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"AN INDEX TO THE DESCRIBED LI1:E HISTORIES, EARLY STAGES AND HOSTS OF THE MACROLEPIDOPTERA OF THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND CANADA," by Harrison Morton Tietz, 1972

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BOOK REVIEW

"AN INDEX TO THE DESCRIBED LIFE HISTORIES, EARLY STAGES AND HOSTS OF THE MACROLEPIDOPTERA OF THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND CANADA," by Harrison Morton Tietz, 1972. Two volumes, 1041 p., published by A. C. Allyn for the Allyn Museum of Entomology, Sarasota, Florida. Distributed exclusively in North America by Entomological Reprint Specialists, P.O. Box 77971, Dockweiler Station, Los Angeles, California 90007. Price: $25.00 U.S. per set.

This monumental Index is the first attempt to prepare a bibliography of the immature stages of North American butterflies and moths since Edward's *Bibliographical Catalogue of the Described Transformations of North American Lepidoptera,* published in 1889. The compilation includes Edward's work and published data through sometime in 1950 when the manuscript was initiated. Except for an introduction by William D. Field and J. F. Gates Clarke, both of the National Museum of Natural History, there is no introduction or other prefacing remarks by the author.

The Index is divided into two parts: Part I–Insects, and Part II–Plants, although Volume 1 contents, representing about half the total number of pages, continues into Volume 2. Under Part 1, there are three sections: A–Works Consulted (periodicals, separate works, bibliographies); B–Insect Common Names and C–Macrolepidoptera. Included in the latter section are the names of all species, subspecies and forms, including synonyms, alphabetically listed with cross-references to the main entry. The nomenclature follows that of McDunnough's 1938 *Check List of the Lepidoptera of Canada and the United States of America: Part 1, Macrolepidoptera.* Each main entry is followed with synonyms, forms and subspecies, bibliography of published life history references and list of food plants. This section represents the greatest number of pages in the Index, and is one of the most valuable to the researcher.

Part II includes five sections: A–Zoological Hosts; B–Common Names; C–Indefinite Designations; D–Scientific Names; E–Synonyms. It would appear that Section D is most useful as it lists host plants and their "Insect Enemies." The plants are listed alphabetically by genus and species with the common name, followed with a list of all known macrolepidoptera arranged by family. When the scientific name of the plant is unknown, it can be located in Section B under the common name.

Undoubtedly, this Index will be a valuable reference to professional and serious amateur lepidopterists, especially those engaged in life history studies or rearing activities. It will enable anyone to quickly determine whether or not life history or food plant

observations and data are new or have been previously published, prior to 1950. This Index should challenge some researchers to compile additional life histories and food plant data. The food plant lists are useful, too, in attempting to locate 'missing' species in a particular region and identify unknown larvae from known plants.

There are, however, some comments that should be made concerning the thoroughness and accuracy of the Index. It is unfortunate that the work is not more current as there has been a wealth of new life history and food plant data published within the past twenty-three years. This shortcoming may be a disappointment to some who purchase this Index only to find they must still do considerable bibliographical research. It is not unusual for an index of this size to be without some errors of commission and omission. The most unaccountable omission is the author's failure to include references to Field's 1938 *Studies in Kansas Insects: A Manual of the Butterflies and Skippers of Kansas*; Forbes' 1923 *Lepidoptera of New York and Neighboring States: Part 1*; Leonard's 1928 *Insects of New York*; and Macy and Shepard's 1941 *Butterflies*. Collectively these works include much data on immature stages for many species of Eastern North America. Disappointing, too, there is no reference made to the *Lepidopterists' News*, first published in 1947.

Some readers may find the relatively small type difficult; others will find annoying the frequent use of asterisks throughout the Index under Part 1, Sections B and C without an appropriate footnote or explanation. It is unfortunate the author did not indicate the source of common names of insects used in Part 1, Section B. There are many names that are unknown or little used by lepidopterists of today, i.e., "Alderman Butterfly" for *Vanessa atalanta* (Linnaeus), or "The Joker" for *Feralia jocosa* (Guenée). In checking Holland's *Moth Book*, we find 78 common names listed for the popular *Catocala* species; yet, this Index includes only 43 of these common names. The Index does not include other frequently used common names, i.e., Bog Fritillary, *Boloria eunomia* (Esper), Bruce's Swallowtail, *Papilio brucei* Edwards, Iowa Skipper, *Atrytone arogos* (Boisduval & LeConte), Little Metal-Mark, *Calephelis virginiensis* (Guerin), and Mitchell's Satyr, *Euptychia mitchellii* (French)–to name only a few. One may also question the source of "Pearly-Eyed Grayling" when most references use Pearly Eye, referring to *Lethe portlandia* (Fabricius). On page 53 "Umber Moth" should read Umber Skipper for *Poanes melane* (Edwards).

Under Section C, there are several life history headings without published references; however, food plants are listed. One immediately wonders where the author obtained this data; did he personally make this observation or was the publication reference omitted in error? On page 148, *brevicornis* and other names on this page follows *browningi*, an obvious error of alphabetical arrangement. Under *juvenalis* Abbot & Smith on page 376, it is incorrectly designated as a synonym of *brizo* (Boisduval).

Part II contains some information which may prove to be of little value to the researcher. There is no indication as to the source of both common and scientific plant names; therefore one must assume they were gleaned from published references cited in Part 1. One could also question the usefulness of Section C, "Indefinite Designations," with numerous insect species listed under such vague headings of "Forest Trees" or "Most Anything." There are a few food plant references that appear erroneous, through no fault of the author. Under *Cercis* (Redbud), both *Incisalia henrici* (Grote & Robinson) and *I. irus* (Godart) are associated with this plant in the larval stage; yet, it is known that these elfins were confused by early taxonomists and therefore much of their food plant observations were erroneously cited in early publications.

Regardless of these errors and omissions, this Index will undoubtedly serve as the main bibliography of macrolepidoptera life histories and food plants for years to come. Certainly the Allyn Museum of Entomology deserves considerable credit for publishing this Index, thereby making this information available to many lepidopterists who otherwise would not have benefited.

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