

Preface

With this volume we continue the treatment of the Noctuidae, one of the taxonomically most difficult and diverse group of Noctuidae. Some of the genera which are treated in this volume have already been mentioned in the Preface of the previous part of Noctuidae I: *Chersotis*. It also means that this book was preceded by a long and friendly cooperation of the authors started before more than 40 years. The study of the genera treated here has been initiated already in the seventies, at first by the description of some new species and subspecies from the collection Vartian. It was continued by the revision of most of the largest collections of Europe resulted in our first, monographic publication on the genus *Eugnorisma* (Varga & Ronkay 1987), and followed by several longer (Varga, Ronkay & Yela 1990) and shorter papers dealing partly with *Eugnorisma* s. str., partly with its closest relatives, resulting in the description of further new genera (*Oligarcha*, *Protognorisma*, *Anagnorisma*, *Schizognorisma*, *Goniographa*, see: Varga, Ronkay & Gyulai 1995, Ronkay & Varga 1999, Varga & Ronkay 2002) and species and the phylogenetic and biogeographical survey of these groups.

Since these genera are closely related with some already described but partly rather incompletely known genera, we continued our work with the treatment of some further generic groups, e.g. *Eugraphe* and related genera, *Pseudohermonassa*, *Paramathes*, and *Spaelotis*. Thus, this volume contains the complete presentation of the species and subspecies of 19 genera, incl. 4 subgenera, with the description of one new genus, two new subgenera and several new species and subspecies. The genitalia of both sexes of each taxa are illustrated and their phylogenetic and biogeographical connections are also discussed. Since these genera and their species/subspecies demonstrate a rich variety of colourful vs. unicolorous appearance with considerable geographical and individual variation, it was necessary to figure a larger number of specimens of most taxa, including valuable type materials from several large European collections, due to the friendly courtesy of our colleagues. Of course, we are proud that a significant part of these specimens belong to some large collections in Hungary; the details you can see in the type enumerations and also in the legends of the coloured plates, which follow the style of the previous volumes. Similarly to the earlier volumes of this series, this volume is also based on a large number of genital slides, almost exclusively prepared by the authors. Although we already had several hundreds of slides from the times of our earlier publications, these have been completed by a large number of new slides. The technique of photographic reproduction was also continuously improved, mostly by long experience of Gabor Ronkay and also by the kind helpfulness of our friends in the Natural History Museum Vienna, the Natural History Museum London, the Zoological State Collection Munich and State Collection of Natural History Karlsruhe.

The authors would like to expect that this book will be a worthy continuation of the Taxonomic Atlas series and hope that our work will meet the approval both of professional entomologists and of enthusiasts of this fascinating group of moths.

We sorrowfully commemorate our dear Friend, Kauri Mikkola, excellent researcher of our beloved science, member of the scientific advisory team of the Taxonomic Atlas series and Honorary Member of the European Society of Lepidopterology. This volume and one of our newly described species should remind us on his unforgettable personality.

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The authors

Abbreviations

- BC CAS – Biological Centrum, Czech Academy of Sciences, Ceské Budejovice
BIN – Biological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk
BMNH – The Natural History Museum (formerly British Museum, Natural History, London)
EIHU – Entomological Institute, Hokkaido University, Sapporo
GYP – slide of Péter Gyulai
HH – slide of Hermann-Heinrich Hacker
HM – slide of Márton Hreblay
HT – slide of Hubert Thöny
HNHM – Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest
ICZN – International Code of Zoological Nomenclature
LMK – Kärntner Landesmuseum, Klagenfurt
LSL – The Linnean Society, London
MHNG – Museum of Natural History, Geneva
MNHNP – Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris
NHMB – Natural History Museum, Basel
NHMW – Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien
NLMW – Niederösterreichisches Landesmuseum, Wien
NRS – Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm
NSMT – National Science Museum, Tsukuba
OP – slide of Oleg Pekarsky
RL – slide of László Ronkay
SMNK – Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Karlsruhe
SMNS – Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart
USNMW – National Museum of Natural History, Washington
VZ – slide of Zoltán Varga
ZFMK – Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn
ZISP – Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg
ZMHU – Museum für Naturkunde (formerly Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität), Berlin
ZMM – Zoological Museum of the Lomonossov University, Moscow.
ZMUC – Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen
ZSM – Zoologische Sammlung des Bayerischen Staates (Zoologische Staatssammlung), München

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