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TSHIKOLOVETS, Vadim V.: The Butterflies of Pamir.

17 × 24 cm, 282 pp., including plates I–XLVI (40 in colour, 6 in black-and-white), hardback. Edited by Y. P. Nekrutenko. Published by František Slamka, Bratislava, March 1997. ISBN 80–967540–1–7. To be ordered from: V. Tshikolovets, Zoological Museum, B. Chmelnitsky str. 15, UA-252601 Kiev MSP, Ukraine. Price: DM 98.- excl. postage.

This is the first comprehensive book on the butterflies of Pamir since Grum-Grshimailo's monograph "Le Pamir et sa faune lépidoptérologique" from 1890, edited by N. M. Romanoff in his *Mémoires sur les Lépidoptères*, St.-Pétersbourg 4, an unsurpassed, but extremely expensive and very rare work.

In a brief introduction, the author includes a map of the zoogeographical boundary of Pamir and discusses the exact delimitation of the area as viewed in this work (the Murgab region of the Nagorno-Badakhshanskaya Avtonomnaya Oblast' of Tajikistan and adjacent areas within the political boundaries of present-day China and Afghanistan), as there has been quite some confusion in the past about the very concept of Pamir. He further briefly deals with the climate and plant associations of this region, closing his chapter with a historical overview of its lepidopterological history, including his own past trips. A useful list of abbreviations of various museums, where relevant (type) material is currently deposited, is followed by a more detailed map of the study area, including national boundaries, mountain ranges, passes, rivers, lakes, main roads, towns and 51 localities numbered on the map and listed fully on the opposite three pages (with various precisions as to their exact name, altitude, peculiarities). Then follows a checklist of the butterflies of Pamir: 115 species with 158 subspecies in total are recognized. The main body of the book, "A survey of Pamir butterflies", treats every taxon in detail, including the range of the species and, for each subspecies, a reference to the primary sources (original description with original combination, type locality, depository of the type material), full synonymy as far as the Pamirs are concerned, its distribution within Pamir, flight period and habitat. For each single (sub-)species, there is a small map showing its distribution within Pamir, as well as — when lying within the boundaries of the region — a symbol indicating its type locality. In the present work, three new subspecies are described, viz. *Polycaena tamerlana pamira*, *Polyommatus sieversii goranus* and *Polyommatus pheretiades (pheretiades) pseudomicrus*; further, two replacement names are proposed: *Polyommatus neoiris* nom. nov. pro *Lycaena iris* Staudinger, 1886 and *Polyommatus devanica evansii* nom. nov. pro *Lycaena devanica gracilis* Evans, 1912.

Then follows a series of 40 colour plates of really outstanding quality; the first three plates include six habitat photographs each, all situated within the political boundaries of Tajikistan; plate 4 depicts the live butterflies, sitting on the rocky substrate, either singly or in copula (*Parnassius* spp., *Polyommatus chrysopsis chrysopsis*); plates 5 to 39 illustrate set specimens of all the taxa reviewed, the bulk of which have been collected by the author himself, supplemented by various syntypes from the L. Sheljuzhko collection, currently deposited in the Zoological Museum, Kiev University, other casual types and single specimens having been collected by other lepidopterists; plate 40 includes various type specimens (either real specimens or illustrations taken from Grum-Grshimaïlo, 1890, as well as labels). With one single exception (plate 7), every single plate showing the upperside of the specimens on plates 5 to 39, is immediately followed by one showing the underside of exactly the same specimens. Plates 41 to 46 include line drawings of the male genitalia of some "difficult" taxa, i.e. *Pyrgus alpinus* group, *Turanana*, *Polycaena*, *Polyommatus*, *Boloria*, *Melitaea* (!) and *Paralasa*.

A short chapter deals with a list of species known to occur in adjacent regions and indicated for Pamir (in other words, dubious and erroneous records). Finally, an exhaustive reference list (327 entries) and an index of genus and species group names conclude the book.

