

Book Reviews

Handbook of Moth Ecology.

Miyata, Akira, 1983. Showado Printing Publishing Division, Japan. 1451 pp. (in Japanese) in 2 volumes + 16 pp. English summary. No price stated.

In the sciences an English speaking person cannot be accused of chauvanism for balking at foreign language works, because English is the de facto language of science. It is consequently unfortunate that this very data rich and generally significant work does not have more of its content in English and thus be universally available.

Volume I lists 3370 moth species of Japan with their known foodplants, understandable by Latin nomenclature. Buried are details on habitat, phenology, nocturnal activity, diapause stage, and distribution. The second volume turns these data around and lists 1056 foodplants with their moth hosts. Then we have a biogeographical table with each species and its distribution by main islands, prefectures of Kyushu, and the islands of the Amami and Ryuku chains, each species classified by its general distribution outside Japan, and some distribution maps. Next is a section on methodology of collecting for quantative purposes, discussion on flight time activity and interrelation with climatic factors. Finally a biogeographical discussion highlighting habitat relationships, specifically with inter-island distributions. The English summary provides some guide to tables and figures which are not otherwise immediately obvious.

What is seriously missing is an understanding to just what the intriguing subtitle "Moths as an Indicator of the Environment" refers. Is there a hidden correlation of species clusters with modal ecological aggregates (biomes) or are we presented with an approach as Kudrna uses in his forthcoming *Butterflies of Europe* where Lepidoptera are viewed as important elements in assessing environmental quality? Either way this work appears too valuable to have been denied access by the greater scientific community.

For further information, the author should be contacted at: Department of Biology, Medical College of Oita, 1-1506 Hazamamachi, Oita-gun, Oita-pref., JAPAN 879-56.

R. H. T. Mattoni, 9620 Heather Road, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Advances and Challenges in Insect Rearing.

King, E. G. & N. C. Leppla, 1984. ARS/USDA, New Orleans. xvi + 306 pp. Price: \$8.00 (U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402)

Although aimed primarily at those concerned with mass rearing of all insect groups for economic purposes, there is a wealth of theory and practical information in this volume for everyone involved in rearing any insects. The publication derives from a symposium on the subject. In the "How To" section, over half the procedures discussed concern Lepidoptera, which emphasize programs for mega individual production under factory conditions. Nevertheless the principles of rearing on artificial diets, genetic effects, disease problems, material resources, etc. make this a valuable reference and at the price a real bargain.

R. H. T. Mattoni, 9620 Heather Road, Beverly Hills, CA 90210



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