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BOOK REVIEWS***MARIPOSAS DEL ECUADOR. VOL. 1. GÉNEROS***

by Francisco Piñas-Rubio, S.J., and Iván Manzano-Pesántez

1997. Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador. 120pp (702 color fig.) (21 x 27 cm). Paper: \$?. ISBN 9978-77-056-9.

This is the first volume of a projected 25-volume work on the Lepidoptera of Ecuador. As the authors say in their introduction, it is the fruit of many years of work. Unique among the modern books on neotropical Lepidoptera, this book treats the diurnal butterflies and nocturnal moths of the country of Ecuador. The authors estimate that the Macrolepidoptera of Ecuador include 6,979 species in 15 superfamilies and 37 families. For the butterflies, they estimate a total of 400 species of Hesperoidea, all in the family Hesperidae, and 1,495 species of Papilionoidea, including 45 Papilionidae, 150 Pieridae, 700 Nymphalidae, 200 Lycaenidae, and 400 Riodinidae. Since other workers have already documented at least 2,300 species of true butterflies (Papilionoidea) alone from museum collections, literature, and extensive sampling across Ecuador in the last five years (Hall and Willmott, in preparation), we can safely assume that the species counts in this work are minimal estimates at best. At least 3,000 species of true butterflies and skippers occur in Ecuador, twice as many as in Central America, and about half the number occurring in all of Brazil. This is an extraordinarily rich fauna, and the color illustrations included in this book give one a fair sampling of the diversity in the Ecuadorian lepidopteran fauna.

The purpose of this relatively short volume is to present a brief description of the 37 families and the 702 genera included in the fauna. Each genus is illustrated by an excellent color figure of a spread specimen. The accompanying figure caption for each color illustration gives the family, genus and species, collection site (usually with elevation), wingspread in millimeters, and the date of collection. From perusal of this volume and the accompanying text (all in Spanish), one can rapidly gain an appreciation for the chief attributes associated with each family and genus, and as such, this publication will offer considerably enhanced capability for the average lepidopterist to identify Ecuadorian specimens to family and genus over what is otherwise available. Overall, this inexpensive, yet beautifully produced work offers an excellent brief introduction to the lepidopteran fauna of Ecuador and should be in the library of any lepidopterist interested in the neotropical fauna.

THOMAS C. EMMELDivision of Lepidoptera Research, Dept. of Zoology
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611***BUTTERFLIES OF HONG KONG***

by Paul Lau

1997. P. Lau, Hong Kong. 252pp (full color), 11 x 19cm. Paper, ca. US\$42. ISBN 962-85181-1-9.

This new field guide for Hong Kong butterflies is by far the most useful introductory book from among the available literature for Hong Kong and southern China. The previous books have been larger and usually have had fewer larval photographs. In the new book, all photographs are taken from nature and many species also have the immature stages illustrated, although only 99 species are treated.

The text is in Chinese and English. One feature that may well be unique for any field guide are the miniature photograph summaries for all species on the end flaps of the book, front and back; a kind of illustrated table of contents, whereby the page number below each miniature photo takes the reader quickly to the text for that species.

common name noted, then the scientific name, size, and identification and biological notes, including hostplant, preferred habitat, flight behavior, and flight season. This text is first in Chinese, then in English below in fine print. The book is geared to butterfly watching and photography. The brief introduction presents some basics about butterflies, extensively illustrated with color photos of larvae and adult emergences. Out of the approximately 200 species of butterflies known for Hong Kong, only 99 are covered in this book, including some skippers.

Anyone interested in the south China fauna should buy a copy of this new book. The only limitations of the book involve its incomplete