

Wolfram Mey (ed.) 2007. The Lepidoptera of the Brandberg Massif in Namibia, part 2.
 Esperiana Memoir, Schwanfeld 4. – 304 pp. – Hardcover, ISBN 3-938249-07-2. Price 99 €.

This book, as the title states, is the second and final part of the report of a series of expeditions to Namibia which took place in 2000 - 2002. The introductory section dealing with the area covered and the various expeditions was included in the first volume (Esperiana Memoir 1, 2004), which also contained 22 chapters dealing with different families of Lepidoptera. The bulk of the book comprises the systematic treatment of different families by 13 different European authors. Unlike the first part the Chapters are not numbered. The first one by W. Mey treats "Smaller families of microlepidoptera". Four new species are described in the *Pseudurgis* group without assignment to a particular family. The same author deals with *Cecidosidae*, *Psychidae* (in collaboration with Sobczyk), *Copromorphidae*, *Phycitinae*, *Cossidae*, and smaller families of macrolepidoptera as well as butterflies. Descriptions of species are accompanied by line drawings of the genitalia and wing venation or other structures where relevant. In the back of the book colour plates give fine quality pictures of species newly described. Chrysopeleidae are treated by S. Sinev with black & white drawings of forewings and genitalia. Amphisbatidae, Oecophoridae and Depressariidae are by A. Lvovsky with line drawings and a coloured plate of two new species. Scythrididae were treated by B. Bengtsson in part 1 and supplementary data including pictures of type specimens in the Transvaal Museum Pretoria, illustrations of genitalia are monochrome photographs. Gelechiidae are by O. Bidzilia who refers to a large number of species. This family has been well studied compared with others in the region in the works of Janse but there are still many new taxa which are described and illustrated without any attempt formally to name them. Pyralinae are dealt with by P. Leraut with descriptions of 11 new species. Epipaschiinae are by W. Speidel with just one new species. The Phycitinae are tackled by W. Mey, this is a daunting task with 53 species of which 20 are named. In contrast with his other contributions the genitalia are illustrated by photographs rather than line drawings, the culcita being omitted, but since sensibly no new species are described this is not a serious omission. The adults of all these taxa are illustrated in colour, which seems extravagant, but will certainly assist other workers to make comparisons and be aware of their existence in Berlin. The macrolepidoptera families are dealt with in a similar way, although as one would expect a greater proportion of the species are named. The Metarbelidae by I. Lehmann contains descriptions of five new species and also a review of the family; Sphingidae by U. Eitschberger includes just one new synonymy; Lasiocampidae by V. Zolotuhin has, as well as descriptions of new species, a checklist of four genera from the Afrotropical region with notes on each species. Arctiidae by L. Kühne is brief since there are few species. Noctuidae were treated by H. Hacker in Part 1, supplementary data are included with a review of Acontiinae and description of some new species. The final two chapters contain a checklist of all 669 species contained in the two books, of which 611 were produced by the Brandberg survey. Of these 124 are described as new to science and there are nine new genera. In addition a further 154 species are illustrated or described without being formally named as new species. The last chapter considers the diversity of Lepidoptera of the Massif in comparison with expectations and other parts of the region – for which there is little documentation. In an ideal world one would like to see new species described in the context of a revision of their group. In practice in a poorly known fauna this is not feasible. Papers naming one or two species scattered through the literature make life harder for future revisers; instead, here, in two volumes much new information is presented. These volumes, generously illustrated, make a significant contribution to our understanding of the Lepidoptera fauna of southern Africa. With many different authors treatment is bound to vary, in particular there are different decisions about when to describe a new species. When there is sufficient material of both sexes there is no problem. When there is just one sex or only the holotype further questions arise. The provisions of the Convention on Biodiversity make it desirable for type material to be deposited in the country of origin, for both security and ease of access to other researchers it is good if paratypes can also be deposited in another institution. The practice of illustrating, but leaving taxa unnamed, adopted by several authors seems helpful for long term stability. This volume, like part 1, is nicely bound with sewn sections. There is an additional loose page 164, but the only error in the original seems to be in the line spacing, which is not serious. The rich Afrotropical fauna is probably the least known of any region of the world. Any attempt to improve our knowledge and understanding is to be welcomed. The editor and authors deserve congratulations on getting their results published after such a comparatively short period of time.

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