BOOK REVIEWS

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Here is a remarkably fine work focusing on the rich noctuid fauna of a large eastern European area between the Carpathian Mountains, the lower Danube with its delta, and the Black Sea. The author, who is one of Romania’s leading experts on the Noctuidae, has done many years of research in the field and museum collections. This book is the pinnacle of all those years of work.

It starts with an introductory section, written in cooperation with Dr. Eckbert Schneider, which presents a history of noctuid studies performed in the territory of present-day Romania since as early as the 18th century. In the following sections, Romania’s geography and landscape are presented and the country’s climate and vegetation are discussed. Several beautiful, colored illustrations complement the text, showing images of various biotopes from the high peaks of the Carpathian Mountains to the sand dunes on the Black Sea coast.

Next, a brief section discusses the biogeography of the Romanian noctuid fauna. It has been discovered, among other things, that about 5% of Romania’s noctuids are holarctic in distribution, and so Romania shares over 30 noctuid species with North America (e.g., Scoliopteryx libatrix (L., 1758); Acronicta auricoma (F., 1787); HUSA putanui Gey., 1873; Calophasia lunula (Hufn., 1766); Xanthia to­ gata (Esp., 1788); Agroptera latetrata (Hufn., 1766); Hydreaea mtc­ ccae (Esp., 1788); Ceropteryx riehani (L., 1758); the recently introduced Noctua prunula (L., 1758)). The anatomy of the imago, egg, larva, and pupa is described in a concise and clear manner with very good illustrations. The author highlights the important features of the adult exoskeleton, genitalia structures, egg morphology, and larval chaetotaxy.

The systematic part forms the bulk of the work. Each of the 670 species ever to be recorded on Romanian territory is discussed in detail. The author follows the systematic list of the European Noctuidae published by Fibiger and Hacker (1991). He gives a brief structural and genitalic description for each genus and treats each species by giving a list of selected synonyms with authors and years, biological data for the adult and the larva, general distribution and distribution within Romania. For many species there are very interesting parasitic mentions. It is worth mentioning here that the au­ thor is describing two new subgenera (Synapamea for Apamea Ochsenheimer, 1816 and Denticucullus for Chortodes Tutt, 1897) and seven new subspecies of local/regional importance from end­ emisms in Carpathian Mountains.

The illustrations of the male genitalia for each species and the fe­ male genitalia for many species are grouped together after the sys­ tematic section. The author has made a tremendous effort in per­ sonally drawing a total of 821 excellent illustrations of these important diagnostic tools. The distribution within the country is il­ lustrated with the record/dot system and there is a map for each species with valid Romanian records.

Bound together at the end of the text are 30 colored plates that show 882 excellent quality photographs of adults of each species dis­ cussed in the work. The impeccable quality of these plates as well as of the photographed specimens make identification by superficial habitus possible even for the most difficult groups (e.g., Oligia Hbn., 1821; Cucullia Schran, 1802; Orthosia Och., 1831, etc.). The plates are followed by 3 more beautiful, folding plates that show 40 stun­ ning photographs of live larvae.

This work contains an extensive list of literature with 549 refer­ ences on Romanian and general European papers and books dis­ cussing noctuid related topics. The book ends with an index that lists all genera, species, and synonyms with their authors and years of description. Unfortunately, the book lacks a species checklist, making the overall faunistic appreciation of the area and the com­ parison with other areas somewhat difficult and time consuming.

Because it covers 670 species of Noctuidae from Europe (over 50% of the whole continental fauna), this book is a landmark work. It is the first one to treat exhaustively a moth family (and of the mag­ nitude of the Noctuidae) in an eastern European country and with color photographs and genitalic illustrations for all listed species.

Hacken did something similar when he published his book about the noctuids of Greece (1998, Die Noctuidae Griechenlands, Mit einer Ubersicht uber die Fauna des Balkanraumes (Lepidoptera: Noctu­ idae), Herbolopoliana 2:1–550) but he only illustrated a selected num­ ber of adults and not all of them in color, with selective genitalia drawings. These two books, Hacken’s and Rakosi’s complement each other very well by giving a very good idea of the composition of the noctuid fauna of Eastern Europe from the Mediterranean Sea to the Ukrainian Steppe.

Although written in German, the text can be understood with ba­ sic linguistic skills, making it an important source of information on the noctuids in general and a very good identification tool for the over 30 noctuid species shared by Romania and the U.S.A.

Mr. Rakosi and his publisher, the Austrian house Staphia 46, are to be highly praised for producing a book of the highest infor­ mative and graphic standards, making of it a most valuable tool for the serious student of this large and heteromorphous family.

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The Philippines is an archipelago of 7107 islands, many are very small in area with only about 500 islands with an area over one Km2. Only 2100 islands are actually inhabited by 65 million people com­ posed of 60 ethnic groups. Not surprisingly, about one third of the islands are not listed by name in most reference books or maps. The Philippine Islands, with the highest mountain reaching 2954 m and with 17 active volcanoes, is geologically very complex. The zooge­ graphical relationships to other areas of southeast Asia are manifold and complicated.

