

MICROLEPIDOPTERA WORKSHOP NBDC WATERFORD 18 JULY
2009

Recommended literature for the British and Irish Microlepidoptera

Beirne, B. P. 1952. British Pyralid and Plume Moths. Warne

Although somewhat out of date, this is the only work that illustrates both Plumes and Pyralids, and it is still the most recent British work on Plumes. An earlier edition (1952) had very poor illustrations; my copy (1954) has much better ones.

Bradley, J. Tremewan & Smith (2 vols. 1970's) British Tortricoid Moths.

An excellent guide to the Tortricidae, including detailed faunal information for each species, and illustrating a very good range of variation; a very important aspect in this family

Emmet, A.M. & Langmaid, J.R. The Moths & Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland Vols 1-10

(vols 5-8 have not yet appeared, will they ever?)

Volumes 1-4 cover all the Microlepidoptera except the Tortricidae, Plumes and Pyralids, but The Tortricidae are adequately covered by Bradley Tremewan & Smith; while the Pyralids are well covered by Goater (and Beirne); and the Plumes moths are covered by Beirne). Apart from Vol. 1, which was published by Curwen, all volumes were published by Harley Books, Colchester

Vols 1 -4 well illustrated, especially vols 3 & 4 (the latter coming in two parts). They are, unfortunately quite expensive (cheaper soft back versions do exist). Vol. 4 pt 1 is probably the one to chose if you can afford only one, as it includes relatively familiar and larger species, such as the House-moths, and Parsnip Moth and its close relatives. Vol. 4 pt 2 is in my opinion one of the best insect identification guides ever produced, with excellent colour illustrations of every species, and male & female genitalia of every species illustrated very accurately

Goater, B. 1986 British Pyralid Moths. Harley Books.

Razowski, J. Tortricidae of Europe.

This illustrates nearly all the central/western European Tortricidae.

Advantages:

wide range of species; up-to-date coverage.

Negative aspects:

- 1 Confusingly large range of similar species to check, making identification difficult
- 2 Some western/Atlantic seaboard species are not included
- 3 There are errors in the illustrations (a list of these can be provided on request)
- 4 Only a few illustrations of each species; not sufficient for the highly variable species; for which Bradley et al. give a much wider range of forms
- 5 Doesn't illustrate distinctive Irish forms, which Bradley et al. generally do.