

Efetov, K. A. 2005. The Zygaenidae (Lepidoptera) of the Crimea and other regions of Eurasia. – Crimean State Medical University Press, Simferopol. – 420 pp, frontispiece, 390 figs (252 in colour). 260 × 170 mm. Hardcover (ISBN 966-7348-10-5). Price: 72.00 € (incl. postage). Obtainable via G. M. Tarmann, Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck, Austria.

The concept of this book is unusual. The author has already published the externally similar 'Forester and Burnet Moths' under the same imprint in 2004, but in this new work he tries to attract the attention of lepidopterists, especially those from the states of the former U.S.S.R., to the Zygaenidae. Therefore the text of the book is bilingual. All general information, much of which has already been published, is mainly in Russian, but the more detailed information is provided in English and Russian. The concept of the book is explained in the introduction. The first chapter provides an overview of the lepidopterous family Zygaenidae and summarises attempts by the author to find new characters and phylogenetic insights during the last few years, partly by using new methods. This chapter is written in Russian except for the captions to the figures, which are bilingual. The second chapter (also in Russian) deals with the Russian and Ukrainian vernacular names of insects and in particular the Russian names of species of Zygaenidae. A comprehensive, bilingual distributional check-list of the Zygaenidae of the former U.S.S.R. is provided in chapter 3, followed by a discussion on the systematic position of the nominal taxon *Lictoria* Burgeff, 1926, resulting in its reinstatement as a fourth subgenus of *Zygaena* Fabricius, 1775, in addition to *Mesembrynus* Hübner 1819, *Agrumenia* Hübner, 1819, and *Zygaena* Fabricius, 1775, the three subgenera currently in use by most authors. This taxonomic decision was intensively discussed at the Xth International Symposium on Zygaenidae at Lyon in September 2006 because some taxonomists strongly disagree with it. However, Efetov's opinion is based not only on adult morphological data, but also on molecular methods, viz. monoclonal immunosystematics and disc-electrophoresis. In the following 105 pages the author presents a complete review of the Zygaenidae of the Crimea with descriptions of the landscape, climate, and faunal regions of the peninsula, together with a check-list of species, keys to genera, subgenera, and species and detailed information on each species, supported by colour figures of imagines in prepared (paintings) and natural positions (photos), early instars (photos) and biotopes (photos), with line drawings of the genitalia and distribution maps for each species. The populations of *Zygaena ephialtes* (Linnaeus, 1767) are analysed in detail and a new subspecies, *Z. ephialtes tarkhankutica*, is described. The last chapter of the book provides the first comprehensive review of the Zygaenidae of the Russian Far East with colour figures of the species reproduced from paintings and line drawings of the relevant genitalia. Acknowledgements to more than 60 scientists, curators of collections, collectors, artists and technical assistants reveal the preparation that went into this book, including 30 years of study by the author. The references are not restricted to the literature cited in the text but are almost a complete bibliography of each author mentioned, especially when an author is a zygaenid specialist. An index concludes the work. This book is also a curiosity in other respects. K. A. Efetov is in the lucky situation that he can use the resources of Elinyo Co., the printing office of the Crimean State Medical University Press. This little printing company with its one colour printing machine, old solid binding facilities, and its numerous skillful staff under the direction of A. E. Baranowsky is a unique treasure. Here it is still possible in the 21st century to produce high quality books with coloured hardcover, frontispiece, and solid binding for an unbelievably good price. Each book is produced individually (Aren't they all produced individually? I don't quite understand. Remove this sentence?); therefore an author is not really limited to a specific number of pages or colour plates. Efetov has used this opportunity for the fourth time for a zygaenid book and more books are planned to follow. The author is also in the lucky situation to rely on a team of extremely good illustrators such as N. V. Dyadenko, V. L. Saenko, V. V. Kislowsky (deceased), and P. V. Ruchko and the assistance of E. V. Parshkova, S. N. Pupkevich, and others for help with rearing experiments and laboratory work. None of the books written by K. A. Efetov and produced by Elinyo Co. would probably ever have been published in the present form by a western publisher because they would not have been commercially viable. However, for the reader these books have the advantage that a lot of valuable information is summarised in each and even if some users may find things repetitive (e.g. some genitalia drawings are used in several books), one can think 'Why not!' The present book includes a lot of important information and many perfect illustrations at a very good price.

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