

SwissLepTeam* 2010. Die Schmetterlinge (Lepidoptera) der Schweiz . Eine kommentierte, systematisch-faunistische Liste. – Centre suisse de cartographie de la faune & Schweizerische Entomologische Gesellschaft. – Fauna Helvetica, Neuchâtel 25. 350 pp. – ISBN 978-2-88414-037-9. In German.

Switzerland can be once more mentioned for its high-quality products: The new checklist of the Lepidoptera of Switzerland is printed on high-quality paper (not disturbingly glossy), contains numerous high-quality colour photographs, as well as stitched binding in hardcover. The publication is authored by 25 lepidopterists*, who name themselves “SwissLepTeam”, under which the book is officially authored.

The book starts with an historical overview of the faunistics of Swiss Lepidoptera, which dates back to the 17th century. Among others, outstanding lepidopterists are mentioned and reference is made to two bibliographies covering the periods 1634–1900 and 1900–1982. The introductory part closes with an outline of the importance of faunistic research for the conservation of species and points to the serious decline of experts, as well as the currently hardly existing teaching of students at universities in fields related to faunistics and natural history.

The systematic-faunistic list starts with short statements about the degree of the faunistic exploration of every family group and provides the names of responsible authors per family. Occurrence of species within Switzerland is given for the six sub-regions: Jura (JU), Central Country (ML), northern Alps (NA), Wallis (WA), Graubünden (GR) and southern Switzerland (SS). Records within these regions are distinguished by symbols for verified records, literature or database records and doubtful records. Species are listed with the respective numbers used in the European checklist by Karsholt & Razowski (1996). For many species, comments are given on important occurrences or systematics and nomenclature in an appendix.

The book is well illustrated by numerous colour photographs, starting with examples of the scenery of the six sub-regions of Switzerland. Living adults are illustrated for every lepidopteran family, thus providing useful images for recognising the main groups of butterflies and moths in nature. For some groups, the immatures and typical frass are also shown.

The book is completed with a list of references and an index to scientific names referring to page numbers for family group names and to Karsholt & Razowski’s (1996) numbers for genus and species group names. Altogether, 3668 species are now recorded for Switzerland, not counting the 183 disproved species records.

The book is easy to use, even for non-German speaking lepidopterists, and a must-have for anybody interested in the faunistics of Central European butterflies and moths. It is highly recommend for beginners due to its didactic value for recognising lepidopteran families.

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