

appreciate the great effort and service rendered by Michael Chalmers-Hunt in preparing this simple but remarkable list of lists. It should inspire interest in making more lists, and help bring them back into fashion, from Fourth of July counts to full faunal inventories. One hopes that future list-makers will apply modern tools to make their lists more analytical than merely rambling, although there should always be room for rambles as well. At least, if lists must pass, this comprehensive work will keep us from forgetting the important contribution they have made to the literature.

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THE CHARAXINAE BUTTERFLIES OF AFRICA, by Stephen Frank Henning (foreward by C. G. C. Dickson). 1989. Aloe Books, Johannesburg. Distributed by Aloe Book Agency, P.O. Box 4349, Johannesburg, South Africa 2000 and Bioquip, Inc., 17083 LaSalle Avenue, Gardena, CA 90248. 457 pp., over 750 color illustrations, 114 text figs. Hard cover, 25 × 34 cm, ISBN 0-620-12811-9 (Standard Edition), \$240.00; 0-620-12812-9 (Collectors' Edition), \$500.00.

First of all, it must be said that this is a monumental work, one that covers a significant part of Africa's lepidopteran fauna. The author is to be congratulated on compiling such a significant book, and the publishers for having published it. This is not a field guide, measuring more than 9½ by 13 inches and printed on heavy coated paper. It is beautifully presented enough to stand on its own as a "coffee table" book, even if it did not possess its obvious scientific merit.

There are seven introductory sections. In the first two, the author characterizes the subfamily and gives succinct discussions of morphology and terminology employed, including those of the early stages. The section on behavior discusses the effects of temperature on flight, feeding, foodplant preference, hilltopping, and mating behavior. The discussion of evolution, including speciation, species concepts, cladistics, mimicry, and polymorphism, is well done. The zoogeography section only concerns distribution within Africa and perhaps should have been labelled "geographic distribution": it is by no means theoretical but clearly delineates major habitat types and subregions. Concluding the introductory material are short sections on collecting methods and conservation, the latter stressing the degradation of the environment and its effects on charaxine populations.

In the taxonomic section (most of the book), each tribe and genus is carefully described. The individual species are covered in much detail, with descriptions of adults, geographical distribution, and the locations of types (where known to Henning) provided for all taxa. Additionally, where known, immature stages, life histories, larval foodplants, habits, and the degree of polymorphism of each species are described. Two keys to species groups, one based on adult characters and one on final instar larval characters, precede the species accounts, which are arranged by species group. Color illustrations are given of all 162 species and most subspecies, as well as of their larvae and pupae, when available, and of many habitats. Henning has had the cooperation of most of the active workers on African Charaxinae, and descriptions of 19 new taxa (3 species and 16 subspecies) by a number of these workers are included, often in French (in the case of Plantrou), more frequently in English (Henning, Canu, Collins), but occasionally interspersed French and English (Turlin).

The illustrations of individual insects are true to color and accurately represent the distinguishing features of the taxa. They should prove very useful to those who wish to identify their African charaxines without resorting to genitalic dissections. In those cases where the genitalia are the only means of certain identification, line drawings of the salient features are presented. Illustrations of eggs, larvae, and pupae are likewise very

well done and suggest that when more such data become available, the preparatory stages could provide independent characters to falsify the existing phylogeny.

Another useful attribute of this book is the documentation for and citation of statements made in it. Opinions of the author are clearly labelled as such, and others' opinions are scrupulously referenced. Such citing of sources should be a requirement for any major work but, sadly, is not always done.

The last few pages are devoted to detailed lists of the species recorded from each African country and the islands off its coast, a synonymic checklist of the African Charaxinae, foodplant lists for those species for which the life history is known, an addendum of taxa described too recently for inclusion in the main body of the book, a glossary of terms, an extensive bibliography, and an index.

There are very few, but slightly disturbing, typographical errors in the volume, but they in no way detract from the usefulness of the book. Perhaps the most serious is the identification of *Charaxes barnsi* Joicey and Talbot (named for the collector, T. A. Barns) on page 156 as *Charaxes "barnesi"* consistently in the text, though the figure caption and the mention in the checklist (p. 424) are correct. On page 211, the repository of the type-specimen of *Charaxes lydiae* Holland is given as "Carnegie Museum, Pittsburg, USA," rather than "Pittsburgh." Elsewhere, Henning simply gives the name as "Carnegie Museum, USA." Finally, the subspecific name of *Charaxes baumanni tenuis* van Someren is given in the heading as "*tenuis*," though it is correct elsewhere.

A much more distressing set of errors surely cannot be laid at Mr. Henning's doorstep. On the interleaf a list of sponsors of the publication is given, and at least this seems to be correct, but below this is given a list of subscribers to the very expensive Collectors' Edition, in which there appear to be several grievous errors. The late A. C. Allyn's name came out "Allen"; the author's father, W. H. (Bill) Henning, is listed as "B. Henning"; and D. M. Kroon's name had the initials reversed as "M. D. Kroon." It would seem to be a vital part of public relations that one cites major benefactors correctly: this seems to have been a rather sloppy job of proof-reading on a third party's part.

None of these complaints, niggling as they are, diminish the satisfaction that the author should feel on having produced a significant book on the African Charaxinae that is destined to be the definitive work on these insects for many years to come. Mr. Henning has succeeded in all of his objectives beyond most lepidopterists' dreams. Although the price may preclude many interested readers from obtaining *The Charaxinae Butterflies of Africa*, it is a must for all museums and anyone with a sincere interest in these fascinating butterflies. I strongly recommend that such aficionados buy a copy now, before it goes out of print. (The Standard Edition is limited to 1200 numbered copies; the leather-bound, signed Collectors' Edition to 100 copies.)

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MARIPOSAS MEXICANAS, by Roberto de la Maza Ramírez (with technical assistance from Javier de la Maza E.; in Spanish). 1987. Fondo de Cultura Económica, S. A. de C. V. México, D.F. Distributed by Bioquip, Inc., 17803 LaSalle Avenue, Gardena, CA 90248. 9 + 302 pp., 58 text figs., 67 color plates. Hard cover, 21 × 27.5 cm, ISBN-968-16-2316-9, \$60.00 (U.S.).

Roberto de la Maza R., assisted by his sons, has written a very fine book on the butterflies of his country. He is to be congratulated for this accomplishment: it is emphatically not just another rather amateurish Mexican butterfly book.

Only 651 of nearly 1500 Mexican butterfly species are included in this volume. As