

several competent technical reviewers prior to publication. The selection of the majority of the contributors from the West Coast has lent an unfortunate parochial flavor to the text. One receives the distinct impression that there is nothing of taxonomic interest east of the Great Basin. The plates are a major disappointment, especially in the lycaenids and hesperiids where they are most needed. It is unfortunate that this book, which had the potential for being a really definitive treatise on the North American butterflies, has fallen so far short of the mark. I am sure that there will be those who will praise the book, citing its utility to amateurs and the fact that nearly every North American species is figured. To them, I would reply that while the book has its good points, the novice collector can be easily misled in a number of areas because of problems with the text and illustrations. As a consequence of the number of flaws which produce frustration in the reader, the work as a whole must be considered as marginally worth the price.

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**MITES OF MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES**, by Asher E. Treat. 1975. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N. Y., 362 p., 150 figures (Frontispiece in color). Price \$35.00 (U.S.).

Clearly a classic work both for substance, including a remarkable amount of original (unpublished) material, and for scholarly and poetic style! The introductory section covers a concise history of mite-moth scientific discovery, a fine chapter on methods of study and a brief, thoughtful account of the important characteristics of mites.

In the body of the book, major sections (Mesostigmata: Acariformes) and chapters are presented under higher taxa headings, for the mites, but within each chapter the arrangement is ". . . primarily ecological at familial or lower levels" (Author's preface).

This is also a well-edited and very useful book with (1) 150 figures of excellent quality, (2) lists of moth-mite and mite-moth records, (3) keys to mites recorded from moths, (4) an extensive bibliography and (5) geographic and general indexes. The book should be read by not only "lepidopterists, acarologists and parasitologists" (vide Author) but by all amateur and professional scientists.

*Mites of Moths and Butterflies* will form a solid foundation for and be a lasting stimulus to future studies in many fields of scientific research. Truly a basic excellent book for any lepidopterist's library.

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**BUTTERFLIES OF LEBANON**, by Torben B. Larsen. 1974. National Council for Scientific Research, (C.N.R.S.), Beirut, Republic of Lebanon, xv + 255 p. Price: £7.50 sterling (U.K.), \$22.50 (U.S.). Distributed in the U.K. by E. W. Classey, Ltd., Park Road, Faringdon, Berks. SN7 7DR, England, and in the U.S. by Entomological Reprint Specialists, P. O. Box 77224, Dockweiler Station, Los Angeles, California 90007, U.S.A.

A review is a very personal thing to the reviewer. Without attempting to pass moral judgment, recent events in Lebanon have made the writing of this review especially difficult. Make no mistake about it, though, Larsen has written a very good book, and the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research is to be congratulated for producing it in its present form.

Larsen expends the first 76 pages in prefatory material: Lebanon's history from the naturalist's viewpoint, the zoogeography of the area, distributional patterns within the country, a comparison of the butterflies of Lebanon with those of surrounding countries, the economic importance of *Rhopalocera* and their classification, along with a Lebanese checklist. Detailed discussions of the 139 recorded species are given in the next 140 pages, and this discussion is followed by a few pages of possible, doubtfully and erroneously recorded butterflies.

The sixteen color plates, identified by the text pages they face, range in quality from excellent to at least acceptable. Probably the least readable plate is that facing page 193, which is too dark and too red; some others are a bit too dark, but all are quite usable. It is unfortunate that the plates do not have figure numbers, but one soon becomes accustomed to the legends, and the exact details of the capture of each figured specimen are given, a policy that should achieve greater currency.

The text, however, is where the book really excels. There is a wealth of information tucked into these pages, information that is so well documented that one is left with the impression that he could return to those spots at the appropriate times and be virtually assured of collecting the insects. Available foodplant information is given and original sources on life histories are cited, where available; when the early stages are unknown, informed speculation on possible foodplants is offered. Habitat information is detailed and based on the author's personal experience in most cases; in others the best available information is cited.

A single taxon is described as new in the book, but three others were to have been proposed before the present publication. These were to have been described in *Alexanor* during 1974, but publication was delayed, and the inclusion of these names in *Butterflies of Lebanon* does not constitute valid descriptions. These names, in the context of the book, are *nomina nuda*, as Larsen correctly states. By the time this review is printed these names will be validated, but they cannot be dated from 1974, as stated in the text.

This book is a fine investment for anyone interested in Middle Eastern butterflies or for one who wants a wealth of recent biological information about them.

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