

Arenberger, Ernst 2005. Pterophoridae III. – In: R. Gaedike, Microlepidoptera Palaearctica 12. – Goecke & Evers, Keltern. 191 pp. – Hardcover (ISBN: 3-931374-22-X). € 90.00. (in German)

This new volume of the „Microlepidoptera Palaearctica“ series is dedicated to *Stenoptilia* Hübner, 1825, which is the largest pterophorid genus in the Palaearctic region with 84 species. The larvae of the species included in *Stenoptilia* feed on certain Asterids and Saxifragaceae.

„Pterophoridae III“ starts with a short preface by the editor and a short introduction by the author. These are followed by a list of the species sorted by larval host-plant, and a systematic checklist of *Stenoptilia* species sorted by species groups, with the page and figure numbers where the taxa are treated in the book.

The systematic part starts with a key to the pterophorid tribes and a description of the genus *Stenoptilia*, including nomenclatural information, full synonymy and a key to its species. Within *Stenoptilia*, the author distinguishes five species groups characterised by their larval association to certain plant families, because morphological evidence is missing to support species groups in *Stenoptilia* otherwise.

For each species, the full synonymy with the reference to each original description and the type locality of each species-group taxon are given. A comprehensive list of the references in which each species was treated is provided. The descriptions of the species comprise the external characters of the adults, and their male and female genitalia; the number of specimens investigated is also stated. The life history is described with data on the host-plants of the larvae, where to find the eggs, larvae and pupae, and the phenology and habitat. A brief description of the preimaginal stages is included here as well. The distribution is provided in details by country and provinces and summarised in a table at the end of the systematic part, therefore providing a quick overview of the countries in which each species occurs. The book concludes with a list of the references used, plates with black & white drawings of male and female genitalia, as well as the usual and beautiful colour paintings of the moths by František Gregor, which have made the „Microlepidoptera Palaearctica“ series so famous. An index to scientific names of Pterophoridae at the end of the book enables the user to find the text and figures of every taxon quickly, which makes the book easy to use.

„Pterophoridae III“ is a contribution that gives an overview of all species of *Stenoptilia* from the Palaearctic region. The user will be enabled to identify the species sufficiently, though the genitalia drawings are of simple standard. It was not clear to me why one species, *S. mengeli* Fernald, 1898, was included because it is confined in distribution to the Nearctic region, where more species of this genus occur. Nevertheless, the book can be recommended to all who are interested in the systematics and life history of Pterophoridae and in the fauna of the Palaearctic region. Let's hope that the treatment of the Pterophoridae will be completed one day within the „Microlepidoptera Palaearctica“ book series.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Nota lepidopterologica](#)

Jahr/Year: 2005

Band/Volume: [28](#)

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Artikel/Article: [Book Review Arenberger, Ernst 2005. Pterophoridae III. - In: R. Gaedike, Microlepidoptera Palaearctica 12 112](#)