

BOOK REVIEW

HAUSMANN A.: THE GEOMETRID MOTHS OF EUROPE. VOLUME 1. Apollo Books, Stenstrup (DK), 2001, 282 pp. + 8 colour plates. ISBN 87-88757-35-8 (Vol. 1.). Price DKK 480.00.

The high species diversity of geometrid moths and their value as bioindicators make them an attractive and popular objects for entomological studies. Modern taxonomic monographs of European importance and good identification guides are still badly needed - the last comprehensive European compendium was published nearly 90 years ago by Jules Culot. Only the Geometridae of northern and central Europe are relatively well known. Axel Hausmann (Munich) plans to publish a monograph of six volumes dealing with all European (West Palaearctic) taxa of Geometridae - the GME project. The Geometrid Moths of Europe (GME) in cooperation with several prominent authors is planned to complete by 2006. This first volume is written by A. Hausmann.

It is divided into two basic parts: (1) Introduction to the GME project and (2) Systematic account of 42 species of the first five subfamilies of Geometridae: Archiearinae, Orthostixinae, Desmobathrinae, Alsophilinae and Geometrinae. The introduction is a valuable general treatment, which is very important not only

for studies of the family Geometridae, but of Lepidoptera generally. It considers the modern aspects of morphology, evolution, ecology, applied entomology (biological management of pest species), and endangered species and their habitat conservation. The systematic account of the five subfamilies includes all the West Palaearctic taxa. For each species the author gives: full name, original reference, diagnosis, male and female genitalia, and geographic distribution, including a map of its range in Europe. All the species and their variations are fully illustrated in eight colour plates made up of high quality photographs. Hausmann's monograph ends with a comprehensive list of references and a check list of all the species included in the volume. The book is excellent and I hope the next five volumes will be of the same high quality. Such monographs are crucial for future taxonomic studies aimed at improving our knowledge of the faunistic richness and biodiversity of Lepidoptera in Europe. Modern means of electronic communication will facilitate the continuous updating and supplementing of the data present in all of the GME volumes (<http://www.zsm.mwn.de>). This book by A. Hausmann is recommended not only to all lepidopterists, but to all specialists engaged in applied entomology and conservation biology.

K. Spitzer