

*Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society*  
34(3), 1980, 326

## BOOK REVIEW

A REVISION OF THE GENUS *HIPPARCHIA* FABRICIUS, by Otakar Kudrna. 1977. E. W. Classey, Ltd., Faringdon, Oxon., England. 300 pp., 353 figs., 1 plate (frontispiece). Price £19.00 (approximately \$41.00 U.S.).

This revision formed the basis of Kudrna's Master of Philosophy dissertation submitted in 1977 to Portsmouth Polytechnic. In many ways it reads like a Master's thesis, but it is also a workmanlike taxonomic revision of a very difficult genus. The revision was not hampered by any lack of material, and Kudrna is to be congratulated for searching out and examining so many of the type specimens.

The descriptions of the various taxa are lucid and detailed, but some of Kudrna's remarks upon them are rather sophomoric, especially the comments upon species that have several subspecies. Here I point to the rather shallow treatment in the discussion of *H. autonoe* (Esper) on p. 45, as an example. The section on "Taxonomic Considerations" (pp. 170-175) is rather well thought out, albeit perhaps briefer than it should have been; this section does demonstrate that Kudrna is a competent systematist. His "Zoogeographical Considerations" (pp. 176-180), however, are much too brief and demonstrate a certain lack of understanding and "feel" for the subject. That section is basically a descriptive one of the ranges of species and extracted information about Palearctic faunal types, but the interrelationships between the geographical ranges of the species of *Hipparchia* (and any possible derivations of them) are not elucidated.

The illustrations of the butterflies and their genitalia are well done and show what they are supposed to show. I suspect that these genitalic photographs could have been reduced by one half without losing clarity. One plate, carrying Figs. 126-127, lacks a caption (p. 240) for the figures of the genitalia of *H. p. pellucida* (Stauder) and *H. p. cypriensis* (Holik). This, presumably, is an oversight of the publisher.

The text matter is printed by photolithography from typed camera-ready pages on uncoated paper. One must wonder whether it will last indefinitely. The plates, by contrast, are printed on a glossy, somewhat heavier paper that gives a greater impression of permanence. The quality of the paper, and the fact that the text is not typeset, is not what one would expect to obtain in a book of this size that costs more than \$40.00, and I am rather disappointed in the production of it.

This book, objections notwithstanding, is a must for the satyrid taxonomist with any interest in this fascinating genus. Readers with Palearctic affinities will probably want to have it in their libraries. But I cannot recommend it to the reader who is looking for general truths or who does not have an abiding interest in the Palearctic satyrids. The book is just too expensive for the "meat" it delivers. Read it in your museum or university library instead.

LEE D. MILLER, *Allyn Museum of Entomology, 3701 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, Florida 33580.*