

TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA, 7(2): 160 (1996)

**BOOK REVIEWS****MONOGRAPHIA RHOPALOCERORUM SINENSIIUM**

edited by Io Chou

1994. Henan Scientific and Technological Publishing House, Henan, China. 21 x 29 cm. 2 vol. (854pp). Cloth. \$500.00. ISBN 7-5349-1574-0.

This magnificently boxed 2-volume compendium of all known Chinese butterflies is the first modern treatment of a diverse fauna, ranging from the Palearctic of Central Asia to the Oriental tropics of Hainan, Hong Kong and Taiwan. All butterflies, including skippers, are illustrated in color: a total of 1,227 species in 327 genera. There are 41 species and 44 subspecies newly described, as well, plus new distribution records for China. The monograph is written in Chinese, with Latin scientific names, and only the new species descriptions are noted in English at the end of the book. Virtually all pages have color photographs of the species treated, with accompanying Chinese text. The introduction is well-illustrated with color photographs of live butterflies and larvae, covering the morphology and life history aspects of butterflies and their immature stages. A short historical summary of previous work on the Chinese fauna is also included, as well as a checklist to included species. At the end of the work, there is a very useful hostplant index and bibliography, plus Chinese and Latin name indexes. The binding of the two volumes is a high quality leather-like buckram. The printing is very well done and the color reproduction is excellent. The only detriment for this work is the exceedingly high cost, particularly given the very low production cost that must be involved for any book produced in China (it probably could have been sold for only \$80!). There is a long list of contributors, but much of the work is due to the editor for the project, Prof. Io Chou.

The classification uses 12 families of butterflies and skippers, more

than is usually used nowadays, but the work appears otherwise to be nomenclaturally up-to-date. Most of the generic nomenclature appears to be generally conservative (e.g., *Pieris* is used and thankfully not the splitting into *Artogeia* for some species, as has been done in recent years in other works). I cannot comment specifically on the new species described in the book (most by Chou, plus a few of the other authors), although some of the new subspecies may be superfluous (e.g., another new Chinese subspecies is named for the rare swallowtail, *Teinopalpus aureus* Mell, when 3 subspecies are already listed for China!). The work has identification keys to families, but not to genera, but the illustrations are of such high quality (rivaling books printed in Japan) that most species should be recognizable from the figures.

This monograph clearly is a required book for anyone interested in the Oriental fauna, as also for much of Central Asian butterflies, including Tibet. Again, it is the high price that will deter many potential students of Chinese butterflies; certainly in China it will be practically unobtainable, since it costs more than most professionals earn in a month and more than several months' wages of average workers! It is, thus, even more unfortunate that English was not included in the text, since the main market for such an expensive work will be outside of China.

**J. B. HEPPNER**Florida State Collection of Arthropods,  
P. O. Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614**BUTTERFLIES. (Yama-Kei Field Books, 11)**

by T. Inomata

1995. Yama-Kei Publishing Co., Tokyo, Japan. 11 x 18 cm, 256pp. Paper. ¥1,800. ISBN: 4-635-06051-9.

This new field guide to Japanese butterflies continues the tradition of excellent full-color field guides so prevalent in Japan. When visiting Japan, it has always surprised me to go in one of the large Tokyo bookshops and find such an abundance of field guides on Japanese butterflies and other insects, all produced by competing publishing firms. Unfortunately, another tradition in Japan is the printing of such books exclusively in Japanese: one continues to wish for a dual language field guide! The present book by Inomata has excellent color plates for all known Japanese species, including skippers. About two-thirds of the book has exceptional color photographs of living butterflies in their natural habitats in Japan. All pages of the book have color figures!

This pocket guide can easily be used to identify all Japanese butterflies from the excellent figures, both spread specimens and living adults. The book is very well bound, with a plastic outer cover for field use, plus a printed color wrapper. The modest cost (about \$17.00 at current exchange rates) exemplifies the easy access Japanese students have to such excellent butterfly guides.

**J. B. HEPPNER**Florida State Collection of Arthropods,  
P. O. Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614**GUIDE BOOK TO INSECTS IN TAIWAN (15):****Noctuid Moths and Allied Species from Neighboring Countries [3]**

by Hsiau-Yue Wang

1996. Taiwan Museum, Taipei, Taiwan. 15 x 21 cm, 204pp. Paper. \$22.95 (from Flora &amp; Fauna Books, Gainesville, FL). ISBN: 957-531-430-8.

The present book continues Mr. Wang's color illustration of moths of Taiwan, plus many of the holotypes of related species from Asia. He has visited many museums to photograph the types of these moths, particularly at the British Museum, London, England, and these figures are included in his works in this series. Included in this part are some of the species in Amphipyridae, Hadeninae, Noctuidae, Plusiinae, and Agaristinae. The book does not have keys, but the color figures will allow most species to be identified. A special feature of the book is the many specimens from other Asian countries that are illustrated in comparison

with the Taiwan specimen of a particular species, and often these figures are the types of synonyms described from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, etc. Anyone interested in Oriental moths should obtain the books of this series. The brief text is only in Chinese.

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