

BOOK REVIEW

LAŠTŮVKA Z. & LAŠTŮVKA A.: THE SESIIDAE OF EUROPE. Apollo Books, Stenstrup, 2001, 245 pp. ISBN: 87-88757-52-8. Price DKK 370.00.

This book presents a comprehensive synthesis of the information on 107 European species of the family Sesiidae. Professional and amateur entomologist have studied the day-flying clearwing moths for many years. The present monograph provides the correct determination of all the European species. The present book is an enlarged and revised version of the authors' "An Illustrated Key to European Sesiidae" published in 1995. Due to recent studies, which have increased the amount of information on this family, this book contains much new data. It includes additionally ten new sesiid taxa and four species, which are recorded for the first time since 1995 from Europe. Six of the former species are designated subspecies, three new synonyms are established and twelve new combinations are introduced.

The introductory section presents a short historical outline, brief information on the morphology, biology, list of host plants, collecting and rearing methods, distribution, phylogeny and classification, check-list of European Sesiidae and keys to European subfamilies, tribes, genera and species. The main part of the book is made up of a comprehensive systematic treatment of the genera and species of clearwing moths in Europe. Included

under each subfamily, tribe and genus are the original references to the names and brief accounts of the taxonomic characteristics. Included under each species are the original references to the names, differential diagnosis based on external features (in some species also notes on differential diagnosis based on male and female genitalia) and overview of each species biology, habitat and distribution. The nicely arranged plates include enlarged colour photographs of the adults of all the species. The drawings of male and female genitalia are technically perfect. For many species there are drawings of other characters important for species identification (antenna, thorax, forewing, the external transparent area, discal spot, dorsal and ventral abdominal pattern etc.). The distribution of the species is illustrated using maps. The last parts of the book include a distribution check-list, references and separate indices to all entomological taxa and host-plants.

This book is an excellent review of the lepidopteran family Sesiidae in Europe. The book is well organized and provides important new information on the taxonomy and biology of Sesiidae.

The book is recommended not only to specialists working on the family Sesiidae but also to all entomologists interested in European Lepidoptera.

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