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Book Review: *Glyhipterigidae auctorum sensu lato*

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Book Review

Glyphipterigidae auctorum sensu lato (Glyphipterigidae sensu Meyrick, 1913), containing Tortricidae: Hilo-graphini, Choreutidae, Brachodidae (*partim*), Immidae, and Glyphipterigidae. Diakonoff, A. 1986. In, H.G. Amsel, *et. al.* (eds.), *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica*. Vol. 7. Karlsruhe: G. Braun. Text part, 436 pp.; fig. part, 175 pls. (including 18 color pls.). DM 500.00 (approx. \$295.00).

This is another volume in the extensive series planned on Palearctic Microlepidoptera (including Pyralidae). The expertise of Dr. Diakonoff, particularly in Tortricidae, provides a welcome coverage for the included species. This is especially true for the previously conglomerated assortment of species placed in Glyphipterigidae by E. Meyrick and the fact that until recently this classification was followed by most works on the Palearctic fauna. The previous concept of Glyphipterigidae has been considerably altered in the past decade; where Meyrick had over 1,200 species worldwide in one family, we now have four separate families and part of a fifth family for the bulk of these species, while about 200 other species have been assigned to about 20 other families from Meyrick's erroneous placements. This current MP volume revises and illustrates the Palearctic fauna of the five major groups of the previous Glyphipterigidae for the first time using modern taxonomic concepts and detailed analysis of characters such as genitalia, not used by Meyrick and many older workers.

The general format and layout of the work is as flawless as the others in the series. The color plates are excellent, although of water color paintings and not photographs of the specimens. The many genitalia drawings are also done in very excellent fashion and are well reproduced in the book. The text provides a brief historical review of the taxonomy of the species and higher categories involved, their distribution, food plants, and general morphology. There are also notes on immature stages and some particular techniques familiar to the author in collecting specimens and genitalia dissection procedures. Extensive use of other museum

collections has been made such that a very complete range notation is provided for most of the included species. As in other parts of the MP series, the work also includes extensive indices for host plants, Lepidoptera names, and geographical names, plus an extensive bibliography.

The work covers 150 species, although a number of these would not normally be considered part of the Palearctic fauna, actually being Oriental, but additionally there are 13 names used either as subspecies or as a number of forms. The International Code on Zoological Nomenclature rejects form names in modern taxonomic work and does not recognize their use or publication, thus it is odd that the author has continued to publish these form names for several species included in these families and also continues to maintain the names in the present work. The coverage does not include any new taxa, since a number of new species, as well as new "forms," were published in recent scientific papers prior to the present MP volume. The taxonomy used in the work is otherwise in order as far as this reader is aware, although Diakonoff oddly did not make use of the most recent classification in the family Immidae and all species are maintained in the genus *Imma* even though recent studies have clearly shown that several named genera are involved; an alternate classification to *Imma* is noted but not followed, preferring to following Meyrick.

The MP series covers the Palearctic fauna and understandably the borders to this faunal region are not always clear cut. However, this MP volume is rather odd in including about 30 species out of the 150 treated that are clearly tropical Oriental species by habitat and host range and in fact have no listed true Palearctic locality records noted in the text, only the indication that they might possibly some day be found in the normally accepted parameters of the Palearctic faunal region. This situation is primarily found in the coverage for Japan, since although the Ryukyu Islands are part of Japan politically, their fauna is entirely tropical Oriental. To include these species in the Palearctic fauna would be the

equivalent situation of including the Neotropical species of Puerto Rico in a work on the Nearctic fauna merely because Puerto Rico happens to be U.S. territory. Beyond this apparent lack of editorial control, the work will be without doubt the major work on much of the Old World fauna of the treated moths for years to come.

The inclusion of five separate and unrelated families (except for the relationship between Brachodidae and Choreutidae) in one MP volume is unfortunate. It maintains the myth that these species still are somehow related to each other because that is where Meyrick and past authors have always placed them, possibly because of their similar appearing bright colors. This line of reasoning, however, would surely make a great disarray in the MP series if continued for other groups: e.g., Cossidae, Limacodidae and Megalopygidae could be put into one volume with Bombycidae and Saturniidae and Sphingidae (although the latter three are not micros), since these all used to be in the "Bombyces" of older workers. Other than Brachodidae and Choreutidae, the included families are all quite isolated in the phylogeny of the Microlepidoptera, making their inclusion in a single MP volume quite unreasonable. In addition, the major Palearctic part of the Brachodidae, the genus *Brachodes* for which the family is named, is not even in this MP volume but will be included in a volume by Zagulajev, possibly with Tineidae, Eriocottidae, and Psychidae, since that is where older workers used to place "*Atychia*" (= *Brachodes*) moths. It would be much more appropriate to have cohesive taxonomic units in each MP volume and have various authors responsible for particular families or genera if one author cannot have the entire assignment, thus at least following a

modern classification of the Microlepidoptera as they are currently understood.

Notwithstanding my above remarks, I find the work overall very well done and the clear result of considerable work on the part of the author, a highly regarded specialist on Tortricidae. One final note should only be made regarding the excessively high price of this volume as well as the entire MP series. There is little if any consideration towards reducing pricing, the publishers apparently have decided on a sales market of various libraries around the world to recover their investment, since most amateurs and even many professionals will find the price rather out of reach for their modest book budgets. On the other hand the MP has been coming out only every 2-3 years so one could look on it as an expensive journal subscription of \$75-100 per year, but even this price psychology retains the series beyond the reach of many amateurs who wish to identify their collections with a well illustrated series for the Palearctic.

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