

This 576 page special issue is composed of 12 papers in English ranging from the physical description of the Philippines to annotated checklists of several lepidopteran groups and one of Trichoptera and descriptions of several new taxa. Ten of the 12 papers are devoted to Lepidoptera, therefore this issue is of special interest to the lepidopterist.

The following papers comprised the volume: "Short introduction to Philippine natural and geological history and its relevance for Lepidoptera" by C. G. Treadaway; "The Sphingidae (Lepidoptera) of the Philippines" by W. Hogenes and C. G. Treadaway; The Lasiocampidae (Lepidoptera) of the Philippines by V. V. Zohouhin, C. G. Treadaway and T. Witt; "The Saturniidae (Lepidoptera) of the Philippines" by W. A. Nässig and C. G. Treadaway; "The Brahmaeidae (Lepidoptera) of the Philippines" by W. A. Nässig and C. G. Treadaway; "*Arguda sandrae* n. sp., a new lasiocampid (Lepidoptera: Lasiocampidae) moth from Palawan, Philippines" by A. Zwick; "*Samia treadawayi* (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae), a new species from Palawan Island, Philippines" by S. Naumann; "Two new species of the genus *Cyanosesia* Gorbunov & Arita, 1995 (Lepidoptera: Sesidae) from the Oriental Region" by O. G. Gorbunov and A. Kallies; "The genus *Eoophyla* Swinhoe, 1900 (Lepidoptera: Crambidae: Acentropinae) from the Philippine Islands" by W. Speidel; The Scopariinae and Heliothelinae stat. rev. (Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea: Crambidae) of the Oriental Region—a revisional synopsis with descriptions of new species from the Philippines and Sumatra" by M. Nuss; "New records of *Cosmopterix* Hübner, [1825] (Lepidoptera: Cosmopterigidae) from the Philippines by W. Mey; "Contribution to the knowledge of the caddisflies (Insecta: Trichoptera) of the Philippines. 2. The species of the Mt. Agtuangan Range on Mindanao" by W. Mey.

The issue starts with a brief, yet useful summary about the people, climate, forests, biogeography, and geological history of the archipelago. This general, introductory paper makes it easier to understand the rest of the papers, specifically the biogeographic and faunistic sections.

Four Lepidoptera families are thoroughly reviewed for the archipelago for the first time: Sphingidae, Lasiocampidae, Brahmaeidae, and Saturniidae; as well as the genus *Eoophyla* (Crambidae). The first of these papers is an annotated checklist of the Sphingidae known from the Philippines; 116 out of 117 species are illustrated in 18 color plates, including two new species and one subspecies. There is an analysis of the number of species and endemic taxa for each subfamily, tribe, and genus of Philippine Sphingidae; an evaluation of the richness and endemicity for the nine largest islands; and an evaluation of Sphingidae endemicity for each of Vane-Wright's faunal regions (R. I. Vane-Wright, 1990, *The Philippines—key to the biogeography of Wallacea?* Pp. 19–34. In Knight, W. J. and J. D. Holloway (eds.), *Insects and the rain forests of South East Asia (Wallacea)*, London, Royal Entomological Society, iv+343 pp.) The distribution of taxa is summarized in 23 maps. The next paper is an annotated checklist of the Lasiocampidae. Sixty-one species are noted from the Philippines, including one new genus, 18 new species and 6 subspecies; all illustrated in 12 color plates. The distribution of the species is figured in 34 maps, and the genitalia of most are illustrated in 13 black and white plates. In another contribution, 23 species of Saturniidae reported from the Philippine Islands (including 2 new species and 4 subspecies) are described, discussed, and illustrated in 13 color plates. In addition, pre-imaginal instars are depicted in 6 color plates. The male and female genitalia of most taxa are illustrated in 20 black and white plates; the known distribution of Philippine Saturniidae is presented in 16 maps. The degree of endemicity for each island and zoogeographical region is discussed. For the Brahmaeidae, the imaginal morphology, phenology, distribution, and variation of the only species present in the Philippines is thoroughly discussed. These papers will certainly be most often consulted by most lepidopterists, but the remaining six lepidopteran papers are providing important advances to our knowledge on Oriental Lepidoptera.

In three brief papers, a new lasiocampid, a new saturniid, and two new sesiids are described from the Philippines, respectively. The genus *Eoophyla* (Crambidae) from the Philippines is reviewed,

and two new species are described. Similarly, in the Cosmopterigidae two new species are described and two new records are reported for the country. On a more ample basis, the Scopariinae and Heliothelinae (Crambidae) of the Oriental region are reviewed; 11 genera and 63 species (including 6 new species) are recognized. This paper includes diagnoses and phylogenetic remarks for the higher taxa. In the last paper, a checklist of the fauna of caddisflies of the Mt. Agtuangan Range on Mindanao is presented. An amazing number of 63 species out of the 102 listed are described and male genitalia illustrated for the first time.

