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**The Hawkmoths of the Western Palaearctic.**

*By A. R. Pittaway FRES.*

*Published 1993 by Harley Books in association with the Natural History Museum, London. ISBN 0 946589 21 6. 250pp. 20 col.pls, 60 figs, 58 maps.*

**£55.00**

There are nearly sixty species of Sphingidae known from the Western Palaearctic and this book encompasses them all. Each is illustrated by colour photographic plates of set specimens, as now used in most recent publications. There are also a number of distinct subspecies included. The larvae of a number of the more western and widespread species are illustrated by colour paintings, although many from south-eastern areas have yet to be described.

Each species has a distribution map and a description of its range, with references. There is a full list of synonyms and a detailed description of the adult and immature stages, when known, together with notes on subspecies and distinguishing features. There is also a summary of biological and ecological information, including a full table of known parasitoids. The knowledge of their biology is extended into a large amount of information concerning the rearing and breeding of many species. These details are obviously based on the vast experience of Tony Pittaway with this family. His enthusiasm for the group lies with their biology and ecology and he devotes a chapter to their ecology, including photographs of many of their habitats in eastern Europe that are less familiar to western Europeans.

The book is a thorough and detailed treatment of the western Palaearctic hawkmoths in the true Harley Books tradition and will remain a standard reference for a long time.

*Steve Garland.*