

## BOOK REVIEWS

LIBRO ROJO DE LOS LEPIDOPTEROS IBERICOS, by M. G. de Viedma and M. R. Gomez Bustillo. 1976. Instituto Nacional Para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza, Madrid, Spain, 120 p., 82 figures (color photographs), 50 maps. Paper. Price \$5.50 (U.S.). Available from SHILAP, Apartado no. 331, Madrid, Spain.

This small paperback represents an entomological "first." Patterned after the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (I.U.C.N.) Red Data Books on World endangered species, the authors present status summaries for 50 species of Iberian Lepidoptera. Each species is treated as Endangered (5 species), Vulnerable (4 species), Rare (20 species), Endemic (16 species), or Migratory (5 species). Butterflies receive most coverage, but 13 families are covered as follows: HesperIIDae (5 species), Lycaenidae (14 species), Satyridae (9 species), Nymphalidae (1 species), Papilionidae (3 species), Epipyropidae (1 species), Zygaenidae (4 species), Saturniidae (3 species), Endromididae (1 species), and Sphingidae (2 species). With the exception of a summary page in English, the book is entirely in Spanish, as one would expect.

The treatment for each species includes sections on distribution and flight period, habitat and life cycle, status and population, and recommendations.

The intent of the book is to be a preliminary assessment of Iberian Lepidoptera in need of some conservation effort or in need of continuing scrutiny.

Apparently, the status of Iberian Lepidoptera lags behind that of the remainder of Western Europe, since only five somewhat unsuitable species are cited as Endangered: *Coenonympha oedippus* (Satyridae) is thought to be extirpated in Iberia, but is widespread in other portions of Europe; *Samia cynthia* and *Antheraea pernyi* (both Saturniidae) are both Asiatic species brought to Europe by man in the 1800's for their possible silk-producing qualities. *Epipyrops schawerdae* (Epipyropidae) may be endemic, but is known only from a single individual, and represents an esoteric family not regularly sampled by collectors; *Procris predotae* (Zygaenidae), a Spanish endemic, is the most logical candidate of the five, but still remains little investigated.

Documentation or even mention of threats to the habitats of the fifty species is largely lacking in the book. Under provisions of the United States' Endangered Species Act of 1973 most of these species could not be listed because of the lack of appropriate documentation of threats to their habitat.

It is heartwarming to see that the Spanish have begun to assess the status of their endemic Lepidoptera with an eye fixed toward future conservation efforts. Let us hope that the future efforts include further field study of potential candidates, and more importantly, acquisition, protection and/or management of the habitats upon which the more unique taxa depend.

I recommend this book to all members with conservation interests and an aptitude for reading Spanish.

PAUL A. OPLER, *Office of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.*

THE CLASSIFICATION OF EUROPEAN BUTTERFLIES, by L. G. Higgins. 1975. 320 p., 402 line drawings. Wm. Collins and Sons, Ltd., Glasgow. Price: £7.50 net.

Within the pages of this book are the justifications for a radically different classification of the European butterflies, one that was long overdue. The data that are included in the present book were originally to have been incorporated into the