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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Author(s): Mendel, H.

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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.