

Tropical Lepidoptera, 4(2): 142

## BOOK REVIEWS

**ILLUSTRATIONS OF MOTHS IN TAIWAN, 1-5**

by B. S. Chang

**Vol. 1:** Sphingidae, Ratardidae, Epipyropidae, Drepanidae, Cyclidiidae, Thyatiridae, Epicopeiidae, Callidulidae, Lasiocampidae, Eupterotidae, Bombycidae, Brahmaeidae, Agaristidae [Noctuidae, part]. 242 pp, 271 col. fig., col. cover. 1989. (paper only)

**Vol. 2:** Arctiidae, Hypsiidae [Noctuidae, part], Limacodidae, Notodontidae. 310 pp, 356 col. fig., col. cover. 1989.

**Vol. 3:** Geometridae [1]. Oenochrominae, Geometrinae, Sterrhinae, Larentiinae. 350 pp, 405 col. fig., col. cover. 1989.

**Vol. 4:** Geometridae [2]. Ennominae. 480 pp, 684 col. fig., col. cover. 1990.

**Vol. 5:** Noctuidae [1]. 366 pp, 572 col. fig., col. cover. 1991. (paper only)

1989-91. Taiwan Museum, Taipei. All are 21 x 18.5 cm. (elongate) In Chinese; Latin names. Price for each is \$35.00 paper, \$42.00 cloth. Available from Flora & Fauna Books, P. O. Box 15718, Gainesville, FL 32604 (plus \$2 shipping each, or \$5 per set).

This series of small, full-color books is the result of a lifetime of collecting by retired Taiwan high school teacher B. S. Chang. Until 1991, 5 volumes were completed, but the second part of the Noctuidae has unfortunately been halted by the untimely death of the author. It is not known if a manuscript is available for the eventual completion of this series on the macro-moths of Taiwan.

The books present photographs of most of the species for each family of macro-moths known for Taiwan, with the color figures of set specimens illustrated in an enlarged format of 3-4 inches in size. A total of 1,293 species are treated in the 5 volumes. Many species have both the male and female illustrated, and sometimes varieties are shown as well. Numerous photographs are also reproduced showing species during life and of larvae. Volumes 3-5 also have genitalia illustrated (in color). Distribution maps for Taiwan are given for each species, but only for specimens in the author's private collection. The text is in Chinese throughout and only the scientific names are in Latin; however, the enlarged figures allow most species to be easily identified. The arrangement of the books is completely haphazard as to family sequence. Other than the incomplete Noctuidae, the Saturniidae, Lymantriidae, and Zygaenidae, are also not treated. For the smaller families, most Taiwan species are illustrated but some are lacking: e.g., in Sphingidae only 59 of the 79 species recorded from Taiwan are noted, and in Callidulidae, only 2 out of 4 known are illustrated. The larger families have many species that are not illustrated, making identification of some Taiwan species still questionable. Geometridae, however, are well represented,

with 706 species illustrated out of the 791 recorded for Taiwan. The color figures are all excellent but many of the wing venation drawings are very faintly reproduced in the books.

Overall, the books are one of the unique treatments of Lepidoptera in the world. However, the series evidently did not undergo any kind of peer review or any review as to accuracy of names; the accuracy of the Chinese text could not be verified by this reviewer. Numerous names are incorrect for the species shown, or are junior synonyms, or in some cases are misspelled, thus making the use of the books only tentative for accurate identification. Chang also used a number of new species names in Noctuidae that were to have been described by S. Sugi, of Japan, thus validating the names ahead of Sugi's proposed work. The errors and new names in this series have been noted in the Taiwan catalog recently published by the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera (Heppner & Inoue (eds.), *Lepidoptera of Taiwan, 1. Part 2: Checklist*. 1992), and users can check names from the Chang books in this catalog to verify accuracy.

This series is an exceptional value for the amount of color (even the distribution maps are in color!) and the number of species treated; one third of the Taiwan fauna. Many species also occur in other parts of Southeast Asia, so collectors interested in Oriental moths should certainly have these books in their library.

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**ILLUSTRATIONS OF DAY-FLYING MOTHS IN TAIWAN**

by Hsiau-Yue Wang

1993. Taiwan Museum, Taipei. 106 pp, 156 col. fig., col. cover. 14.5 x 21 cm. In Chinese; Latin names.

Price: \$16.00 paper (ISBN 957-531-304-6). Available from Flora & Fauna Books, P. O. Box 15718, Gainesville, FL 32604 (plus \$2 shipping).

This surprising little booklet gives a full-color treatment of many of the moths known to be day-flying in Taiwan. The author is a well-known nature photographer in Taiwan and is on the staff of the Taiwan Museum as the curator for Lepidoptera. The results of many years of photographing moths during the day has resulted in this first treatment for this behavior.

Most of the color figures are of adults (some are set specimens) and a number of photographs show the larvae. Families represented include Zygaenidae, Arctiidae (as Syntomidae), Epicopeiidae, Adelidae, Noctuidae, Glyhipterygidae [sic], Uraniidae, Epiplemidae, Palaeosetidae, Sphingidae, and Callidulidae. The order of presentation is as just noted, so the families are in no particular phylogenetic order. There are num-

erous other families and species that also have some day-flying species but at least the more well-known examples are presented in the book.

This booklet continues the usual practise in Taiwan of having only Chinese text, with no English summary; only the title is translated into English. All scientific names are in Latin. The modest price for such a highly illustrated book, and the unique subject, certainly should allow anyone interested in Oriental moths to purchase a copy.

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