This book informs us — in a very efficient and compact style — on the taxonomy, distribution and bionomics of each nominal taxon and includes a wealth of data on primary sources. The excellent photographs, as well as the line drawings of genitalia of some critical groups, should enable the reader to identify without problems any species covered by this study.

The author (and his editor) deserve our warmest congratulations for this outstanding contribution to our knowledge of the butterfly fauna of this part of Central Asia, a region that becomes accessible to workers from the western world and that is increasingly visited by these nowadays (e.g., Kyrgyzstan). The publication of a new book by the same author, "The Butterflies of Turkmenistan", is to be expected in early-mid 1998, being the second of a planned series on the Lepidoptera of Palaeartic Asia. We look forward to its publication and hope that the author will continue rejoicing us with several more works of the kind. Indispensable to any lepidopterist interested in Palaeartic butterflies.

Alain OLIVIER

DENNIS, Roger L. H. & SHREEVE, Tim G.: Butterflies on British and Irish offshore islands: Ecology and Biogeography.

15.6 × 23.5 cm, XII + 131 pp., 11 text figures, 10 tables, paperback. Published by Gem Publishing Company, Wallingford, December 1996. ISBN 0-906802-06-7. To be ordered from: Gem Publishing Company, Brightwell cum Sotwell, GB-Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0QD, United Kingdom. Tel.: 01491 833882; fax: 01491 825161. Price: £ 16.00,- excl. postage.

The British butterfly fauna is probably the best known in the world in all its aspects, including faunistics, ecology, biogeography and conservation. In the latter area, for instance, the British are far ahead of any other country. The Monitoring Scheme, now running well over 20 years, with a constantly growing team of recorders covering about 100 sites in the UK, has provided a wealth of data on the current status of British butterflies, their local distribution, population dynamics and ecology (fluctuations in numbers; migration; colonization and extinction; effects of weather; climatic warming). Both present authors are leading authorities in the field of ecology and biogeography. The book produced here presents an up-to-date synthesis on the butterflies of Britain's and Ireland's offshore islands. The two main aims of this work are: firstly, to encourage more thorough observations on butterfly species found on islands around the British and Irish coastlines, with an emphasis on determining either the resident or vagrant status of species; secondly, to encourage ecological and evolutionary research into island faunas, particularly with regard to questions involving the conservation of biological diversity in Britain and mainland Europe. In the present publication, the authors contribute to this program by investigating the ecological significance of species' records for the British and Irish islands.

The book consists of two main sections. The first one is an account of findings from analyses of data for a selection of 73 islands: geographical (proximity of faunal source areas on nearby islands and on the adjacent mainland of Britain, Ireland and France) and ecological parameters (immigration, colonization and survival) are discussed and a straightforward ecological interpretation of the occurrence of butterflies on British and Irish islands is presented; historical factors are also taken into account. The second section is a documentation of species occurrences on 219 islands: a general checklist of British and Irish butterflies is followed by simple lists for each island, referring to its order, completed by an exhaustive bibliography including references up to 1 August 1996. Distinctions are made between native species and rare immigrants and vagrants, as well as between date classes (pre- and post-1960). The text is enriched by numerous figures and tables.

The findings of the authors have important connotations for understanding the processes of colonization and extinction, with ramifications for butterfly conservation in Britain and Ireland. Well-written and comprehensively documented as it is, this is primarily an extremely valuable working instrument for population biologists, biogeographers and conservationists alike, both in and outside Great Britain.

Alain OLIVIER

BENGTSSON, Bengt Å.: Scythrididae. In: Huemer, P., Karsholt, O. & Lyneborg, L. (eds.), *Microlepidoptera of Europe*, Vol. 2.

17 × 24 cm, 301 pp., 14 colour plates, 419 text figures, hardback. Apollo Books, Stenstrup, 1997. ISBN 87-88757-11-0. Obtainable from: Apollo Books Aps., Kirkeby Sand 19, DK-5771 Stenstrup, Denmark. Price: Danish Kroner 500, excl. postage.

