

Book reviews – Buchbesprechungen – Analyses

J. BUSZKO, *Opostegidae*, in *Klucze do oznaczania owadów Polski* (Keys for the Identification of Polish Insects), Nr. 117, Part 27, Lepidoptera, Fasc. 5b (in Polish), 12 pp., paperback 18 × 25 cm. Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warszawa-Wrocław, 1981. Price : Zł 10.

This issue is the 117 number of the multivolume series "Keys for the Identification of Polish Insects". Part 27, comprising the Lepidoptera, is divided into 66 families of which the following have been hitherto published: Micropterigidae, Eriocraniidae, Hepialidae, Tischeriidae, Heliozelidae, Incurvariidae, Adelidae, Cossidae, Atychiidae, Cochlidiidae, Zygaenidae, Epermeniidae, Schreckensteiniidae, Cemiostomidae, Phyllocnistidae, Lyonetiidae, Oinophilidae, Oecophoridae, Ethmiidae, Blastobasidae, Aegeriidae, Alucitidae, Glyphipterygidae, Douglasiidae, Cochyliidae, Tortricidae: Tortricinae and Sparganothinae, Thyrididae, Pterophoridae, Crambidae, Geometridae, Notodontidae, Thaumetopoeidae, Cymatophoridae, Drepanidae, Syntomidae, Arctiidae, Noctuidae: Cuculliinae, Agrotinae, Melicleptriinae, Acronictinae, Lymantriidae, Lasiocampidae, Endromidae, Lemoniidae, Saturniidae and Rhopalocera. Total 2.300 pages.

This issue has been produced to the same style as the 31 previous ones. The introductory part briefly deals with distribution, systematic position, taxonomic characters and bionomy of the family Opostegidae which, together with the Nepticulidae, composes the superfamily Nepticuloidea. It is one of the smaller and poorly known lepidopterous families. It comprises about 85 species in the world fauna but only 7 have been recorded in Europe of which 3 occur in Poland.

In the systematic part only the Polish species belonging to the genus *Opostega* ZELL. are discussed in detail. Keys for identification of species based on external characters as well as male and female genitalia are given. Every species is described, including diagnostic characters, flight period, distribution and early stages, if possible; early stages of the majority species of the Opostegidae are unknown. Each species is also well illustrated by good line drawings of both external and genitalic features, originally prepared by the author.

Although the range of this work is limited to the Polish territory it can be useful to every student of the Opostegidae.

A. W. SKALSKI.

J. S. DĄBROWSKI & M. KRZYWICKI, *Ginące i zagrożone gatunki motyli (Lepidoptera) w faunie Polski*. Część I. Nadrodziny: Papilionoidea, Hesperioidea, Zygaenoidea (Lepidoptera declining and endangered in Poland. Part I. Superfamilies: Papilionoidea, Hesperioidea, Zygaenoidea – in Polish with English summary), 171 pp., Hardback, 15 × 21 cm.

Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warszawa- Kraków, 1982. Price :
Zł 100.

The work represents the first part of the so called "Red list" of butterflies and moths belonging to the fauna of Poland. In the present volume only the Rhopalocera by M. KRZYWICKI and the Zygaenidae by J. S. DĄBROWSKI, based on a critical evaluation of the relevant literature, museum collections and the authors' field observations over the last 30 years, are discussed.

A summary of the work, descriptions of ecosystems, causes of extinction and methods of protection of Lepidoptera are presented in the two first parts of the book, "Introduction" and "General".

In the third main part, "Systematic review of declining and endangered species", 50 butterfly and 12 burnet species are discussed in detail. For each species is given a grade of danger of extinction, geographical distribution and occurrence in Poland, biotope, supposed reasons of becoming extinct (marked by special graphic symbols) and proposed methods of active protection. Localities of 45 species are indicated on standard UTM maps accepted by EIS, unfortunately, in some cases inaccurate. A selected bibliography and an index of Latin and Polish names of butterflies and burnets complete this issue.

The book is likely to prove to be a useful companion to every entomologist working on conservation and protection of the Lepidoptera.

A. W. SKALSKI.

FIBIGER, M. & P. SVENDSEN, 1981. *Danske natsommerfugle* (ændringer i den danske natsommerfuglefauna i perioden 1966-1980). Dansk Faunistisk Bibliotek, Bind 1, 272 p., 278 text figures, 6 colour plates with 119 figures. Scandinavian Science Press Ltd., DK-2930 Klampenborg, Denmark. Bound DKr. 200. ISBN 87-87491-38-9.

The authors intended this book to be a supplement to two well known books of S. HOFFMEYER (*De Danske Spindere*, *De Danske Ugler* and *De Danske Målere*, second edition respectively in 1960, 1962 and 1966) and therefore they give a portrait of this famous Danish entomologist. One discovers soon that this publication offers a lot more than a simple enumeration of new data or a list of new Danish species.

In the initial part of the book, the authors speak about zoogeography and faunistic and they apply the findings to the Danish fauna. Regarding the different types of distribution, they follow the terminology of Ch. BOURSIN. The systematic part contains a lot of species already dealt with by HOFFMEYER but of which new information became available after 1966 like changes in their distribution, observations of rare species, corrections of formerly erroneously indicated distribution patterns, data on irregular and on migrating species. Distribution maps of 84 species are presented.

The most interesting part of the book is formed by the treatment of the 50 additional species to the Danish fauna, discovered there since 1966. The text of

each of these species is divided into some sections. After the scientific name of the species (with author name and date of description), the etymology of the species name is discussed briefly. It would have been interesting if the authors had added here the original combination and the reference to the original description. The external characters of imago, subspecies, forms and aberrations and references to drawings of genitalia are given in the first section. In section 2 the zoogeography of the species is discussed in detail: total distribution, detailed distribution in northwestern Europe and Danish distribution. Section 3 contains data on the occurrence and the frequency of the species in different countries. Sections 4 and 5 give information about the phenology in Denmark and the habitat of the species. The bionomics of the species with reference to descriptions of the preimaginal stages are dealt with in section 6. The larvae and pupae of three species are described here for the first time (*Theria primaria* HAWORTH, *Spaelotis suecica* AURIVILLIUS and *Hydraecia ultima* HOLST). The last two sections give data on collecting methods and additional information.

There are but few errors in the text. On p. 79 *Eupithecia analoga* is spelled analogo and the author of this taxon is not A. N. DIAKONOFF, but A. M. DJAKONOV, which is correctly written in the bibliography. On p. 117 *Dasychira* is spelled Dacychira. The letter indications on text figure 46 (p. 47) do not completely correspond with the legend under it and so on. All of these are minor errors.

The text is accompanied by several figures like distribution maps, photographs of imagines and larvae, drawings of genitalia, cremasters, larvae, wing patterns and histograms. There are three colour plates with photographs of imagines and three colour plates with drawings by L. ANDERSEN of larvae. These plates are of a fine quality but one wonders why only 45 of the 50 new species are represented here. There are photographs of spectacular aberrant forms of *Noctua pronuba* and *Arctia caja* and of *Blepharita spinosa* instead. The five missing species are depicted in black and white in the text. The book ends with a large bibliography and an alphabetical index of Latin names.

Everybody who is interested in the faunistics of European Heterocera should read this book, although the Danish language could cause some trouble in understanding everything. English and German summaries are only given after the initial part and for the species *Ochropleura fennica*, *Spaelotis suecica* and *Hydraecia ultima*. The lay-out and care with which the book is published, together with the detailed treatment of the new Danish species, which one might wish to occur in forthcoming studies, make it worth its reasonable price.

Willy DE PRINS.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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