

LEPIDOPTERA AT THE BISHOP MUSEUM, HONOLULU, HAWAII

The Bishop Museum has a rich history of entomological research in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. It has large collections from New Guinea, Borneo, the Philippines, as well as mainland Asia, and has a strong commitment to ongoing research programs aimed at documenting and analyzing the biological diversity of these areas. Regions that are especially well represented are: Philippines, Borneo, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Hong Kong, and New Guinea (extensive collections, partially identified, from both Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea). New Guinea material is especially rich due to the activities at the former Bishop Museum field station in Wau, Papua New Guinea (now independent as the Wau Ecology Institute).

Bishop Museum did not have a staff lepidopterist prior to 1986 (Otto Swezey had an honorary appointment and worked on the collection in his spare time), and thus the holdings of Lepidoptera are the weakest among the major insect orders. However, the collection does include material of substantial research interest: over 950,000 Lepidoptera, with 25,000 from the Hawaiian Islands, and 250 primary types (from Hawaii and Pacific Islands). Type data is available via the Bishop Museum home page at: www.bishop.hawaii.org/bishop/ento/entodbhome.htm.

The collection includes material assembled by O. H. Swezey and F. X. Williams (formerly at Hawaii Sugar Planters' Association collection), E. C. Zimmerman, J. H. H. Szent-Ivany, and others. J. C. E. Riotte curated the collection as a volunteer for 20 years starting in 1974. Scott E. Miller joined the staff in 1986, although he currently spends most of his time in administration.

Except for the older and Hawaiian material, most of the collection has been accumulated in general surveys since 1952, and is unidentified. With the 1989 National Science Foundation funded move into compacted storage, the collection was reorganized to promote accessibility and further curation. Over the next few years thereafter, further NSF funding supported general sorting and curation. For further information contact:

Dr. SCOTT E. MILLER, Chairman

Dept. of Natural Science, Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice St., Honolulu, HI 98617.



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