

**Gozmány, L. 2008. Symmocidae.** – In: R. Gaedike (ed.), *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica* **13**. – Goecke & Evers, Keltorn. 558 pp. – ISBN 978-3-937783-34-5. [in German].

The Hungarian lepidopterist László Gozmány (9.xi.1921 – 15.xii.2006) had already written two volumes for the book series *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica*, i.e. volume 5 on Lecithoceridae (1978) and volume 10 on Holcopogonidae (2000). After many years of work he completed his last volume, treating the Symmocidae. The manuscript was submitted in 1998, but constraints for which he was not responsible caused a long delay until publication. László Gozmány submitted corrections to the manuscript until the end of 2005, but he did not see the publication of the volume as he died in 2006. An obituary to László Gozmány, an honorary member of Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica, was published in *Nota lepidopterologica* 30, 2007: 5–6.

The Symmocidae are in all probability a true Old World group. Despite a few taxa introduced by man to the New World, as well as some that are placed with uncertainty in this family, most species of Symmocidae occur in the dry and arid areas from the Mediterranean via Iran and Afghanistan to Mongolia and southern China. Just 16 species occur outside the Palaearctic region. The group still deserves a lot of research, e.g. records on the life history are available for only less than 10 species. So far as known, larvae are negative phototrophic and feed on detritus or bryophytes. A major problem with Symmocidae is related to species identification, which until now has been very difficult or even impossible. Therefore, the new volume of *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica* is highly welcome.

The book is arranged in the following chapters: (1) preface by the editor, (2) introduction, (3) acknowledgements, (4) general conspectus dealing with morphology, life history, distribution and systematics of Symmocidae, genitalia preparation techniques and a systematic index with page numbers for text and figures to the genera and species treated in the book, (4) the systematic part, (5) distribution of the species, (6) references, (7) list of abbreviations used, (8) list of label data of all specimens figured as adult or genitalia, (9) figures of male genitalia, (9) figures of female genitalia, (10) figures of the adults, (11) abstract, (12) annex listing nomenclatural changes since the submission of the manuscript by the author, and (13) alphabetical index to the taxa treated in the book.

The main part of the volume, the systematic part, comprises 240 pages. It starts with a diagnosis of the Symmocidae, a key to the genera (followed by page numbers) followed by the treatment of the genera. The treatment of each genus starts with a diagnosis, a key to the included species, and species treatments. Each species treatment starts with the reference of the original description, followed by information on type material, relevant literature, diagnostic features, life history (if known), distribution, remarks, and a differential diagnosis. The systematic part is completed with a list of the five genera and 22 species excluded from the Symmocidae. Every species is coupled with an individual code number (1–248) referring to the information given in the subsequent distribution table, the line drawings of the male and female genitalia, as well as the watercolours of the adults, painted by František Gregor (Brno).

The systematic treatment covers 248 species, including the descriptions of seven new genera and 54 new species. Nine genus-group names and 28 species-group names are synonymised, and 40 new generic combinations are provided. Additionally, six species are regarded as *incertae sedis* due to their untraced type specimens and insufficient original descriptions. Thus, volume 13 of *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica* is more than a comprehensive treatment of the Symmocidae, it is a taxonomic revision that highly updates our knowledge of the group. It enables the user to identify the species, using the identification keys, the informative illustrations and / or the text. A systematic and an alphabetical index guarantee that every taxon can be found quickly. Unfortunately, the German Research Foundation (DFG) provided no financial support for printing the volume, which was the first time in the history of *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica*. As a result, the book is available for 390.00 € (subscription: 348.00 €) per copy. Unfortunately, this price will put it out of reach of most amateurs and many libraries, but everybody who wants to work on Symmocidae will undoubtedly need this book

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