

Book Review

Hausmann, A. 2001. Introduction. Archiearinae, Orthostixinae, Desmobathrinae, Alsophilinae, Geometrinae. – In: A. Hausmann (ed.), *The geometrid moths of Europe* 1, 282 pp. Apollo Books, Stenstrup. – ISBN 87-88757-35-8. Price DKK 490,00.

This book is the first volume of a new series aimed to provide a monographic treatment of European geometrid moths. It is the first book since 80 years which deals with this diverse group in the whole Western Palaearctic region. A comprehensive work on geometrid morphology, especially on the diagnostically important genitalia, has been lacking. Data on biology and habitats are also widely scattered in the literature and hence difficult to access.

The first part of the new volume gives general information about ecology, morphology and systematics of the family. It covers many aspects, some of them of a more general character like conservation or the meaning of collections. A chapter on the morphology of Geometridae contains a compilation of important information and will be particularly useful for readers who do not have access to the scattered literature on this subject.

In the second part of the book a systematic account is given of the subfamilies Archiearinae, Orthostixinae, Desmobathrinae, Alsophilinae and Geometrinae. For each of the 41 species the following information is presented: valid and unavailable names, diagnosis, genitalia of both sexes, distribution, phenology, biology (including larval host plants), parasitoids (when data available), habitat, similar species and remarks. The text is short and informative with focus on taxonomical and morphological problems. Additional black and white photographs showing diagnostic characters are scattered in the text. Although a identification key is lacking, one of the great merits of the book is that it offers the possibility to identify Geometridae of Europe safely.

Adults of the species are illustrated in natural size on eight colour plates with up to 18 individuals per species to show the variation within one taxon. Eighteen black and white plates contain drawings of all genitalia of both sexes. The quality of the colour plates is not excellent but good; a higher resolution would be desirable for further volumes of the series. Early stages are not illustrated. At least a representative choice of larvae and references to illustrations in the literature would have been helpful.

For each species a distribution map is added in which those localities are marked from which specimens have been examined. This gives a clear picture of the European distribution of the species. Additionally, a hypothetical resident distribution area is underlayed in grey. All dots should be within the hypothetical area, but this not always the case. It is sometimes difficult to comprehend the information that lead to the hypothetical area.

Information on host plants are much more transparent because the original source of each record is cited and it is noticed whether the larvae were found on a plant or were reared in captivity. Botanical nomenclature follows a book on the central European flora which may not be accurate for many of the mediterranean species. It would often be helpful for the reader if the plant families would always be mentioned, particularly if less common plants are listed. The introduction to the systematic account should list all references and sources used because it remains unknown to the reader if the lists of host plants and parasitoids are fully comprehensive. For the parasitoids this may not be the case because only very few sources mainly from the 1940ies have been used

Hopefully, this new standard book on Geometridae will find a wide distribution among Lepidopterists within and outside Europe, increases the knowledge further and makes new friends to this beautiful group of moths. We can look forward to five more volumes, the next (Larentiinae I) will be published late 2001.

Gunnar Brehm

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Nota lepidopterologica](#)

Jahr/Year: 2001

Band/Volume: [24_1-2](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Brehm Gunnar

Artikel/Article: [Book Review 36](#)