

## BOOK REVIEWS

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HETEROCERA SUMATRANA, Volume 6. Consisting of five chapters by various authors as described below. 1990. Text in English with German summaries. Heterocera Sumatrana Society c. V., Kreuzburger Strasse 6, W-3400 Göttingen, Germany. 204 pp., 16 color plates. by B. D'Abbrera and others. Soft cover, 16 × 24 cm, ISBN 3-925055-02-9, DM 99, 80 (about \$57).

I hope that this book, indeed this series, will receive the attention it deserves because of its relevance to studies on certain families of moths and lepidopteran phylogeny in general. I do not see how anyone with a serious interest in Limacodidae or Lasiocampidae can rationalize not buying this book. A team of Germans is the core of authors working on the abundant material being collected by E. W. Diehl, resident on the large Indonesian island of Sumatra. They are joined in this latest volume by Jeremy D. Holloway of The Natural History Museum (London), a well-known specialist of Indo-Australian Lepidoptera and author of *The Moths of Borneo* series. The text in the five chapters of this latest installment of the *Heterocera Sumatrana* series is thoroughly researched and well presented; with this volume there has been no rush to get something in print, as we sometimes see. Each chapter gives many details of morphology, figures of genitalia, and a comprehensive bibliography.

Below is a synopsis of the contents:

Chapter 1. *The Limacodidae of Sumatra*, by J. D. Holloway. Three new genera and 13 new species are described. Three color plates show 108 specimens. Holloway's working knowledge of the moth fauna of the Indo-Australian region is very evident as he draws comparisons between the Sumatran fauna and surrounding areas. Some of these limacodids are pests of coconut and oil palms.

Chapter 2. *The Ratardidae of Sumatra*, by L. W. R. Kobes and L. Ronkay. This is the most current and definitive treatment in existence for this small family of moths, which are exceedingly rare in collections. The authors used X-ray photography to show venation so as not to destroy specimens. One new genus and species are described in addition to the detailed overview of the family, which is probably the sister-group of the Callidulidae.

Chapter 3. *The Callidulidae of Sumatra*, by L. W. R. Kobes. These little diurnal moths are remarkable mimics of Lycaenidae. There are only 4 known species in Sumatra, but these are all described and figured in color, and phylogeny of the group is discussed. I suspect that some of these rarities are in collections mixed with lycaenids awaiting to be identified as moths.

Chapter 4. *The Brahmaeidae of Sumatra*, by W. A. Nässig and U. Paukstadt. Although only a single species is known for Sumatra, this chapter gives a fine overview of the morphology and phylogeny of this small Old World family (the "basket moths"), and illustrates in color the larval stages of the Sumatran species.

Chapter 5. *The Lasiocampidae of Sumatra*, by J. D. Holloway and R. Bender. Of the 69 known Sumatran species, 11 are described here as new. This lengthy chapter comprises about a third of the pages of the book and contains 9 color plates.

For individuals with an interest in moths of eastern Asia or specialists in the above families, I recommend the book highly. The other volumes in this series also will be worthwhile additions to the shelves of museum libraries where collections of tropical Asian moths are maintained. Any lepidopterist doing serious work on phylogeny of the families of Lepidoptera will find this book to be of particular value.

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