

**Ylla, J., R. Macià & F. J. Gastón 2010. Manual de identificación y guía de campo de los Arctiidos de la Península ibérica y Baleares** [Identification Manual and Field Guide to the Arctiids of the Iberian Peninsula and the Balearic Islands]. 290 pp., ca. 460 colour illustrations, soft cover. – Argania editio. Barcelona. – ISBN: 9788493440039. Price 45 €. Available from [www.entomopraxis.com](http://www.entomopraxis.com). E-mail: [entomopraxis@entomopraxis.com](mailto:entomopraxis@entomopraxis.com)

This monographic work dedicated to the Tiger Moths and Lichen Moths (Arctiidae) of the Iberian Peninsula and the Balearic Islands is a very useful and well-produced work which will undoubtedly become a point of reference for those interested in this colourful and fascinating group of moths.

The book covers all 65 arctiid species found in this south-western corner of Europe; among these *Eilema marcida* (Mann, 1859), *E. complana* (Linnaeus, 1758), *E. pseudocomplana* (Daniel, 1939), *Setina cantabrica* de Freina & Witt, 1985, and *Coscinia mariarosae* Expósito, 1991 are considered to be valid species. The latter two species plus *Eilema predotae* (Schawerda, 1927), *Coscinia benderi* Marten, 1957, *C. romeii* Sagarra, 1924, *Ocnogyna zoraida* (de Graslin, [1837]), *Artimelia latreillei* (Godart, [1823]) and *Hyphoraia dejeani* (Godart, 1822) are endemic to this area. Two more, *Eilema albicosta* (Rogenhofer, 1894), endemic to the Canary islands, and *Maurica breveti* (Oberthür, 1882), only known from Morocco and Algeria, have been collected only once from Spain in 1958 and 1991 respectively, and although included in the guide the authors believe they are likely to be accidental introductions. Old references to *Setina aurita* (Esper, 1787), *Arctia flavia* (Fuessly, 1779), *Ocnogyna advena* (Fabricius, 1787) and *O. pudens* (H. Lucas, 1853) are considered to be either misidentifications or the result of mislabellings and therefore excluded from the guide.

All 65 arctiid species are treated individually. The contents are organized in sections: A photographic illustration of a set male and female is provided together with data on wingspan and sexual dimorphism; in many cases live adults, larvae and pupae are also pictured. Similar species are noted, briefly giving distinguishing traits; there are also well-drawn figures of the male genitalia. A diagnostic key (Appendix 1) helps in the identification of the 17 species of the genus *Eilema* present in this region. For each arctiid species, those subspecies and forms occurring within the Ibero-balearic region, described either from the region or from elsewhere, are mentioned. Seasonality, voltinism, type of habitats (with illustration), adult behaviour and larval food plants comprise the biology section. Useful comments accompany an updated distribution map, which uses dots and/or shaded areas to show occurrence. Where needed, taxonomic comments are also included. The last section deals with the conservation status of each species, their listing in Red Books, threats and possible conservation measures. Appendix 2 comprises four plates showing set specimens from all species covered in the book; Appendix 3 includes useful comments on the rearing of arctiid caterpillars based on the authors' experience.

This work is the most complete field guide ever produced on the arctiids of the Iberian Peninsula and the Balearic Islands. A scientific editor might have helped with the finishing touches (the authors edited the book themselves) and a bilingual Spanish/English text or at least some summary text in English would have enhanced the value of the work. Despite this minor criticism, the book is rigorous but also useful, colourful and practical, using terms understandable to any amateur. It is the kind of lovely book that helps young people to become lepidopterists.