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Author(s): Davey, S.

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THE MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND IRELAND

by J. Heath and A.M. Emmet

Published by Harley Books, the paperback
edition (September 1986), volumes 1, 9 and
10. Price £24.95 per volume.

In the 1960s, there was a very great need for
a comprehensive work on Lepidoptera. For
many years most lepidopterists turned to
Richard South. In the early 1960s, a new
edition became available using new plates
which were thought by most to be inferior to
the older ones. Bernard Skinner's recent,
and excellent book on British Moths, coupled
with Higgins and Riley's book on European
Butterflies, fulfil the identification needs
of most lepidopterists who study the 'macros'.

THE MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND IRELAND is a series for the
specialist, and the student of
microlepidoptera. The drawings of genitalia,
venation, scent glands, etc., are excellent,
clear and easy to use. Until now, there has
been no comprehensive reference work for the
identification of all microlepidoptera and
the critical macrolepidoptera, and, when
finished, this work should fulfil this need.

As a reference book dealing with the subject
in depth, it is good to see the sections on
parasites, diseases, conservation, collecting
and preserving techniques, habitats,
migration, etc. The distribution maps are
also very useful and although a ten kilometre
square cover for the microlepidoptera is not
available, presence or absence by vice county
is certainly the next best thing. It is also
good to see proper identification keys. The
colour illustrations are absolutely
excellent, and of the standard one has come
to expect in recent years. It is a pity that
the printing is not always all it might be;
the Sphingidae plates in volume 9 are
particularly poor. The bibliography and
references, placed conveniently at the end of
each section, are exhaustive and extremely
useful.

There is no doubt that, when complete, this
work will be the greatest contribution to the
study of Lepidoptera for many years.

However, at £24.95 a volume, I am at a loss
to know who the paperback edition is aimed
at. Libraries and learned institutions will
surely have purchased hard back copies of the
volumes available already, and will wish to
continue to do so. Perhaps it would have
been better to have produced a reference book
containing just the sections on
Microlepidoptera identification. This would
certainly have filled a much needed gap, and
could have been produced at a price that many
microlepidopterists could afford.

To date, Volumes 1, 9 and 10 are available in
hardback and paperback. Volumes 2 and 7 are
promised in 1987 while the others are being
worked on and should be ready in due course.
When finished, which I am sure all would hope
will not be too far into the future, I am

certain this will be the definitive work on
Lepidoptera for many years to come. However,
I do not think even in this paperback
edition, it is for the private library of any
except the most dedicated, and exceptionally
well off.

Simon Davey
Hampshire County Museum Service

BIOLOGICAL RECORDING IN A CHANGING
LANDSCAPE

edited by P.T. Harding and D.A. Roberts

Published by the National Federation for
Biological Recording, 1986.

Available from Museum Documentation
Association, Building 0, 347 Cherry Hinton
Road, Cambridge CB1 4DH.

Price £6.00 (£4.50 NFBR members) plus p&p.

The inaugural conference of the National
Federation for Biological Recording (NFBR)
took place at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge,
on the 15th and 16th of April 1986. This
booklet, the proceedings of that conference,
is a collection of four seminar papers and
ten workshop reports covering wide-ranging
topics highly relevant to anyone involved in
biological recording. The editors are to be
congratulated for producing the booklet the
same year that the conference was held - a
rare feat these days.

"The need for biological recording now"
(Dr. F.H. Perring), the "Botanical Society
of the British Isles monitoring scheme"
(R.G. Ellis), "An ecological data unit"
(G.L. Radford) and "Survey and monitoring in
the Nature Conservancy Council" (Dr. R.J.
Keymer) are the seminar paper titles.
Workshop reports include: "Priority taxa",
"Created habitats", "Hidden data", "Handbook
for biological recording", Habitat
classification" and "Consultancy work".
In all a wealth of information.

My only criticism is the price which seems
excessive for a 60 page booklet with a soft
card cover.

Howard Mendel
Ipswich Museums

Non-chemical pest control systems

If you have any experiences, no matter how
minor, with pest control using freezing,
heating, freeze-drying, microwave or
irradiation techniques, please send details
to Steve Garland at Bolton Museum. Steve
will collate the returns and write a summary
for the Newsletter which may form the basis
of a future Group meeting. Include details
of the pest species and type of specimen
involved and the success or otherwise of the
treatment.