It is important to note that special care was taken in order to insure accuracy in the localities used in the distribution discussions or maps. This is significant because specimens from commercial traders were usually collected or reared by local people on several islands, stored in the house of a Filipino trader with little or no data associated, imported to Europe, and then sold to customers. Thus, label data and the origin of most Philippine specimens in private collections (and probably in many museums) have been dubious as a result of the trade practices common in the area.

Very few criticisms can be made to this series of papers which are apparently free of misspellings and typographical errors. Although the maps are small, they are very clear, but the font size used for the species names make the legends almost illegible. In some cases the color photographs are too small and some have shadows that may hamper character observation.

This volume stresses the faunistics and taxonomy of Lepidoptera and contributes considerably to improve our knowledge of the Philippine insect fauna. This book is a must in the library of any individual interested in Sphingidae, Saturniidae, and Lasiocampidae in particular, or Oriental Lepidoptera in general. It should be present in all libraries that maintain coverage in entomology worldwide.

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Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society
53(1), 1999, 46–47

THE AFROTROPICAL TIGER-MOTHS, by D. T. Goodger and A. Watson. 1995. Published by The Natural History Museum, London, and Apollo Books. 65 pp., 4 color plates of adults, 109 black-and-white photographs of genitalia. Softcover, 29.6 × 21.0 cm, ISBN 87-88757-32-3. Available from Apollo Books Aps., Kirkeby Sand 19, DK-5771, Stenstrup, Denmark, Tel. 45-62-26-3737 FAX: 45-62-26-3780. Price DDK 200.00 (approximately U.S. \$32.00).

The purpose of this book, in the authors' words, is to serve as an illustrated catalogue, with generic diagnoses and species distribution of the currently recognized and described afrotropical Arctiinae. The layout of the work is straightforward and easy to follow. There is a brief synopsis, introduction, comments on the structure of the catalogue entries, as well as a list of genera and species removed from the Arctiinae, followed by the main body of the catalogue, which occupies some 20 pages.

In the catalogue, generic entries are kept short and concise, and generally follow the pattern established in the well-known series *Generic Names of Moths of the World*. Information provided includes the name, author, date of publication and pagination, followed by a similar statement on the type species. Also listed are junior synonyms and homonyms.

The entries on species include, again, the name, author, date of publication and pagination, and a statement (in parentheses) of the genus in which the taxon was originally published. Oddly, in the many cases where species were subsequently transferred to another genus, the authors do not indicate this by placing author and year in parentheses. The only explanation I can think of is that this was done in order not to interrupt the flow of text as the pagination is given immediately after the year (e.g., in an entry under *Alpenus* Walker:

affiniola Strand, 1919:168 (*Diacrisia*)). Whatever the reasoning, this manner of citation is confusing and violates article 51(c) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature [Article 51(c) states: "If a species-group name is combined with generic name other than the original one, the name of the author of the species-group name, if cited, is to be enclosed in parentheses"]. Further information provided in the species entries includes a brief statement about the nature of the type material and a similarly brief indication of distribution. Inset appear junior synonyms, homonyms, incorrect spellings, or infrasubspecific names.

A further irritation to me was the disregard shown to articles 31(b) and 34(b), dealing with the of late much-discussed problem of agreement in gender [Article 31(b) states: "A species-group name, if it is or ends in a Latin adjective or participle in the nominative singular, or is latinized, must agree in gender with the generic name with which it is at any time combined, and its termination must be changed according to Latin inflection, . . ."; Article 34(b) states: "The termination of a Latin or latinized adjectival or participial species-group name must agree in gender with the generic name with which it is at any time combined; if the termination is incorrect it must be changed accordingly (the author and date of the species-group name remain unchanged Arts 50c(ii), 23c)". This is especially obvious in cases such as the species-rich genus *Spilosoma*, which, despite its ending, is in fact neuter. I am well aware that many readers of these lines will argue that I am nit-picking and many of the rules governing the use of the classical languages have become obsolete. I disagree, but even if I did not, the Code is quite unambiguous about the matter.

Following these entries (said to cover 411) are listed the 20 genera and their constituent species removed from the Arctiinae. This section has the same layout as the main catalogue. Most of these genera are now placed in the Noctuidae, and it is a pity that no indication is given of the subfamilies to which they are likely to belong, as this would have made making changes much easier. Given the more than doubtful monophyly of many noctuid subfamilies, however, it seems quite possible that their affinities are simply not known.

