

BOOK REVIEW

PITTAWAY A.R.: THE HAWKMOTHS OF THE WESTERN PALAEARCTIC. Harley Books, London, 1993, 240 pp., 20 colour plates, 57 maps, 55 text figures. ISBN 0-946589-21-6. Price £ 55.00.

The family of hawkmoths (Sphingidae, Lepidoptera) represents a group of very popular, large and striking moths, which are particularly useful for ecological and physiological studies. The family is also an excellent subject for ecological observation and nature conservation projects. The new book is concerned with all 57 western Palearctic species. The introductory parts begin with an interesting historical account of the study of hawkmoths, followed by chapters on their morphology, classification, ecology and life history. In the systematic part, detail biological descriptions of the 57 species and 28 subspecies, with text figures of immature stages, genitalia and wing patterns are given. Life history

data of all species are provided as well. 57 maps provide information about geographic range of hawkmoths recorded from the western Palearctic. All species and their larvae are illustrated on 13 superb colour plates. 7 colour plates illustrate habitats and living specimens of larvae and adults. Comprehensive appendices contain methods of rearing of hawkmoths, host-plants, gazetteer, and glossary. The final part is a bibliography.

The beautiful book is a most important monograph relating to western Palearctic Sphingidae, providing all important information for modern experimental studies and ecological observations of hawkmoths. Entomologists, in general, and lepidopterists, in particular, will find Pittaway's book indispensable.

K. Spitzer