

for their achievements. I welcome the present revision warmly and recommend its subject to a wide circle of my colleagues interested in Lepidoptera.

Unusual additions to this fifth volume are the sympathetic obituary of the third Editor of the series, the late Hans Reisser, and a fascinating review of the origin of the ten-year-old series "Microlepidoptera Palaearctica," by its initiator and Editor-in-Chief, Dr. H. G. Amsel.

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## BOOK REVIEW

ESSAI DE CLASSIFICATION DES LÉPIDOPTÈRES PRODUCTEURS DE SOIE. Original fascicles published 1897-1934 in *Compte rendu des Travaux du Laboratoire d'Études de la Soie*, Lyon. Facsimile reprints now available, published 1976-1978 by Sciences Nat, 2 rue André Mellenne, Venette, 60200 Compiègne, France. Price different for each fascicle, but varying from 42 FF to 99 FF each. Presently only available through Sciences Nat.

This old classical series on Saturniidae (= Attacidae) and related moths has been quite rare and unavailable to workers. The series is particularly useful to taxonomists and of special interest to amateur students of Saturniidae. I own an original copy of fasc. 2 and can thus see that these reprints are accurate reproductions of the originals, except for size: originals measure ca.  $19 \times 27$  cm and reprints are ca.  $15 \times 22$  cm. It is now possible for both libraries and individual lepidopterists to own copies of these important works.

The series resulted from the immense interest in these moths from their economic standpoint as silk producers. Several experts at the Silk Laboratory in Lyon authored the text, all in French. The figures are not colored, but are line drawings and some are done from photographs. Almost every species is figured in the adult stage and a few larvae and cocoons are depicted. Citations to original descriptions and lists of synonymies precede the text of each taxon. The text mainly describes the imago and gives the patria. Each fascicle is indexed. The pagination coincides with that of the original separates (*extraits*) which differs from that in the *Compte rendu . . . Soie*. Below is a synopsis of each fascicle:

Fascicle 1. 1897. By J. Duszéau & L. Sonthonnax. Introductory chapter discussing morphology and early classification of Lepidoptera. Taxonomic group covered is Saturniidae, Saturniinae, Tribe Attacini: genera *Callosamia*, *Samia* (= *Philosamia*), *Hyalophora*, *Epiphora*, *Attacus*, *Rothschildia*, and *Archaeoattacus*. Most species figured well. 52 pages.

Fascicle 2. 1899. By L. Sonthonnax. The genus *Coscinocera* (Tribe Attacini) which had been omitted from fasc. 1 is covered here. The tailed saturniids are covered, including the complex of genera related to *Saturnia/Eudia*; also Agliinae, *Argema*, *Graellsia*, *Eudaemonia* (= *Copiopteryx*), *Eustera* (African). Also included are *Copaxa* and *Antheraea*. Many cocoons and a few larvae are figured. 78 pages.

Fascicle 3. 1901. By L. Sonthonnax. Excepting the Indo-Australian *Syntherata* and Neotropical *Sagana*, all of the species discussed and figured in this fascicle (such as *Nudaurelia* and *Imbrasia*) belong to the large African tribe Bunaeini. 76 pages.

Fascicle 4. 1904. By L. Sonthonnax. A wide range of saturniid groups are

covered, including the complex of genera related to *Saturnia/Eudia*; also Agliinae, Salassinae, more Bunaeini, most Arsenurinae, *Polythysana* (Hemileucinae), and *Cercophana* (Cercophanidae). 86 pages.

Fascicle 5. 1906. By A. Conte. The coverage here is of the large genus *Automeris* and its allies, plus a few Nearctic and Mexican *Hemileuca*. The figures are quite poor in this fascicle, not having reproduced well. 121 pages.

Fascicle 6. 1908. By A. Conte. The only saturniid genus included is the African *Cyrtogone*. Numerous other moths from around the world including many families, mostly Bombycoidea, are covered. Genera include *Borocera*, *Gonometa*, *Pinara*, and *Taragama*. Judging from the lists of synonymies, the literature on many of these species was scant. 73 pages.

Fascicle 7. 1911. By A. Conte. More non-Saturniidae, as in fasc. 6. *Bombyx mori* L. and its relatives, Brahmaeidae, *Epia*, *Ocinara*, *Synadia*, *Theophila*, *Therina*, *Endromis*, etc. are figured and discussed. 90 pages.

Fascicle 8. 1918. By A. Conte. Supplement to previous fascicles. Text and figures of over 30 species and subspecies described since publication of the earlier fascicles. 42 pages.

Fascicle 9. 1931. By E.-L. Bouvier & P. Riel. Contains a catalogue of Saturniidae and a list of specimens (and their data) in the collection of the Laboratory of the Study of Silk. Also a treatise by P. Bonnet on *Nephila madagascariensis* Vins., the great silk-producing spider. Next a chapter on diseases of silkworms by A. Paillot. Lastly, a chapter on artificial textiles and their chemical and physical properties by D. Levrat. 141 pages.

Fascicle 10. 1934. By P. Riel. A small second supplement giving text and figures of 16 Old World Saturniidae. 16 pages.

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