

Book review — Buchbesprechung — Analyse

Oecophorine Genera of Australia II. The *Chezala*, *Philobata* and *Eulechria* Groups (Lepidoptera : Oecophoridae). I. F. B. COMMON. In : NIELSEN, E. S., Monographs on Australian Lepidoptera, volume 5. 407 pages, 774 text figures, 18 × 26 cm, hardback. CSIRO Publishing, 150 Oxford Street, Collingwood, Victoria 3066, Australia, 1997. ISBN 0-643-05934-2. In Europe obtainable from : Eurospan, 3 Henrietta St. Covent Garden, London WC2E 8LU, England. Price : AUS \$ 130.00.

With its 5,500 species, the subfamily Oecophorinae is one of the most species-rich animal groups of the Australian fauna. The larvae of most species live from fallen eucalyptus leaves containing many toxic compounds and hence being avoided by most insects.

In this revision, 84 genera are treated, of which 39 are newly described. Further reference is made to the 842 described and about 800 more still undescribed species, that have already been recognized in the diverse collections examined. The study further includes 160 new combinations and five new synonyms in the species group category. Using 64 characters, the author has tried to frame a cladogram by means of the program Hennig86. By this, a better insight into the phylogeny of this large insect group could be attained.

The book includes identification keys to the genera. The text presents information about the external morphology (head, thorax, wings, abdomen), the male and female genitalia, diagnostic features, distribution and biology. At the back follows a list of species that belong to the genus, including a cross-reference to the original description, possible synonyms, as well as the type locality and data about the type specimens. Usually a number of still undescribed species is added. Thus the book is clearly not intended as an identification work for the single species.

The text figures consist mainly of black and white photographs of adults, male and female genitalia and specific morphological details when these are important for identification purposes, like antennae, eyes and palpi. The author further presents line drawings of wing venation. All these figures are of a very good quality. The book is very carefully edited and well bound. It is an indispensable standard work for all those interested in the family Oecophoridae, or those working on Australian Microlepidoptera.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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