

BOOK REVIEW

DE PRINS W. & DE PRINS J.: GRACILLARIIDAE (LEPIDOPTERA) – IN: WORLD CATALOGUE OF INSECTS 6. Apollo Books, Stenstrup, 2005, 502 pp. ISBN 87-88757-64-1. Price DKK 780.00.

The family Gracillariidae includes most leaf-mining moths, many of which are pest of agricultural and ornamental plants. The inventory of all the names is a very important first step in the study of this interesting family. The present catalogue lists 1809 species of Gracillariidae, which are grouped into 98 genera. An additional 517 synonymic species-group names and 34 synonymic genus group names are cited.

The book is divided into a brief introductory section, well compiled systematic catalogues of Gracillariidae, a comprehensive reference list and indices to scientific names of Lepidoptera, their parasitoids and hostplants. The introductory section contains, e.g., information on the sources and arrangement of the catalogue, and a list of abbreviations of the names of museums. A comparison with the published systematics of the family Gracillariidae from the 18th century is presented. Numbers of species group-names of Gracillariidae introduced each decade, since the first gracillariid species was described by Linnaeus in 1758, are briefly discussed. A great number of spe-

cies were described at the beginning of the 20th century, when numerous taxa were introduced by the famous lepidopterist Edward Meyrick. Meyrick described 600 species of Gracillariidae, approximately 26% of all the gracillariid species-group names.

The main part of the book, the systematic catalogue, provides information on the original description, type locality and type specimens, larval host plants, parasitoids and geographical distribution. All genera and species within each genus are listed alphabetically. One new name is introduced as a replacement name for a secondary homonym. Two genus-group names and four species-group names are synonymized, and 28 new combinations are introduced.

The present catalogue is a very important contribution to compilation of the knowledge on the biology and taxonomy of Gracillariidae. This well arranged and nicely printed book is an essential basic reference for all entomologists working on Lepidoptera, especially the family Gracillariidae. The book is available at Apollo books entomological booksellers (for more informations see website: www.apollobooks.com and e-mail: apollobooks@vip.cybercity.dk).

J. Jaroš