

*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 Ridgeway 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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