

BOOK REVIEW

NAUMANN C.M., TARMANN G.M. & TREMEWAN W.G.: THE WESTERN PALAEARCTIC ZYGAENIDAE. Apollo Books, Stenstrup, 1999, 304 pp. 12 colour plates. ISBN 87-88757-15-3. Price DKK 600.00.

The zygaenid moths (burnets and foresters) represents one of the most striking groups of diurnal Lepidoptera. The group is very important for modern studies in ecological biogeography and conservation biology. This new book, written by three renowned specialists (with a foreword by Miriam Rothschild) in the taxonomy and ecology of Zygaenidae, includes all 116 western Palaearctic species and their geographical races. This well arranged publication is divided into general and systematic parts. In the systematic part, there are detailed diagnoses, keys, descriptions and accounts of the life histories of all the western Palaearctic taxa including figures and distribution maps. All the adults, some larvae and their typical habitats are illustrated in 12

superb colour plates. The general part deals with general systematics, phylogeny, morphology, anatomy, genetics, ecology and behaviour. One of the most interesting ecological chapters gives an account of the famous "cyanogenesis" and defensive biology, which is characteristic of Zygaenidae. The concluding chapters of the very comprehensive general part provide detailed information on zygaenid moths relevant to conservation biology (e.g. indicator species), give an outline of the history of the research on Zygaenidae and present many new and fascinating facts.

This beautiful book by is very attractive and a most important modern monograph on western Palaearctic Zygaenidae. Therefore, I thoroughly recommend this publication to all lepidopterists and conservationists interested in entomology.

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