

Laštůvka, Z. & J. Liška 2011. Annotated checklist of moths and butterflies of the Czech Republic (Insecta: Lepidoptera). – Brno, 146 pp. – ISBN 978-80-904254-1-5.

A new checklist of the Lepidoptera of the Czech Republic concisely summarizes regional checklists for the country published during the 1990s (Laštůvka 1993; Novák & Liška 1997) and the Czech checklist by Laštůvka (1998), as well as the online checklist by Laštůvka & Liška (2010) for the Czech Republic, presenting up-to-date knowledge on the subject. The entire book is written bilingually, in Czech and English, and thus can be easily used by a wide international readership. The book starts with an introductory part on history, zoogeography, invasive species, as well as changes of the Lepidoptera fauna – information that is not given along with the online checklist by Laštůvka & Liška (2010).

A short overview on the history of faunistic research on Lepidoptera in the 20th century and until present is provided, followed by a short outline of the zoogeography of Czech Lepidoptera with examples of characteristic species, e.g., thermophilic species which arrived in the Bohemian basin during the warm Atlanticum period (6,700–4,500 years ago) and survived the subsequent cooling becoming isolated populations. For invasive species, lists are provided for those species which became indigenous, have restricted occurrences to temperate places or so far did not establish long-term populations. Changes to the Lepidoptera fauna of the Czech Republic are analyzed in the context of slightly more than 100 years of faunistic research in the country, already counting 25 species that are known only from the records from before the middle of the 20th century, but there are even more declines at a sub-regional scale. On the other hand, the species that disappeared are partly outnumbered by new arrivals, though many of them are known only from singletons. At least for some species, the authors are closing the circle to zoogeography pointing to the fact that species occurring with isolated populations in the Bohemian basin cannot recolonize the area from the south.

The main checklist starts with a summary of the number of recorded species at the family level, provided separately for the entire Czech Republic, as well as its sub-regions Bohemia and Moravia. The checklist is arranged according to the up-to-date lepidopteran classification. Additional information is provided by symbols referring to regional occurrences, zoogeographic patterns, reliability of records, indigenous versus non-indigenous occurrences, extinctions and literature references. This concise style allows to print the checklist in two columns and to provide additional bilingual comments on selected species on the bottom of the same page. The book is completed with a list of 346 literature references and an index to scientific names referring to the taxon numbers used in the checklist and enabling quick finding of all the taxa. It is worth mentioning here that the comments and references are not provided in the online checklist by Laštůvka & Liška (2010).

Altogether, 3,429 species are listed for the Czech Republic. This informative book is easy to use and the introductory part is an interesting reading. It is recommended to anyone who is interested in faunistics, zoogeography and conservation of Central European Lepidoptera.

MATTHIAS NUSS

References

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Nuß (auch Nuss) Matthias

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