

LAS MARIPOSAS DE CHILE – THE BUTTERFLIES OF CHILE

by L. E. Peña-G. and A. J. Ugarte-P.

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(Available for \$45 exported from Chile, from Flora & Fauna Books, P. O. Box 15718, Gainesville, FL 32604, USA).

This first comprehensive book on the butterflies and skippers of Chile, is dual-language (English and Spanish) on every page. The fauna of Chile is very depauperate due to its isolation from the remainder of mostly tropical South America: there are only 169 species recorded for Chile, compared to nearly 4,000 for neighboring Peru! Yet, Chile has not had a modern comprehensive treatment for its butterfly fauna. This new book by Peña and Ugarte is a welcome full-color treatise to fill this void. The authors have studied the butterfly fauna of Chile for many years to collaborate on this book. Luis Peña is especially well known in Chile for his extensive field work all over the country. Unfortunately, he died in September 1996 and did not see the final printed version of the book.

Every species is illustrated by full color paintings of both sides of the wings, usually enlarged somewhat (up to 3x for some of the small blues). There are occasional special plates of selected species with paintings enlarged further, up to 6x for some small species. The color figures of butterflies are sharp and very good, although somewhat light, as is usual for painted renditions. The English text is on the left page, or left column of the page, and the Spanish text is on the right side. The color paintings were completed by four different artists employed for the task. The English translation of the Spanish manuscript was completed by A. A. Boraiko. In addition to the excellent painted versions of the

species, there are occasional color photographs of adults in nature. Also, every species treatment includes a color photograph of the typical habitat where the species can be found in Chile, plus a range map. The text is fairly brief, but succinct. There are prologues by Arthur Shapiro (Professor, University of California, Davis) and Gerardo Lamas (former Director, Museo de Historia Natural, Lima, Peru).

The text is very up-to-date. Added references are noted in the bibliography on all papers on Chilean butterflies to have appeared since the last catalog from 1963, by E. Ureta. There is a long introduction covering the morphology, biology, and collecting techniques of Chilean butterflies. In addition to the bibliography, there is a glossary, and indexes to scientific and common names. The book is well-printed and bound, with an attractive color cover.

Although the butterfly fauna of Chile is not well known outside of Chile, anyone interested in this unique fauna cannot do without this new book. It is somewhat too large to use as a field guide, but it will allow ready identification of all species to be found in Chile, other than new species still being discovered! Exported copies of the book will cost about \$65, well worth the price!

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