

BOOK REVIEW

Hans-Joachim Hannemann, 1995. Kleinschmetterlinge oder Microlepidoptera IV. Flachleibmotten (Depressariidae). – Die Tierwelt Deutschlands, 69. 192 pp., 13 plates (3 in colour), 84 text-figs., 84 maps. Gustav Fischer, Jena. Paperback. [ISBN 3-334-60959-6]. Price DEM 148.–.

After almost 20 years the fourth volume on Microlepidoptera is published in the series 'Tierwelt Deutschlands', written by the same author as the former three. It deals with the 84 Central European species of the small family Depressariidae, until recently considered to belong to the Oecophoridae and by some recent authors included in an enlarged concept of Elachistidae.

The text provides keys to species, descriptions of externals and genitalia, a short description of caterpillar and biology. The distribution is very briefly summarized and plotted on European maps by horizontal hatching. The maps provide very little detail. The distribution in Central Europe is described in some more detail. The identification is eased by accurate drawings of male and female genitalia and by black and white photographs of wing patterns. The colour plates are of poor quality, the moths are shown in natural size, not in focus, and the plates show shadows of the pins. For colour plates one should use Eivind Palms volume on Oecophoridae in the series 'Danmarks Dyreliv' (volume 4), which are enlarged twice and show the small details much better.

This book, however, is certainly a useful addition, because it brings together all information on this group from Central Europe for the first time. Most of this was previously dispersed in papers by Hannemann. It is also more complete than the Danish volume. Like the latter, also here I am missing a check-list and a hostplant catalogue or index. Specialists tend to forget that other users often want to have an entry on the basis of plant names rather than insect names.

Identification of the speciose genus *Agonopterix* is made easier by a split in four species groups, but identification of the groups is only possible on the basis of the hostplants! Therefore for the identification of non-reared specimens one must run through four keys. For the genus *Depressaria* there are only keys on the basis of the male genitalia.

This book certainly will be welcomed by lepidopterists, despite the relatively high price for a paperback of this size.

[Erik J. van Nieukerken]