

REVIEWS

THE LEPIDOPTERA OF IRAQ, Revised Edition. By E. P. Wiltshire. 1957. 162 pp., 17 pls. (2 col.), 6 text-figs. Publisher: Nicholas Kaye, Ltd., London [available from E. W. Classey, 4 Church St., Isleworth, Mddx., England; price £2.5.0.].

For many years Mr. WILTSHIRE has collected and studied the Lepidoptera of Iraq intensively. In 1944 the Government of Iraq published his first edition of this work as an agricultural bulletin, and since that time the number of species definitely identified from Iraq doubled, more than 900 being known. A substantial number of these are species new to science, collected by Mr. WILTSHIRE and named primarily by H. G. AMSEL, C. BOURSIN, and WILTSHIRE himself. 136 species are butterflies, 302 Noctuidæ, 103 Geometridæ, 209 Pyralididæ, and the remaining 288 scattered among the smaller families. Obviously this is a disproportionate number of butterflies, as is usual for an area not yet thoroughly collected. No Micropterygidæ, Eriocraniidæ, or Hepialidæ have yet been found in Iraq, and WILTSHIRE relates this to the aridity of the Middle East. The number of Cossidæ is large (15), in comparison to such groups as Arctiidæ (16), Hesperiidæ (19), and Tortricidæ (19). Of course very many more of the last family doubtless will be found, but the Cossidæ will remain in larger proportion than in most other regions of comparable size.

In an interesting Introduction it is shown that about one-half of the species are found only in mountains, about one-quarter only in the plains (*i.e.*, below 1500'), and the remainder in both.

The text is principally a list of species, with brief comments on biotopes, phenology, foodplants where known, and the general distribution of each species. Ten new species and subspecies are described. The excellent plates include two in color and three in half-tone showing spread specimens of the ten new entities and a few other species. Finally there are twelve plates of line-drawings, mainly of genitalia, reproduced from AMSEL's plates which had been published in 1949 in the *Bulletin de la Société Fouad I d'Entomologie*.

C. L. REMINGTON, Hope Dept. of Entomology, Univ. Museum, Oxford, ENGLAND

THE BUTTERFLIES OF MISSISSIPPI. By Bryant Mather & Katharine Mather. *Tulane studies in Zoology*, vol. 6: pp. 63-109, 6 figures. [Price \$1.00; available from: Meade Nat. History Library, Department of Zoology, Tulane University, New Orleans, 18, La., U.S.A.]

This paper is one of the finest annotated state lists of Lepidoptera that has ever been published and deserves to be used as a model for future lists for other state and provinces. The authors, scouring Mississippi for about ten seasons, produced a majority of the specimens themselves. They have