

THE BUTTERFLIES OF THE MALAY PENINSULA

by A. Steven Corbet and H. M. Pendlebury; 4th revised edition by J. N. Eliot
Color plates by B. D'Abbrera for this edition.

1992 (4th ed.). Malayan Nature Soc., Kuala Lumpur. 595 pp, 64 col. pl., 6 halftones. 19 x 25 cm.

Price: \$125.00 cloth (ISBN 983-9681-05-2). Available from Flora & Fauna Books, P. O. Box 15718, Gainesville, FL 32604, or other dealers.

This magnificent new edition of Corbet and Pendlebury's classic work on the butterflies of the Malay Peninsula begins with a stunning color frontispiece of *Troides (Trogonoptera) brookiana albescens* Rothschild. The remaining 63 color plates and 6 black and white plates are all newly photographed for this edition by Bernard D'Abbrera, mostly from specimens in the collection of the current reviser, Lt. Col. J. N. Eliot. The text has been revised since the last edition in 1978, particularly by the addition of 20 species recorded for Malaysia since then. Other changes involve new nomenclature for various species, due to new study of holotypes to verify synonymies, etc., and the alteration of various generic concepts to subgeneric level. Another new addition is a supplementary bibliography to the original references for all Malaysian butterflies, which is in addition to the bibliography for references to Malaysian butterfly studies. Other features include a census of the butterflies and skippers covered by the work (a total of 1,031 species); a checklist of related species from nearby regions mentioned in the text; and a list of the hostplants known for Malaysian butterflies.

The text is exceptionally well researched, with species keys to multi-species genera and to genera within tribes. Many of the genera are illustrated in the text with figures of wing venation and other body parts that aid in identification, and some species have line drawings for the immature stages. There is a lengthy and detailed introduction on morphology, life history, classification, distribution, migration, and other features of butterflies, including a long list of mimics and their models in Malaysia. The habitats of the Malay Peninsula are also discussed in terms of plant associations and known collection sites. A history of

butterfly collecting and study in Malaysia is presented, followed by a discussion of collection and curation techniques for butterflies; this latter chapter includes a somewhat contradictory section on butterfly conservation, where many species are listed which are under Malaysian government protection and a note is added that Singapore has bettered this by prohibiting all collection of butterflies except under permit, while the author then continues on to describe how to make a butterfly collection. There is no detailed discussion of current Malaysian government policies towards the collection of insects and butterflies, which would have been of help for the amateur wishing to collect in Malaysia, particularly mailing addresses where one can obtain official permits for collecting etc.

Even for those who already possess an earlier edition of this well known title, the revisions in the text and the completely new color plates make it well worth the investment to purchase this up-dated edition. The price is rather high for the number of color plates, but on a par with other recent books of this kind from most publishers.

The Malayan Nature Society (P.O. Box 10750, Kuala Lumpur 50724 Malaysia) offers substantial discounts on this and other nature publications on the Malay Peninsula for its membership; information on membership can be obtained by writing to them or by FAX: (60-3) 791 7722.

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A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

edited by S. E. Woodhall

1992. The Lepidopterists' Society of Southern Africa, Florida Hills, Transvaal, South Africa. 222 pp., 8 col. pl., plus line drawings and halftones. A5 format (15 x 20.5 cm).

Price: £10 paper (ISBN 0-620-16774-2), from Mr. W. Henning, 1 Harry Lawrence Street, Florida Park 1709, Transvaal, RSA (add £6 for airmail in the USA for \$22 (plus \$2 shipping) from Flora & Fauna Books, P. O. Box 15718, Gainesville, FL 32604.

This is the first work in which all the techniques of studying African Lepidoptera are brought together in one easily read volume. Although primarily aimed at the African lepidopterist, 90% of the text is universal in nature, and would aid the student of Lepidoptera anywhere.

The various chapters covering different topics are each written by an expert in that field. The topics themselves include methods of collecting, mounting and preserving specimens and a comprehensive guide to the dissection and preparation of genitalia. The general structure of the adult insect is illustrated and discussed with special reference to important taxonomic characteristics.

All aspects of the life history are covered with emphasis on practical breeding methods. All the Southern African Lepidoptera suborders and families are discussed and many are illustrated by colour photographs. The latest on conservation and population study methods are also covered in depth. Photographic techniques, both for live specimens in the

field, and set specimens, are dealt with in great depth and length. For the more able among us, there is a well detailed chapter on the construction of setting boards, store boxes and even cabinets.

All in all, this book represents a huge accumulation of knowledge packed into one handy volume, and will be of great use to both beginners and advanced students alike.

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