

Book Review

Pro Natura – Schweizerischer Bund für Naturschutz (ed.) 2000. Schmetterlinge und ihre Lebensräume. Arten, Gefährdung, Schutz. Schweiz und angrenzende Gebiete. Band 3: Hepialidae, Cossidae, Sesiidae, Thyrididae, Lasiocampidae, Lemoniidae, Endromidae, Saturniidae, Bombycidae, Notodontidae, Thaumetopoeidae, Dilobidae, Lymantriidae, Arctiidae. Fotorotar AG, Egg (Switzerland). Pp. i–xii, 1–914 (incl. 34 colour-plates). Price CHF 83.75.

Under the authorship of the “Lepidopterologen-Arbeitsgruppe” (Lepidopterological working group) and with support by many contributors, the third volume of “Schmetterlinge und ihre Lebensräume” (Lepidoptera and their habitats) has been completed in the year 2000 already. The book is arranged into an introductory and a systematic part, followed by water-colour plates of the moths and a comprehensive register of lepidopterous names, a host-plant index, an index of localities, bibliographic references, a glossary of technical terms, and a common index.

The introductory chapter is devoted to the conservation of habitats where Lepidoptera live, a descriptive catalogue of these habitats is given and two chapters inform about economically important species and insect pheromones.

The systematic chapter is arranged according to families. This requires some basic criticism. The classification used in this book series is based on a ‘Macrolepidoptera’ concept of pre-phylogenetic times. In contrast, already Minet (*Ent. Scand.* 22 (1991): 69–95) indicated a monophyletic Macrolepidoptera that excludes the Hepialidae, Cossidae, Sesiidae, and Thyrididae. Other groups of evidently monophyletic origin such as the Noctuoidea comprising Arctiidae, Lymantriidae, Noctuidae (including Dilobinae), and Notodontidae (including Thaumetopoeinae) are still separated, and most of these family-groups are misplaced in Bombycoidea! Also, there is no evidence that the Thyridoidea are related to the Pyraloidea as stated on page 253. Both taxa are currently assigned to a monophylum comprising six superfamilies plus the Macrolepidoptera in an unresolved polytomy.

Each family-chapter starts with a short introduction to the family, a checklist of their species occurring in Switzerland, an annotated key to these species, and an overview of their phenology. For each species, a description and high quality colour photographs of all stages, their life-history, a map of records within Switzerland, a description of their habitat preferences are given and needs for their conservation are discussed. The text is accompanied with additional information, e.g. the reader gets to know about precopulatory behaviour in Hepialidae, pheromone reactions of clearwing moths, or the occurrence of species outside Switzerland. By this comprehensive and well illustrated information, the book provides a useful tool for lepidopterists, conservationists, landscape planners and ecologists. The price of the book is quite modest relative to the 914 richly illustrated pages providing valuable information much relevant even outside Switzerland. ‘Schmetterlinge und ihre Lebensräume’ is a valuable book for European Lepidopterology and a perfect book to start with if you are looking for a certain species in the wild!