Historically, the Philippines was noted for its extensive forest con­ coverage. However, this has changed considerably over the past 30 years and now less than 10% remains of the original forest coverage present 50 years ago. Although there are 61 national parks and pro­ tected areas, there will be no true forests shortly after the turn of the century if the current rate of deforestation continues. This will have a very strong impact on all forms of life in Philippine forests includ­ ing insects.

Human pressure on the global environment makes it critical that we acquire knowledge about biological diversity as fast as possible. An essential contribution to managing the biocore intelligently is to discover, describe, and inventory its species. Southeast Asia is by no means an exception to these guidelines and several contributions in the form of national or regional faunal treatments of some groups of Lepidoptera have been published recently for example of Penin­ sular Malaysia, Borneo, Thailand, Sulawesi, Sumatra, and Vietnam. On the same token, this volume is the third contribution to the knowledge of the insects of the Philippines with special emphasis on Lepidoptera within the Supplement series of “Nachrichten des Entomologi­schen Vereins Apollo”, and it is an important addition to the taxonomy, nomenclature, and biogeography of the Lepidoptera.
This 576 page special issue is composed of 12 papers in English ranging from the physical description of the Philippines to annotated checklists of several lepidopteran groups and one of Tri-chotera and descriptions of several new taxa. Ten of the 12 papers are devoted to Lepidoptera, therefore this issue is of special interest to the lepidopterist.

The following papers comprised the volume: "Short introduction to Philippine natural and geological history and its relevance for Lepidoptera" by C. G. Treadaway; "The Sphingidae (Lepidoptera) of the Philippines" by W. Hogenes and C. G. Treadaway; The Lasiocampiidae (Lepidoptera) of the Philippines by V. V. Zohnchin, C. G. Treadaway and T. Witt; "The Saturniidae (Lepidoptera) of the Philippines" by W. A. Nässig and C. G. Treadaway; "The Brahmaeidae (Lepidoptera) of the Philippines" by W. A. Nässig and C. G. Treadaway; "Apargia sandrae n. sp., a new lasiocampid (Lepidoptera: Lasiocampiidae) moth from Palawan, Philippines" by A. Zwick; "Sanaia treadawayi (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae), a new species from Palawan Island, Philippines" by S. Naumann; "Two new species of the genus Cymaenecta Gorbonov & Arta, 1995 (Lepidoptera: Sesiididae) from the Oriental Region" by O. G. Gorbonov and A. Kallies; "The genus Eoophyla Swinhoe, 1900 (Lepidoptera: Crambidae: Acentropinae) from the Philippine Islands" by W. Speidel; The Scopariinae and Heliothelinae stat. rev. (Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea: Crambidae) of the Oriental Region—a revisional synopsis with descriptions of new species from the Philippines and Sumatra by M. Nuss; "New records of Cosmopteris Hübner, [1825] (Lepidoptera: Cosmopterigidae) from the Philippines" by W. Mey; "Contribution to the knowledge of the caddisflies (Insecta: Trichoptera) of the Philippines" by W. May; "The Brahmaeidae (Lepidoptera) of the Philippines" by W. May; "Two new species of the genus Alpenus Swinhoe, 1898 (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae) from the Philippines, including 2 new species and 1 subspecies" by D. Walpole; "The Scopariinae and Heliothelinae stat. rev. (Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea: Crambidae) of the Oriental Region—a revisional synopsis with descriptions of new species from the Philippines and Sumatra by M. Nuss; "New records of Cosmopteris Hübner, [1825] (Lepidoptera: Cosmopterigidae) from the Philippines" by W. Mey; "Contribution to the knowledge of the caddisflies (Insecta: Trichoptera) of the Philippines, 2. The species of the Mt. Agtunganon Range on Mindanao" by W. Mey.

The purpose of this book, in the authors' words, is to serve as an illustrated catalogue, with generic diagnoses and species distribution of the currently recognized and described afrotropical Arctiinae. The layout of the work is straightforward and easy to follow. There is a brief synopsis, introduction, comments on the structure of the catalogue entries, as well as a list of genera and species removed from the Arctiinae, followed by the main body of the catalogue, which occupies some 20 pages. In the catalogue, generic entries are kept short and concise, and generally follow the pattern established in the well-known series "Genetic Names of Moths of the World." Information provided includes the name, author, date of publication and pagination, followed by a similar statement on the type species. Also listed are junior synonyms and homonyms.

The entries on species include, again, the name, author, date of publication and pagination, and a statement (in parentheses) of the genus in which the taxon was originally published. Oddly, in the many cases where species were subsequently transferred to another genus, the authors do not indicate this by placing author and year in parentheses. The only explanation I can think of is that this was done in order not to interrupt the flow of text as the pagination is given immediately after the year (e.g., in an entry under Alpeus Walker:...