The text is complimented by a list of recorded hostplants of afrotropical tiger-moths and a bibliography with some 311 entries.

The four color plates of adults are of high quality and depict mostly type species. Similarly, the black-and-white photographs illustrate the male genitalia mostly of type species. Here, depth of field is occasionally lacking, although this is hardly surprising given the frequently robust genitalia in this family.

All in all, this little book will serve as a useful introduction to, and overview of, this beautiful group of moths in the afrotropics. Its main strengths lies in its conciseness, but I feel it would have profited from a little more attention to detail.

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THE MOTHS OF AMERICA NORTH OF MEXICO, fascicle 27.3, Noctuoidea, Noctuidae (part), Noctuinae (part Noctuini), by J. D. Lafontaine. 1998. Published by the The Wedge Entomological Research Foundation, Washington, D.C. 348 pp., 8 color plates. Soft cover, 8 × 11 inches, ISBN: 0-933003-09-9. Available from The Wedge Entomological Research Foundation, 85253 Ridgetop Drive, Eugene, OR, 97405, USA. \$115.00+postage (\$4.00 U.S., \$5.00 elsewhere). Also available from Bioquip Products and Entomological Reprint Specialists.

In October 1998, someone asked about the classification of the Lepidoptera via the Internet. Several persons replied: "There is no one universally agreed upon classification." The classification of

Lepidoptera is not cast in stone, nor will it be anytime in the near future. Don Lafontaine's superb work exemplifies the answer given above. The Board of Editors of *The Moths of America North of Mexico* series, affectionately known as MONA, deserves recognition for advancing classifications rather than casting one system in stone.

This is the second fascicle of the MONA series, artfully written by Lafontaine, on part of the Noctuini with a discussion on the classification of the tribe. He plans a third fascicle on the tribe Agrotini. Such facts would be simple except that a previously published fascicle of the MONA series by Robert W. Poole (1995, *Noctuoidea, Noctuidae (part)* in Dominick, R. B. et al., *The Moths of America North of Mexico*, fasc. 26.1:1–249) proposed a classification that significantly altered the definition of the subfamily Noctuinae. I don't know if either classification is correct, but I am very pleased that the MONA series can be fodder for discussions about the classification of Lepidoptera, in addition to producing excellent monographic works. I seek knowledge, I love to learn, and the MONA series—well amore!

Most aficionados of Lepidoptera are already familiar with the MONA series. It is recognized for its high quality, authoritative look at moths, and perhaps best of all, the fascicles introduce and illustrate little known species, thus popularizing the study of moths. Lafontaine's fascicle does not let us down.

The volume starts with a morphological, systematic, and taxonomic overview of the group. One hundred sixty-nine species in 31 genera are included. Four new genera are proposed and 21 new species are described. Many new combinations are presented. Revised nomenclature abounds. Complete citations are provided for persons to fully understand Lafontaine's overview and philosophy. Drawings supplement the morphological descriptions. The bibliography is rich with entries.

A subtle digression from MONA's perceived format is the inclusion of three species from Mexico. This important change allows the author to more fully describe and explain his groupings, and the reader will recognize these species if one day they are found to be part of the U.S. fauna. Lafontaine makes full use of keys to genera and species, a feature I find especially helpful when I want to know how the author differentiates taxa.

Lafontaine is an excellent writer. His verbiage is succinct and lucid. Overviews and details are sufficient to allow a reader to understand the text, which is, as always, beautifully elucidated with illustrations of genitalia, adults, larvae, and distribution maps. All of the illustrations are superior to what can commonly be found in scientific publications. My grammar teachers would disagree with the structure of only a couple of sentences.

An extremely unfortunate trend in the book binding industry provides my only criticism of this volume. Breaking with tradition of the MONA series, this book is not Smythe sewn, rather it is perfect bound—which is in my opinion, highly imperfect. Smythe sewing is expensive, and as binders become convinced of the invincibility of glue, there are fewer binders who use the superior Smythe sewing. For persons who bind their books in buckram, as do I, perfect binding creates cramped inner margins and books that will not lie flat open. Persons who do not bind their books will also notice that this volume will not gracefully lie flat when opened. I cannot predict that pages will fall out; time and use will test the glue.

I don't want anyone to miss the point that I give Lafontaine's work, and this volume high marks. All persons interested in the Noctuidae, on a worldwide basis, will need this information. This book will be a standard for a long time because it treats so many species of economic importance, i.e., cutworms. Other persons should be familiar with this work so that they can explore the analysis, fully explained by Lafontaine, employed in writing a revision of this magnitude. I highly recommend it. Any person interested in moths should own a copy.

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