

Book Review

Razowski, J. 2001. Die Tortriciden (Lepidoptera, Tortricidae) Mitteleuropas. – F. Slamka, Bratislava. 319 pp. (incl. 151 b/w plates, 24 colour plates). – ISBN: 80-967540-7-6. Price: € 61,00.

This book contains a very brief introduction in German, a checklist of species, brief descriptions in German including the flight times and known food plants, habitat and distribution. Then follow line drawings of male and female genitalia of most species and 24 coloured plates depicting the adults.

The checklist of species does not agree with the European checklist by Karsholt & Razowski (1996), but instead with Razowski's catalogue from 1989. The few changes in names from the European list are unfortunate: *nomina dubia* are introduced as senior synonyms for *Epinotia immundana* (No. 355) and *Cydia splendana* (No. 500) which are well established names and this is against the spirit of the ICZN (1999). *Endothenia ericetana* (No. 228) is incorrectly cited as a junior synonym, it was published by Humphreys & Westwood in 1845 as well as in the revised edition of 1854. The terminations of specific names in some cases have been changed, supposedly to make them agree in gender with the genus. The majority of these are *-ella* or *-ana* endings which are best regarded as nouns in apposition and so should not change. The genus name *Argyroproce* comes from the Greek words *αργυρος* – silver and *πλοκη* – a winding, twining, entangling etc. and it is feminine. This eloquently illustrates the problem of this practice. The genus *Coccyx* is used instead of *Blastesthia* even though *Coccyx* has been shown to be a synonym of *Cydia* (Brown 1979).

The species treated are stated to be those occurring in Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria and Hungary, although *Ditula angustiorana* (Haworth, 1811), *Epichoristodes acerbella* (Walker, 1864) and *Lobesia littoralis* (Humphreys & Westwood, 1845) have been already recorded from Germany (Gaedike & Heinicke 1999), but are omitted.

The status of some taxa are in question, some species may be split or others synonymised, this is not so important in an identification guide, but it would stimulate study if these cases were mentioned. For example 378 *Epinotia rhododendrana* should now be listed as a synonym of 359 *E. nemorivaga* (see Huemer 2002).

The genitalia drawings appear accurate and well reproduced at a sensible size. The colour plates are photographs and all the moths are figured at the same size, although the wingspan is given in the species description. When illustrations are of a fixed size it would be helpful if a bar showing the actual size was included on the plates. The same number is maintained for each species throughout making it easy to relate the description to the illustrations of genitalia and specimens, and the locality from which each specimen depicted comes is given.

This book should be useful to European microlepidopterists, the plates are well produced and readily recognisable and the great majority of specimens illustrated are in good condition.

Unfortunately there are rather a lot of mistakes, and in order to avoid these being repeated a list of them is included below. These were pointed out by a number of SEL members in the microlepidoptera workshop at the XIII SEL Congress, supplemented by comments by Knud Larsen and others. Thanks are extended to the many who contributed. In some cases there was disagreement as to whether the specimen illustrated was correctly identified, for example *Ancylis paludana* (no. 319a), but a photograph and a locality is not always sufficient for a definite determination. It is a pity that these errors detract from the usefulness of the book, but it is still good value considering the number of coloured illustrations.