

Reviews — Buchbesprechungen — Analyses

L. GOZMANY: *Lecithoceridae*. In: AMSEL, H. G., GREGOR, F. & † REISSER, H.: *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica*, Bd. 5. In 2 parts: XXVIII + 306 pp., 168 text figs.; 122 unnumbered pp.; 15 col. pls., 93 black and white pls., ca. 27 x 20 cm, cloth bound in two volumes. Verlag Georg Fromme & Co., Wien, 1978. Price DM 540,— (to subscribers DM 450,—).

Microlepidoptera Palaearctica has become such a well known series that it is adequate to say that the fifth volume has been produced to the same standard style, and spirit as the four previous ones. And so much well merited praise has been given to the MP that it is difficult to add more without falling into repetitions. Still, the present volume deserves a special appreciation: *Lecithoceridae* is without doubt the least known family, in fact as a separate family hardly known at all. Thus Gozmány's critical revision provides access to a new group of palaearctic Lepidoptera, an amazing fact.

In the Introduction, a historical survey of the *Lecithoceridae* is presented: a group separated as late as 1947 by Le Marchand as a Palaearctic subfamily of the *Gelechiidae* and in 1955 described again as a separate family, the *Timyridae*, by Clarke, for all the numerous species of the Oriental and Aethiopian tropics. Now for the first time the limits of the group are defined and as a base for a total revision, a generic key to the Old World fauna is given (the family does not occur in the New World). A list of all literature on the Palaearctic species is compiled and each species has its own list of citations. L. Gozmány was able to study and dissect all the type-specimens except very few which could not be found. The limits of the Region have been amply conceived and several neighbouring countries included (e. g., Nepal, Assam, North Burma and even Taiwan), in order to incorporate potential future intruders. Hardly anything is known about the early stages and ecology, except of some 3 or 4 common European species. The *Lecithoceridae* seem to be chiefly detritophagous, but consume also withering or dead plant tissue.

The family is divided in two subfamilies with the total of 41 genera and 168 species; of these 15 genera and 67 species are new. Of each species a figure in full colour and black and white figures of the genitalia of both sexes are reproduced in the second part: 15 plates of magnificent water colours by F. Gregor; and other sketches and genitalia figures by the author.

An important novelty is that the description of every species is followed by a special paragraph, summing up the differences from other closely allied species; so identification is possible by keys, diagnoses, colour and black-and-white figures and finally also by a hand summary — a method worth following.

I would like to make one critical remark. Obviously the diagnoses of the species are meant more or less complimentary to the colour illustrations, or the other way round; together they are excellent, but separately the diagnoses seem to be somewhat concise. Perhaps a question of taste, but I prefer a diagnosis complete in every detail, as a kind of legal taxonomic document for the identification of each species.

A. Diakonoff

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Nota lepidopterologica](#)

Jahr/Year: 1979

Band/Volume: [2](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Diakonoff Alexey

Artikel/Article: [Reviews — Buchbesprechungen — Analyses 8](#)