

Toropov, S.A. & A.B. Zhdanko. 2006. The butterflies (Lepidoptera, Papilionoidea) of Dzhungar, Tien Shan, Alai and Eastern Pamirs. Vol. 1. Papilionidae, Pieridae, Satyridae. – Bishkek, Kirghizia. – 383 pp., 729 figs in colour. Size 297 × 213 mm. Hardcover (ISBN 9967-23). Obtainable via S.A. Toropov, Chokmorov str. 300, apt. 6, Bishkek 720010, Kyrgyzstan. Phone/Fax: 996-312 654745. E-mail: storopov@elcat.kg; www.satento.kg.

This new book is considerably different from all other works on the butterflies of Central Asia published during the past few years (Lukhtanov & Lukhtanov 1994; Tshikolovets, 1997, 1998, 2003, 2005, etc.). It covers the territory of Kyrgyzstan, south-eastern Kazakhstan, eastern Uzbekistan, and eastern Tajikistan (Pamirs), which includes many hardly accessible mountain ridges and highlands that are extremely interesting faunistically. The first volume is devoted to the Papilionidae, Pieridae, and Satyridae, which include 145 species in the region. The second volume treating the remaining butterfly taxa will be published soon.

The text consists of a small preface and very short but informative species essays written both in Russian and English. For every species the latin name, type locality, general distribution, habitats, flight-time, and host plants are mentioned. This is accompanied with color photos of the butterflies (male and female, sometimes from the underside as well) and dotted maps of distribution within the region of study. The special feature of the book is its high-quality photos of biotopes, butterflies and larvae in nature, and host plants. The bibliography is rather short and includes only the most important or the very last publications. Misprints (*Erebia kalmuca* instead of *E. kalmuka*; *Paralasa kuznezovi* instead of *P. kusnezovi*; a few wrong dates of publication) are scarce and probably inevitable in such a large work.

As a whole the book is well done and has both scientific and artistic value. This is quite comprehensible because its authors are very experienced field workers and the second author is a qualified taxonomist and photographer. This book will be very useful for professional lepidopterists, amateurs, and anyone interested in the butterfly fauna of the wonderful mountain lands of Central Asia.

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