

monocots and Trochodendraceae in Assam and SW China and Compositae (Tree Senecios) surrounding Lake Victoria (Africa) producing dicots, based on butterfly and castniid host plant and phylogeny relationships (Shields and Perkins, in prep.).

Butterflies in common between Madagascar and the Oriental region (Corbet, *Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.* 99:589-607, 1948) can be more readily explained by joining India and Madagascar in the past (Shields, *J. Geol.* 85:236-242, 1977). A few studies have appeared to date that discuss in some detail butterflies and continental drift (Hering, *Archiv fur naturgeschichte*, Berlin 87A (4):248-296, 1921; Stempffer, *Bull. Soc. Ent. France* 38:325-328, 1933; Eliot, *The Entomol.* 79:225-228, 1946; Holloway, *Biol. J. Linn. Soc.* 1:373-385, 1969; Eliot, *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.)*, *Ent.* 28:371-505, 1973; Shields & Dvorak, *J. Nat. Hist.* 13:221-250, 1979).

The book is liberally illustrated, well-organized, has select references, and author and subject indices. Hopefully this new union of phylogeny and plate tectonics may stimulate a renewed interest in Lepidoptera biogeography in the near future.

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Animal Identification: a Reference Guide. Volume 3: Insects.

D. Hollis (ed.). 1980. British Museum (Natural History), London and John Wiley & Sons, New York. viii + 160 pp. ISBN 0471-27767-3. Price: US \$39.95.

This book, along with "Volume 1: Marine and brackish water animals" and "Volume 2: Land and freshwater animals (not insects)" both edited by R. W. Sims, is a guide to the identification literature. The book meets its objective of providing "a list of primary references which will enable non-specialists to set about identifying insects from any part of the world." Literature was selected, primarily by the British Museum entomologists, on the basis of usefulness in identifications, and especially the inclusion of keys, illustrations and bibliographies. Literature treating only one genus or species-group was excluded.

The references are arranged taxonomically, then geographically, making retrieval efficient. An index of group names is also provided. Many of the citations include helpful annotations on content or usefulness. Citations of some multi-part works have been combined to save space; this practice could have been followed more extensively (e.g. Diakonoff's Microlepidoptera of New Guinea on p. 123).

The Lepidoptera portion (pp. 120-137) seems well done and relatively complete. The only significant error I noticed (p. 128) is that Adamczewski 1951 should be listed under Pterophoridae not Aluctidae. The useful *Economic Insect Fauna of China* series was overlooked (understandably due to its rarity outside the People's Republic of China); it includes Lymantriidae, Noctuidae, Notodontidae, Pyralidae, Sphingidae, and Tortricidae. Other useful papers that could have been included are Davis 1967 (Nearctic Prodoxinae), 1975 (Ochsenheimeriidae), Freeman 1958 (Nearctic Archipinae), 1967 (Nearctic conifer leaf-miners), Hogue 1963 (Nearctic Stiriini), Kuznetsov 1979 (Palearctic Gracillariidae genera), McDunnough 1928 (Nearctic Agrotinae genera), Powell 1969 (Nearctic Adelinae), Rindge 1949 (many papers on New World Geometridae), and Shaffer 1976 (Neotropical Peoriinae).

The book will be very helpful to anyone faced with identifying insects in groups or from regions with which he is not familiar. However, it demonstrates the great lack

of useful identification works for many taxa. As is common today, the price is quite high, especially considering the book has no illustrations.

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Butterflies of Oman

Larsen, T. [B.] & Larsen, K., 1981. ca. 20 x 24 cm; 80 pp., 107 unnumbered col. figs. Published for the Government of Oman by J. Bartholomew, Edinburgh. Price: £ 6.00, hardback.

It is not always easy to review a book written by a friend. It is even more difficult in this case as the aim of the 'Butterflies of Oman' is both to give an easy written account of the butterflies for the naturalist and to summarize our present knowledge of the Papilionoidea and HesperIIDae of the Sultanate of Oman for the lepidopterologist. As a scientist I would naturally expect a somewhat more concise and yet more comprehensive account, with the general introductory chapter left out; those readers who have only basic knowledge of butterflies may find it fascinating. This chapter ('About butterflies') is followed from p. 19 by a faunistic account of the Papilionoidea and HesperIIDae species recorded in Oman, with notes on their distribution, ecology, taxonomy, biology, early stages, etc.; a clear separation of the two parts would have been advantageous. Every species is illustrated in colour; set specimens were photographed by the British Museum (National History), London and the photographs of habitats, living butterflies and their larvae were taken mostly by the authors. The overall quality of the colour illustrations leaves something to be desired (partly poor printing?) and both the shadows and the far too penetrating blue ground colour chosen for the set specimens seems to have a somewhat disturbing effect. The strong matt paper is well chosen as it excludes all unwanted reflections of light that could obscure the view of the reader. It would have been better to provide all illustrations with numbers. The senior author informed me that the above given citation of the authors' names is correct: the statement made in the book is not unequivocal and could well imply that the text was written by T. [B.] L. and design made by K. L. Perhaps a relevant remark that simple is beautiful is not entirely uncalled for. The authors did not have an easy task and their aim to extend what originally had been planned as a simple colourful book on the butterflies far beyond this did not make it easier. Their personal acquaintance with Oman enabled them to make numerous interesting observations on the Oman species in their natural environment. It seems that the authors managed to achieve their aims. And, above all, I am sure that many readers will appreciate their book.

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Editor's note: The region covered by this book has a unique characteristic perhaps not realized by many western hemisphere readers. Oman represents a trisection of the Palearctic, Ethiopian, and Oriental regions which is reflected in the butterfly fauna. Anyone concerned with broad issues of biogeography would find this work, in addition to its predecessor (T. B. Larsen, 1977, *The Butterflies of Eastern Oman and their Zoogeographic Composition*, *The Journal of Oman Studies Special Report*: 179-208) invaluable references.

Errata—Book Review: The review of Feltwell [et al.], 1981, *Large White butterfly: The biology, biochemistry and physiology of Pieris brassicae (Linneus)*, published in this journal 20(4), 1981(82), pp. 251-252, was written by Otakar Kudrna, Rhenusallee 30, D-5300 Bonn 3, West Germany.