

Eliasson, C. U., N. Ryrholm, M. Holmer, K. Jilg & U. Gärdenfors 2005. Nationalnyckeln till Sveriges flora och fauna. Fjärilar: Dagfjärilar. Hesperioidea-Nymphalidae. – ArtDatabanken, SLU, Uppsala. 407 pp. – 28 × 23 cm. Hardcover (ISBN 91-88506-51-7), distributed outside Sweden by Apollo Books, Stenstrup, DKK 280.00 (excluding postage). (in Swedish)

This is the first published volume of the National Encyclopedia of the Swedish Flora and Fauna. This Encyclopedia is part of the ambitious "Svenska artprojekt" which aims at scientifically describing and illustrating all the metazoans, plants, and fungi living in Sweden, and at popularizing the collected information. The protection of biodiversity depends on the cooperation of everybody, and knowledge of the problems should stimulate people to become active in this field. For this reason, the Swedish parliament finances the "Nationalnyckeln" as the educational tool to promote knowledge of biodiversity and interest in biological sciences in all Swedes, regardless of age. The books are available at a relatively low price thanks to this generous funding. The butterfly volume includes all the Papilionoidea and Hesperioidea distributed in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland, with keys for the identification of all 140 species found in the region. The keys are illustrated and bilingual (Swedish and English); a short abstract in English is provided for each species and English vernacular names can be searched for in the index; the rest of the text is in Swedish. A table at the end of the book indicates the correspondance between scientific names and vernacular names in Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Finnish, and Icelandic. Here the entry names are the Latin ones, although the Swedish ones would have been preferable, since in the text they are often used alone. A political map shows the subdivisions of the Nordic countries and their provinces. Maps illustrate the distribution of each butterfly species in the Nordic countries before and after 1980. This is generally an interesting idea, but the choice of year 1980 as borderline is however curious, since the most dramatic changes in distribution are said to have happened in the Sixties. Coming to the text in Swedish, the introductory chapter is very well made, including suggestions to recognize all life stages of butterflies from those of moths and other insects, and information on butterfly phylogeny, anatomy, intraspecific variability, ethology, ecology, and distribution patterns. The section on ecology is particularly ample and focused on the environmental conditions typical of Nordic countries. It includes a history of land-use in Sweden, where the causes of the dramatic decline of butterfly populations are analyzed and possible solutions are suggested, both at a small scale (practicable by single citizens) and at a large scale. The reader is encouraged to get practical experience on butterflies, including rearing and butterfly watching; collectors are warned about the presence of protected species. All citizens are invited to enter their observations on species distribution on the national web page "Artportalen." In the special part, information about morphology, ethology, and world distribution is given for each family and lower-rank taxon. For each species, information is also given on habitat, life cycle, food plants, present trends in geographical distribution, synonymy, reference to the original description, and meaning of the Latin name. The "correct" (Swedish) pronunciation of Latin names is indicated. The whole book is illustrated in colour; photographs of different biotopes from all regions of Sweden were taken by the authors themselves. The drawings of the species are well-made, very big (for the joy of children!) and provided with a bar to indicate natural size. However, in some cases additional illustrations would have been desirable, for example to show the underside of the wings in *Thymelicus* spp. and the larvae of *Colias alfacariensis* and *C. hyale*. Some of the butterflies illustrated in resting position have the head to the right, others to the left, which does not facilitate comparison in difficult genera such as *Pyrgus*. The information given in the text is generally up-to-date, although the recently re-established synonymy of *Pontia edusa* with *P. daplidice* has been missed. I noticed a few excessive simplifications; for example, the head is counted as the first segment of a caterpillar's body. Moreover, wing coupling without hooks or hairs is considered a good character to recognize a butterfly from a moth, without mentioning the existence of macro-moths without a frenulum. I checked the key with specimens belonging to ten species and to all the five families treated in the book, encountering only two minor problems. In my (German) specimens of *Hamearis lucina*, the submarginal dots are isolated from the dark border of both pair of wings, and not fused to it as illustrated in the book. This may cause some troubles at point 17 of the main key, although such light-coloured specimens may not occur in Nordic countries. At point 3 of the key to Heliconiinae, it might be wise to replace "a large number of... spots" with a more precise "20 or more... spots". For the rest, this is a very good popular book, from which professional entomologists can learn something new as well... provided that they can read Swedish!

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Nota lepidopterologica](#)

Jahr/Year: 2006

Band/Volume: [29](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Vegliante Francesca

Artikel/Article: [Book Review Eliasson, C. U., N. Ryrholm, M. Holmer, K. Jilg & U. Gärdenfors 2005. Nationalnyckeln till Sveriges flora och fauna. Fjärilar: Dagfjärär. HesperIIDae-Nymphalidae 36](#)