Already one year after the release of the first volume of the series "Microlepidoptera of Europe", the second part is published, dealing with the family Scythrididae, not exactly the most attractive, but certainly not the least interesting, group. The same author had already published a comprehensive work about this family (The Scythrididae of Northern Europe, *Fauna ent. scand.* 13, 1984), but there only the Northern European species were treated. In the present book all European taxa are considered, including the Canary Islands, as well as those occurring in North Africa and the Asiatic part of Turkey. Altogether, 237 species are dealt with, distributed over 7 genera, and 40 species new to science are described. Many new synonymies, as well as a few new combinations, are established. For some species lectotypes are designated, and for one species a neotype.

The text begins with a general part about the morphology of the Scythrididae, as well as information about the identification, the preparation of the genitalia and the collecting of Scythrididae. The more, this part contains information about the bionomics, systematics and geographic distribution of this family of Microlepidoptera. A checklist enumerates all the species treated, as well as their synonyms.

In the systematic part, all species are enumerated according to a uniform scheme: complete citation with cross-reference to the original description, diagnosis (distinctive characters when compared to related species), features of the male and female genitalia, distribution and biology (kind of biotope, larval host plant, adult flight period). Sometimes there is an extra paragraph dealing with problems related to the systematic position of the taxon in question. After the enumeration of the 237 recognized taxa follow five more nomina dubia, for which it is at present impossible to ascertain to which species they apply and two species that have always been listed among the Scythrididae, but that belong elsewhere.

The distribution of the different species within the area covered is presented in the form of tables with little over 50 columns, thus offering a quick overview of the general distribution of each species, as well as an idea of the species number in the separate regions (mostly countries). The book ends with an extensive references list and an alphabetical index.

The 253 figures on the 14 colour plates are really of an exceptional quality. They equal the famous illustrations in the celebrated series "Microlepidoptera Palaearctica" and have been painted by the author himself. Only a few species could not be depicted, as they are only known after one or a few specimens that could not be obtained. With these illustrations it is, in many cases, possible to name the Scythrididae species. Only in a few cases — especially with the (nearly) unicolourous species — is it necessary to prepare the genitalia for a completely reliable identification. For that purpose, line drawings of the male and female genitalia of each species are included, with arrows indicating the diagnostic features.

As stated by the author himself, this publication allows the identification of all known Scythrididae species from Europe, but there is a good chance that quite a few new species remain to be discovered, especially in the mediterranean region and in North Africa. The more, the biology of many species remains entirely unknown. Hopefully, this work will incite many microlepidopterists to pay more attention to this interesting family.

As is the case with the first volume of this series (Pterophoridae), this book is very carefully edited and well bound. It will be the standard work on the West-Palaeartic Scythrididae for years to come and should not be absent from the library of any microlepidopterist !

Willy DE PRINS

GAEDIKE, Reinhard: Acrolepiidae. In: Heppner, J.B., Lepidopterorum Catalogus (New Series) fasc. 55.

21.5 × 28 cm, 20 pp., 16 text figures, stapled. Scientific Publishers Inc., P.O. Box 15718, Gainesville, FL 32604 U.S.A., 1996. ISBN 0-945417-55-1. Price US \$ 7.50.

Shortly after the publication of the first part (fasc. 48, Epermeniidae) in this new series of the Lepidopterorum Catalogus — apart from the three-volume-work on the Noctuidae — the second little part is now published by the same author. Gaedike treats the family Acrolepiidae, that belongs to the Yponomeutoidea, and includes 95 species worldwide. Acrolepiidae are distributed over all continents except Australia.

The catalogue itself presents the complete scientific naming, a citation of the original description, type locality, synonymy, distribution, cross-references to previously published illustrations, the biology and larval host-plants. After the enumeration of the species follows a comprehensive references list and indices of the host-plants, the species and the genera.

The text figures consist of a world map including the type localities of the valid species and a plate with black and white photographs of 15 representative species.

This publication is part of a prestigious series, for which 124 parts are planned. The work is intended for all lepidopterists, especially systematists and taxonomists.

Willy DE PRINS

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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