

Book Review

Hellmann, F., Brockmann, E. & Kristal, Ph. M.: *I Macrolepidotteri della Valle d'Aosta*. 17 x 24 cm, 284 p., 1 color plate, 2 maps, hardback, 1999. Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, I-11010 Saint-Pierre (Aosta), Italy. Price and ISBN not available.

In this publication, the studies of various researchers on the macrolepidopterous fauna of the Aosta Valley are summarized. Only very few older publications contain faunistic data on the Lepidoptera of this region and only during the past 50 years has the study been intensified, e.g. by installing permanent light traps. No less than 1141 different species have been recorded from this single northwest Italian valley. This high species richness is due to the great variety of habitats which are distributed vertically from 315 to 4807 m. The average altitude of the region amounts to 2106 m and the area measures 3262 km². The introductory part of the book starts with general data about the geology, climate and vegetation of the Aosta Valley. This brief explanation is followed by some lists of interesting species, arranged according to different criteria. The first list contains four endemic species (all figured in color), the second six species new to the Italian fauna and the last one contains species which are remarkable for their distribution in the southern Alps. At the end of the introduction, an ecological and chorological analysis of the moth fauna is given, as well as an explanation of the used material and methods. The main part of the book consists of the systematic list of observed species with data on their occurrence in the Aosta Valley, their general distribution and a list of all localities in the valley where the species have been observed. The book ends with a reference list and an alphabetic index. It is well, though not luxuriously published and can serve as an information source for the students of European and especially alpine moth faunistics.

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