figures are given in the first publication under Material and Methods, Table 3 and Figure 2, and the French Summary, on pages 113, 117-120 and 123, resp. ; and in the second article under Material and Methods on page 247.

The first author's address is also incorrectly given. In The Netherlands two capitals separate the numbering and wording of the domicile (vide supra).

As the author responsible for reviewing the proofs I apologize for the flaws.

Delightful news is the approval, just before publication, of our request for financial support by the Uyttenboogaart-Eliassen foundation in Amsterdam. Its gift satisfactorily compensates the costs of the colour printing of the figures 1-7, illustrating the results of our cross breeding experiments published in volume 19 (3/4) of *Nota lepid.*

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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