

BOOK REVIEWS

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REVISTA DE THECLINAE COLOMBIANOS/ REVIEW OF COLOMBIAN THECLINAE, by Museo de Historia de Nacional de la Universidad de Caldas, Manizales, Museo de la Universidad Pedagógica Nacional, Santafé de Bogotá, Museo De La Salle de Ciencias Naturales, Santafé de Bogotá. Volumes 1 & 2, no actual date for publication is given, but the mailing date is given as 15 August 1997. Overall dimensions of both publications, 5 1/2 by 8 1/2 inches. Volume 1 contains 179 pages of text with numerous line drawings, 2 color plates, and 4 plates of black and white photos; volume 2 contains 178 pages of text with numerous line drawings, 6 color plates, and 6 plates of black and white photos. Text in English and Spanish. Soft covers. ISSN 0123-1677, free, available from Dr. Kurt Johnson, Environmental Affairs, The Ethical Culture Society, 53 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, NY USA 11215.

According to the authors these two volumes are but the beginning of a series of volumes that will cover the entire spectrum of the Theclinae of Colombia with the goal of producing at least one volume per year. The title is a bit misleading in that both volumes are a collection of research works and papers, some previously unpublished, containing many newly described genera and species. Very little time or space is devoted to the many species previously named by others that occur in Colombia. Some of the described species in the many newly described genera do not occur in Colombia, but because they are a part of the original papers involved, appear in these volumes. One may readily determine the titles, the authors, and a brief of the contents of each paper on the outer back cover of each volume. There are 8 papers listed in volume 1, and 10 in volume 2.

A number of typographical errors and the incredibly disjointed and complex format of the entire text and illustrations make these volumes difficult to read and to follow logically and easily. To compound the entire matter, the size of the font is reduced in many instances for reasons that escape this reviewer.

It would be presumptuous of this reviewer to comment specifically on the array of new species and, more particularly on the many new genera that have been erected in this publication. I have collected rather extensively in South America and Panama (and yes, in Colombia) since 1962, and I am surprised to note that most, if not all, of the many specimens figured in these volumes with which I am familiar, now sport new specific names and even more amazing, belong to new and different genera, in many cases a new genus for each species!

As a case in point, the first work in volume 1 is the description of *Strephonina*, a "New Infratribe" of the Eumaenini. This is a new term to this reviewer and I can find no definition for it in this work. The *Strephonina* contains fourteen new genera. The only genus listed as containing more than a single species is *Strephonota* which contains 4 species. Some of the remainder contain more than a

single species, but one has to search the text carefully in order to ascertain this fact.

In volume 2 another new infratribe carries the title of *Macusiina*. It appears to be a collection of very different and disparate species, especially when one looks at the array of genitalia sketches representing the various species. Again, one must search the text carefully in order to determine the species contained in each of these newly described genera. This is as good a place to mention this: there is no complete index of species or genera in either volume. If one wishes to locate a particular species or genus in either volume, one must search the entire volume, page by page. It is time consuming and frustrating.

Finally in volume 2, the species of *Strymon* illustrated and described as "new" left me shaking my head and wondering if I had read and viewed the descriptions and plates correctly. *Strymon melinus* (Hübner, 1813) herein named and figured as *Strymon caldasensis* is a dead ringer for any number of specimens in the collections of various individuals and museums I have observed and studied in the past 50 years. It is one of the most common and widespread eumaenines in the Western Hemisphere. Although not as common and widespread, three other examples of this distortion of names of familiar species are contained on the same color plate: *Strymon rufifusca* (Hewitson, 1877), named herein as *S. guanensis*; *Strymon bubastus* (Cramer, 1782), herein named *S. vividus*, and *Strymon gabatha* (Hewitson, 1870), herein named *S. alicia*. I have studied the descriptions and photos of these "newly described" species and can only surmise that the widely held and trusted concept of variation within a species is no longer a valid concept.

There are a number of disturbing factors in these two volumes, but the most glaring error noted in this cursory reading of the 2 volumes is to be found on photoplate XIV, figure H which bears the name *Strymon carmencitae* Le Crom & Johnson. The taxon figured here and elaborated upon in the text is not a *Strymon* and it does have a name — Hewitson named this species in 1868. This species does not bear the characteristic *Strymon* characters of the genital ring, valvae, aedeagus, or the scent pad on the forewing of the male. It is not a common species, but I have studied specimens from Brazil as well as Colombia.

Finally, if one wishes to be overwhelmed by a profusion of new names for familiar species, then these two volumes will fit the bill. The appropriate text is difficult to read, the plates and line drawings are not in such a sequence as to be easily followed and related to the text, and there are no legend numbers or notes on the plate figures that allow easy cross reference to the appropriate text. These features, added to the lack of any index to the species and/or genera in either volume, make them difficult to use.

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