

Book Review

Arenberger, E. 2002. Pterophoridae II. – *In*: R. Gaedike (ed.), *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica 11.* – Goecke & Evers, Keltern. – 287 pp., incl. 80 b/w pls., 16 colour pls. ISBN3-931374-21-1. Price: 90 Euro (subscription: 72 Euro). [In German].

According to countings by Heppner (1991), 315 species of Pterophoridae occur in the Palaearctic region, which is about one third of the entire world fauna of this group. Ernst Arenberger from Vienna is probably the best authority of this fauna, based on his profound life-time work. He previously published the first volume on Palaearctic Pterophoridae including 168 species, in the old and well known layout of the *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica* (Arenberger 1995).

In 2002, the second volume on Palaearctic Pterophoridae has been published, treating 63 species of the subfamilies Deuterocopinae and Platyptilinae. The style of the main text remained the same and the user again finds the impressive high-quality watercolours by Frantisek Gregor. It is a bit questionable for what purpose the separate figures of the hind-wings (pls. 70–80) are given. They seem to be pure magnifications in black and white made from Gregor's watercolours and do not show additional details. The drawings of the genitalia are very simple and appear at a first glance like sketches. However, the user will realise that all necessary characters are clearly given and sufficiently well illustrated for identification. In comparison to the first volume on Palaearctic Pterophoridae, the user will miss the distribution maps, which always immediately give an instructive impression about a species' areal. This way, it is necessary to read through the sometimes long lists of geographic names given in the distribution paragraph. Altogether, the eleventh volume of this series is among those books that enable the user to identify the treated species sufficiently and that gives comprehensive information for further reading.

Beside this, it must be criticised that some general scientific standards are not fulfilled. The differential diagnoses are missing for the species, examined material is not listed, references are missing for included life history data, and a summary is missing. It will be indispensable to develop the series accordingly, at least for the time it is printed with financial support from the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). Future volumes also may save printing space by using a smaller script for lists of synonyms, geographic names and references as well as avoiding that much space is used for low-graded headings like 'Synonymie' and 'Literatur' or extended spaces between pairs of entries in the keys, the lists of synonyms and the list of references.

Nevertheless, Ernst Arenberger provided again a comprehensive and profound contribution, and we are looking forward to see the Palaearctic Pterophoridae completed by its third volume. As the entire series, this book contributes much to the understanding of Microlepidoptera, not only to their identification. Summaries of life history data might be a starting point for ecological studies. The geographic coverage of *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica* allows to show the complete areal of a species and thus will support forthcoming biogeographical studies. I wish this book series a continued existence, though perhaps with improved standards.

References

- Arenberger, E. 1995. Pterophoridae. – *In*: H. G. Amsel, F. Gregor & H. Reisser, *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica* 9 (1+2). G. Braun, Karlsruhe.
- Heppner, J. B. 1991. Faunal regions and the diversity of Lepidoptera. – *Tropical Lepidoptera* 1 Suppl. 1: 85 pp.