

Gilligan, T.M., D.J. Wright and L.D. Gibson 2008. Olethreutine Moths of the Midwestern United States. An Identification Guide. – Ohio Biological Survey Bulletin New Series, 16(2): vii + 334 pp. ISBN 978-0-86727-160-7. 75.00 USD. Hardcover, 220 × 285 mm format.

The microlepidoptera fauna of North America is not so well known as the European and new species are described on a regular basis. Perhaps due to this unstable taxonomic knowledge the production of identification guides is not so frequent at the other side of the Atlantic. Three well known experts on the Tortricidae fauna of the United States have challenged this scenario with the publication of a finely edited book on the Olethreutine Moths of the Midwestern United States. The Midwestern United States, generally referred to simply as the Midwest or The Heartland, is one of the four main geographic regions within the United States of America. It extends over twelve states. Really the coverage of this long term research is biased toward the central and eastern portions of this region, including Kentucky, really a Southern state. The Olethreutinae is one of the major three subfamilies of the Tortricidae. It includes 306 species in the area covered by this survey, what represents approximately one-third of the Nearctic fauna. The book is organized in three parts. The first part is a general introduction to the subfamily, including a wonderfully illustrated morphological overview that clearly states the characters that are going to be used in the rest of the text. The main second part, called 'Species Accounts', is systematically arranged. Each genus is introduced with comments on species richness, general distribution, larval habits and characteristic features of genitalia and wing pattern. Every species is then treated with sections devoted to forewing length, flight period, distribution, biology and remarks, where comments on diagnostic discrimination and variation are given. A full colour image of the adult, scaled to a standard size of about half page width, is included. When necessary, underside photographs have also been added. For those interested in relative size, five full colour plates have also been included where all the adults are represented at same scale. Male and female genitalia are separately illustrated through more than 650 black and white photographs grouped in 106 plates. The 19 pages third part is a collaboration authored by Steven Passoa and devoted to immature stages. Eggs, larvae and pupae of the most common species, frequently of economic importance, are treated and full colour illustrated, with a key of identification of larvae based on Mackay's classical treatment of the North American olethreutines. Literature, general indexes as well as host plant index complete the publication. The book is dedicated to William E. Miller, one of the most influential tortricid experts of North America.

This is a carefully edited and beautifully illustrated book, a reference for those intending similar projects in other parts of the world. It is obviously essential for those interested in the Nearctic microlepidoptera and in general on the tortricoid fauna. But in spite of its geographic coverage, the European microlepidopterists will find this book also useful. Those unfamiliar with the systematic treatment generally accepted by our American colleagues will be curious about some arrangements especially around the genera *Eucosma* and *Olethreutes* what certainly compel us to remain open minded on a more Holarctic view. It is clearly presented, with lots of useful general information and definitely an attractive publication at a reasonable price.

The book may be obtained through the Ohio Biological Survey, P.O. Box 21370, Columbus, Ohio 43221-0370, email: ohiobiosurvey@rohoio.com, <http://www.ohiobiologicalsurvey.org>.

JOAQUIN BAIÑERAS ALMELA

Alexander Schintlmeister 2008. Notodontidae. Palaearctic Macrolepidoptera. Volume 1. – Apollo Books, Stenstrup. 482 pp. (incl. 40 colour-plates). ISBN 978-87-88757-77-4. Price: € 140.00. (See www.apollobooks.com)

Alexander Schintlmeister has been working on the taxonomy of the Notodontidae of the Palaearctic and Oriental Regions for more than 25 years. He is running a private business and therefore might be called an amateur entomologist, but in 1987, he defended his *dissertatio* at Humboldt University in Berlin on the systematics and biogeography of West-Palaearctic notodontids. Since that time, he extensively collected notodontids in many countries like Russia, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines and also accumulated material from other collectors. Based on this comprehensive collection, he fundamentally contributed to our knowledge on the Notodontidae from the Old World by numerous publications.

Alexander Schintlmeister's most recent publication on the Notodontidae of the Palaearctic Region is a synthesis of the available knowledge so far only available in scattered publications. But it is also an original publication including numerous nomenclatural acts such as the descriptions of 38 new species, 21 new subspecies, as well as 16 new generic combinations, 44 new synonyms, and 17 status changes.

The book starts with an introduction on some historical aspects of the history on taxonomic research on Notodontidae and explains the main morphological features used in the book. The classification of the group is shortly explained, followed by a checklist of Palaearctic Notodontidae, comprising 716 species. A short chapter on biogeography is reminiscent of Gustaf de Lattin's work (1967) in using terms like 'faunal elements', 'centre of origin,' and 'centre of expansion,' that, however, often represent a guess rather than a precise scientific reasoning. The systematic part, comprising nearly 400 pages, is a concise treatment of the 716 species. For every species, the text provides information on type locality, diagnosis, life history, and distribution. Male and female genitalia illustrations are provided as black & white photographs and the distribution is represented on a map. The concise treatments focus on the identification of the species and refrain from extensive descriptions, which would have made the book uneconomical. The distribution maps can be regarded as very comprehensive as they are based on the author's large collection. The book concludes with biographical notes on entomologists who contributed to 'Notodontology', a synopsis of taxonomic changes, a list of references, 40 colour plates, and an index to scientific names of Notodontidae. The colour plates illustrate spread moths in excellent quality. They are the eye-catcher of the volume and certainly contribute much to an easy identification of the species, which is supported by arrows pointing to differences of closely related species.

I regard this volume as a successful work, outstandingly suitable and efficient to use for the identification of Palaearctic Notodontidae. I fully recommend it to anybody interested in Palaearctic Lepidopterology, biogeography of Lepidoptera, or just notodontids. The book might be also taken as an example on how to prepare such a comprehensive topic economically.

MATTHIAS NUSS

References

de Lattin, G. 1967. *Grundriss der Zoogeographie*. – Gustav Fischer, Jena. 602 pp.

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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