

Thomas Sobczyk 2011. Psychidae (Lepidoptera). – In: M. Nuss (ed.), World Catalogue of Insects, Volume 10, Apollo Books Aps., Stenstrup, Denmark, 467 pp. Hard cover, Price EUR 138 (USA \$192), excluding postage.

It has been more than 80 years since the last global catalogue of the bagworm family Psychidae by Dalla Torre and Strand (1929) was published. As is carefully documented in the abstract section of this latest catalogue by German Lepidopterist, Thomas Sobczyk, many new taxonomic changes have occurred over the ensuing years, and our knowledge of this biologically interesting family has increased significantly. A total of 236 genera and 110 generic synonyms and unjustified emendations are listed, including 1,324 species names, 45 subspecies, and 391 species synonyms. These totals do not include the five genera and 26 species treated by Davis (2003) in the formerly considered family Arrhenophanidae, now regarded as a subfamily of Psychidae (Mutanen et al. 2010). Sobczyk does refer to this reference in the introduction of his catalogue and briefly refers to the most recent classification of Arrhenophaninae. These numbers were later added to the taxon totals for the Psychidae in van Nieuwerkerken et al. (2011), bringing the current world totals to 241 genera and 1,350 species. Also summarised in the abstract of the catalogue are many new nomenclatural changes initiated by the author, including the introduction of three new generic names, two new generic synonyms, eight new species synonyms, a new replacement of a species name, and 144 new combinations. The type designations of four species are also presented.

In the introduction following the abstract, Sobczyk briefly reviews major features of the biology, classification, distribution, fossil records, and publication history of the family. The catalogue proper begins with references to all family group names in alphabetical sequence by subfamily. The genus and species names are not associated with subfamilies and, consequently, are likewise arranged alphabetically. In addition to the original literature reference, information about the type locality and type specimen(s) is provided for each species name. Any pertinent additional information is included under remarks. Following the procedure used in most recent Lepidoptera catalogues, gender agreement between the specific and generic names as prescribed by article 31.2 of the International Code of Nomenclature (ICZN 1999) is not adhered to (Sommerer 2002).

Concluding the catalogue are five sections listing names whose statuses remain uncertain, often because no specimens are known to exist, or what material remains is poorly preserved, found to be misplaced to family, are nomina nuda, or unrecognized for other reasons. These groups include 1) unplaced taxa, 2) unavailable names, 3) hybrids, 4) taxa excluded from Psychidae, and 5) one “unsolved” name.

Because of the abundance of taxon names in any large catalogue, the possibility for some misspellings always exists. Although most names were not checked, one misspelling was noted: the generic name *Acoremata* was misspelled “*Acomerata*” on page 42. Also, the genera *Apocis* and *Aprata* (pp. 61–62) occurred out of sequence in the text and should have been listed alphabetically before *Apterona* (p. 58).

This catalogue will be a vital, necessary reference for all entomologists seeking up to date information on this biologically interesting and often economically important family. By providing an outstanding guide to the literature and taxonomic diversity of Psychidae, the author has facilitated the study of these insects appreciably.

References

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