

Gerhard M. Tarmann 2004. Zygaenid moths of Australia. A revision of the Australian Zygaenidae (Procridinae: Artonini). With colour paintings by František Gregor. – Monographs on Australian Lepidoptera **9**. – CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood (Australia). 248 pp. – Hardcover (ISBN: 0 643 06798 1) AU\$ 180.00.

All Australian zygaenids belong to the subfamily Procridinae. Up until now, very little information was available on them, apart from old-style species descriptions. In a new volume of the Monographs on Australian Lepidoptera, Gerhard Tarmann (Innsbruck) provides a comprehensive revision of the Australian Forester moths, a group of 10 genera and 43 species. Nearly half of the taxa treated in the book, i.e. four genera and 21 species, are new to science, and information is provided for the first time on the life history of five genera.

The introductory chapters provide details on zygaenid morphology, life history (including phenology, larval host plants, cyanogenesis, defensive biology, pheromones, etc.), phylogeny, and historical biogeography. A cladistic analysis is given for the Australian genera of Artonini, with three extralimital genera of Procridini as outgroup. The characters and character states are described in detail, and the character-matrix and statistics for all trees are listed. However, no statistic values are given in the cladogram to show how much support exists at each node.

The second part of the book provides keys to all genera and species of Australian Procridinae. Each species is described in detail, with illustrations of male and female adults and genitalia, a diagnosis, and information on life history when available. A distribution map and a list of synonyms are also given for each taxon.

The illustrations are numerous and well prepared. Outstanding are the 114 finely detailed colour paintings of the moths shown larger than life size by the acclaimed artist František Gregor (Brno). The additional 448 figures include photographs of the genitalia of both sexes (so far as known) and of other diagnostic structures, scanning electron micrographs, and seven pages of colour photographs illustrating live preimaginal stages and adults as well as larval host plants and habitats.

A checklist of the taxa, a list of localities, and an index to scientific names make the book easy to use.

The book provides comprehensive and new information on Australian Zygaenidae and can be recommended to anybody who is interested in this fauna or in zygaenids in general, independently whether the interest is in systematics, life history, or conservation. Because of its comprehensive introduction to Zygaenidae, the book enables any biologist to find her/ his way into this group; therefore, it can be recommended also to researchers who are studying basic or applied topics on zygaenids.

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