

Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society
62(3), 2008, 176

EUCHROMIINI DE GUYANE FRANÇAISE (LEPIDOPTERA : ARCTIIDAE, ARCTIINAE). By Jean-Aimé Cerda. 172 + IV pages, 1 color map and 3 color plates inserted; 2 CDS of images. ISBN 978-287978061-0. Paper back; 29.5 X 21 cm. Published by the author in 2008. Available from him for 60 Euros at: SARL Patawa, B.P. 98, 97357 Matoury, French Guiana (patawa2@wanadoo.fr). The Euchromiini are fascinating wasp mimics that are not often observed in abundance. The group is mostly neotropical, being distributed from northern Argentina to southern USA (CA, TX, FL). Except for a few recently revised genera (e.g. Dietz 1994, Simmons & Weller 2006), many taxa are difficult to identify due to a lack of modern literature, their last global treatment dating back to 1916–1917.

This impressive work treats all 136 species of Euchromiini so far encountered in French Guiana (FG) or mentioned from the country. Many new taxonomic and nomenclatural acts are provided, i.e. 12 new species, 18 new synonymies, 26 new combinations, and 7 names for which the status is revised. The higher classification follows that of Kitching & Rawlins (1998). The genera are classified according to the French version of Draudt (1916–1917) and the species are presented in chronological order by publication date.

The book begins with a detailed abstract. This is followed by an introduction that deals with the earlier comprehensive works on Euchromiini, the tribe's distribution within FG, and a list of the numbers of species found in each of the country's 17 zones. One page is then devoted to the contents of the book, which lists the collections from which specimens were examined and explains the contents of the species treatments. On the next page there are lists of species withdrawn from the faunal list of FG, of new species for the fauna of the country, of species known only from FG, and of the numbers of species that FG shares with other countries or Brazilian states. The taxonomic treatments follow, starting with the genus *Phaeosphecia* Hampson. In the case of this genus and some others there are notes following the mention of the genus and type species names.

For each new species the description is followed by information on types, etymology, notes (sometimes), and black and white figures of the male genitalia. In addition, the upper- and undersides of each new species' habitus are presented in color on three plates inserted between pages 106 and 107. The other species accounts are provided with a synonymic list and the most important citations of their name(s), frequency and method of capture, and a list of collecting localities with flight period in FG by zones indicated on a color map inserted after page 106. In addition, for many species there are historical notes on the concepts of the synonyms, other notes (e.g. on type

specimens), a special mention of species new to FG, and a list of localities where non-FG specimens originated. The habitus and male genitalia of all species are represented in color on two separate cd-roms. The female genitalia are not treated at all in this work. The general distribution of all FG species is depicted on 14 maps with the borders of all neotropical countries and states of Brazil delimited.

The book ends with reasons why seven species names were deleted from the country's faunal list, acknowledgements, a bibliography, an index to taxon names, and an index to the species names on the maps.

I was impressed by the quantity of work that went into this book. The illustrations are of good quality, although the printed black and white genitalia figures would have benefited from more contrast. There are usually five figures of male genitalia for each species to show important characters in focus as the depth of field of each image is narrow.

The text is partly translated into English, making the book easier to consult for a wider audience. Specifically, the parts translated are the abstract, introduction, contents, notes under each genus and species, notes on abundance and collecting methods for each species, and the text pertaining to the species deleted from the faunal list of FG. The descriptions and diagnoses of the new species are not translated. In general the quality of the English text is good, but there are spelling mistakes.

In my opinion *Euchromiini de Guyane française* would have benefited from the addition of a checklist, more elaborate and translated diagnoses for new species, the addition of diagnoses for all other species, more information on females, some introductory information on the morphology and monophyly of the group, and a thorough read by an experienced taxonomist. However, the author must be congratulated for his work. It will be indispensable to all interested in euchromiines and it should be added to all museum libraries containing decent collections of these beautiful moths.

LITERATURE CITED

- DIETZ IV, R.E. 1994. Systematics and biology of the genus *Macroceme* Hübner (Lepidoptera: Ctenuchidae). Univ. Calif. Publ. Ent. 113:1–121, 27 maps, 235 figs.
- DRAUDT, M. 1916–1917. Syntomidae. Pp 38–293. In A. Seitz (ed.), *Macrolépidoptères du Globe*, vol. 6, A. Kernen, Stuttgart.
- KITCHING, I.J. & J.E. RAWLINS. 1998. The Noctuoidea. Pp 355–401. In N.P. Kristensen (ed.), *Handbook of Zoology, Lepidoptera, Moths and Butterflies*, Vol. 1: Evolution, Systematics, and Biogeography. Walter de Gruyter, Berlin & New York.
- SIMMONS, R.B. & S.J. WELLER. 2006. Review of the *Sphecosoma* genus group using adult morphology (Lepidoptera: Arctiidae). T. Say Publ. Ent.: Monog. 101 pages.
- BERNARD LANDRY, *Muséum d'histoire naturelle, C.P. 6434, 1211 Geneva 6, Switzerland. e-mail: bernard.landry@ville-ge.ch.*