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THE LEPIDOPTERA OF THE BRANDBERG MASSIF IN NAMIBIA, Part 2, *Lepidoptera Africana* 4, volume editor: Wolfram Mey. 303 pages, 22 color plates. 2007. *Esperiana*, Buchreihe zur Entomologie, Memoir 4, series editor Hermann H. Hacker, ISBN 3-938249-07-2. Hardbound. Copies of *Esperiana* can be ordered from the homepage at www.esperiana.net. Euro 99 (~\$144).

Because many lepidopterists, particularly in North America, may be unfamiliar with the relative new *Lepidoptera* journal, *Esperiana*, a review of one of the most recent issues should be of interest. The journal is named in honor of the early German lepidopterist, Eugen Johann Christoph Esper (1742-1810). First issued in 1990, *Esperiana* now comprises 13 volumes devoted primarily to the Palearctic *Lepidoptera*. A memoir series focused on monographs of the African fauna was initiated in 2004.

The Ethiopian Region has seldom received the attention it deserves in most areas of entomology, particularly in the more primitive, usually smaller species generally referred to as *Microlepidoptera*. This lack of attention, of course, is largely the result of the paucity of researchers focused on this enormous region. The pioneering works by A. J. T. Janse over many years on the South African *Lepidoptera* and the most recent Catalogue of the *Lepidoptera* of southern Africa (Vari et al. 2002) have provided valuable introductions to this fauna. The latest effort to increase our knowledge of the Ethiopian Region was initiated by Wolfram Mey of the Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany, and several collaborators, with an entomological survey of one of the most poorly known areas in Namibia, the Brandberg Massif. The first report on the three Brandberg expeditions (Mey 2004) provided a general introduction to their survey including an itinerary, description of collecting sites, and list of participants. It also provided the taxonomic treatment of 28 families of *Lepidoptera*. The present volume comprises the second and final report, with treatments for approximately 30 additional families. The taxonomic studies in both reports include related material from other areas of southern Africa in addition to the Brandberg. Of particular significance in Part 2 are the list of all species studied and the summaries of the *Lepidoptera* diversity of the Brandberg Massif compared with three other areas of Africa.

Most of Part 2 consists of 20 sections by 13 authors treating in varying detail the systematics of approximately 30 families. A few sections (e.g., *Noctuidae* by H. Hacker) are supplements to Part 1. All are written in English except for the section on *Pyralinae* in French by P. Leraut. Each section begins with a brief introduction to the subject taxonomic group

and includes paragraphs on general biology, materials and methods, often comments or lists on African diversity, a review of the species studied, illustrations of morphology, and references. Complete taxonomic descriptions usually are provided only for new taxa, occasionally supplemented with descriptions of previously named genera. Previously known and undetermined species are provided with only collecting data and summaries of general distribution. Treatments of the various families vary largely according to their relative diversity and degree of familiarity, as well as to the specialties of the authors. For example, the only section that includes species keys is the one by Mey on the small, but well sampled, southern hemisphere family *Cecidosidae*. The genitalia of all new taxa and most of the undetermined or named species are illustrated by either line drawings or photographs. Good quality color photographs are likewise provided for all new taxa and most of the undetermined or named species whenever possible.

In the final chapter of Part 2, appropriately titled "Epilogue", Mey summarizes the major findings of the entire project. A total of 58 families and 683 species of *Lepidoptera* are treated to some degree in both volumes from the general region around the Brandberg. The actual number of species from the three Brandberg expeditions was 611, with the *Noctuidae* being the most species-rich (134 species). Nine new genera and 124 new species were described. In an appropriate conclusion, undoubtedly based upon what was learned from the Brandberg survey, Mey proposes several other areas in the Afrotropical region now in need of attention.

Because several poorly known families are reviewed and illustrated in both volumes of this series, most *Lepidopterists* should find something of interest within the *Memoirs*. Wolfram Mey and his colleagues should be congratulated, not only for their fine efforts to collect and report on this previously poorly known fauna, but also for completing the entire task through to publication only five years after cessation of fieldwork.

LITERATURE CITED

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