

## BOOK REVIEW

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SCHINTLMEISTER A.: PALAEARCTIC MACROLEPIDOPTERA. VOL. 1: NOTODONTIDAE. Apollo Books, Stenstrup, 2008, 482 pp., ISBN 978-87-88757-77-4. Price EUR 140.00, USD 196.00.

This book written by Alexander Schintlmeister is truly magnificent. It describes 716 notodontid species and numerous subspecies, which occur at least partly in the Palaearctic (however, the distribution of many of the species included in this text indicates a more suitable title might be “Notodontidae of Palaearctic and Oriental regions”). 59 new taxa are described; many others are synonymized or their taxonomic status is revised. This book reviews all the work that has been done on Notodontidae since the publication of the monumental series of books, edited by Adalbert Seitz. As the knowledge of the majority of the species (especially those from Central Asia and the Eastern Palaearctic) remains scattered, it is understandable that the book deals only with adult stages.

The book begins with a brief characterisation of the family and its classification, followed by a checklist of all Palaearctic taxa. Furthermore, it briefly presents an account of the biogeog-

raphic origin of notodontid faunal elements. The largest part of the book contains information on all the taxa, accompanied by photographs of the genitalia of males and females, with unique characters highlighted. The author also provides the type localities and current holotype locations. Distribution range of each species is presented on a separate map. For subspecies, the distributions are presented on one map for each species. However, it is not always clear, which symbol represents which subspecies and sometimes one symbol represents two different taxa (type localities in Fig. 274), or more symbols are used without any apparent reason (for instance, Figs 376, 998). The book then continues with biographical notes of selected (49) entomologists, from Carl Linnaeus through the last Russian Tsar, Nikolai, to the author. The final part of the book is a synopsis of taxonomic changes, an extensive list of references and 40 colour plates.

The book is important for everyone who is seriously interested in notodontid taxonomy and biogeography. We believe that colleagues interested in moths and similar flying jewels will be impressed.

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