

Book reviews – Buchbesprechungen – Analyses

A. WATSON, D. S. FLETCHER & I. W. B. NYE. The Generic Names of Moths of the World. (Edited by I. W. B. NYE). Volume 2 : Noctuoidea (part). – 14 + 228 pp., 12 figs., bound in cloth, ca. 21 × 30 cm (A4) – British Museum (Natural History), London, 1980. Price : £ 22,50.

This volume, published 31.X.1980, is the third book of the multivolume series 'The Generic Names of the Moths of the World' so far published (volumes 1 and 3 have already been published) and contains the following families of the superfamily Noctuoidea : *Arctiidae*, *Coccytiidae*, *Ctenuchidae*, *Dilobidae*, *Dioptiidae*, *Lymantriidae*, *Notodontidae*, *Strepsimanidae*, *Thaumetopoeidae* and *Thyretidae*. The genus-group names of the above families, whether available or not, are arranged in alphabetical order ; each entry gives the type-species (with type-locality), bibliographical reference, nomenclatorial and taxonomic comments (where necessary). An index to the species-names of all types-species together with a useful addenda and corrigenda to the first volume completes the superfamily Noctuoidea. General remarks are dealt with in the introductory chapters.

The significance of this work, not only of this volume, for all serious students of the 'Heterocera' is undisputable and its numerous uses need not be listed again : it is simply a must for every museum, research institute, university etc. concerned with lepidopterology. The price of this 'must' is pleasantly reasonable and the quality of production is technically very good, in total harmony with the thoroughness of the contents, upon which the authors deserve our thanks and congratulations. It is to be hoped that the use of computer programmes and modern technology of production makes the work of the authors easier and more efficient. It is most unfortunate that this streamlining of production apparently (??!) led to the change of format of the series : Volume 1 appeared in smaller size (ca. 18 × 24 cm) and its single column typesetting was very similar to that of Hemming's 'The Generic Names of the Butterflies and their Type-Species', a work that gave, back in the sixties, the impulse to start the present series. The 'new style' introduced already in the 3rd volume is certainly not worse, though perhaps very inconsequent and inconsistent. The Publishers should consider this single critical remark if they have a chance to reprint the odd first volume. It would be a shame to let a small imperfection spoil the overall impression made by a "nearly perfect" product.

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