

what occurs in northern Thailand, a conclusion I reached a few years ago based on material in my own collection. The text, in English, is sparse, but gives specific localities, dates of collection, and descriptions of the adult moths. The subspecies concept is explicitly rejected in a short discussion on page 32. I found no misspellings nor typographical errors.

The book is an essential addition to the bookshelf, especially considering the impressive and numerous color plates and low price. We have relatively few modern treatments of the saturniid fauna of Southeast Asia and this one fills a definite gap.

RICHARD S. PEIGLER, *Department of Zoology, Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80205.*

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THE BUTTERFLIES OF EGYPT, by Torben B. Larsen. 1990. Apollo Books and The American University in Cairo Press. Distributed by Apollo Books, Lundbyvej 36, DK-5700 Svendborg, Denmark. 112 pp., 8 color plates, 6 halftone illustrations. Hard cover, 16.5 × 24 cm, ISBN 87-88757-14-5, Danish kroner 240 (plus postage) (about \$32.00).

This volume is based on Dr. Larsen's painstaking searches of major museum collections for Egyptian butterfly records, which were augmented by six weeks' field work from late March to mid-May 1987. As he states (p. 7), "I did not wish to publish such a review without personal acquaintance with *all* the varied habitat types . . ." (emphasis mine). He further admits that the book is less based on his personal research than were his previous excellent faunal reviews.

This volume has been produced beautifully by Apollo Books and the American University in Cairo Press. The color plates are outstanding and much superior to those of his previous works. The text is very readable and relatively free of typographic errors, although a few notable ones demand attention. A pioneer collector, A. Alfieri, is referred to as "Alfieri" on pages 30 and 31, though correctly elsewhere, and Esper is listed (p. 60) as having described *Carcharodus alceae* in "1870", 90 years after he did so.

In the introductory section, Larsen gives lucid descriptions of most major Egyptian biotic areas, and his discussion of past collecting activities is extensive. The species discussions are adequate, but obviously not based on much personal experience. The biogeography section almost is equal to his others for the region. The first and last of these, and to a lesser extent, other sections, suffer from a common problem: a lack of cooperation by the host country. Larsen was not allowed to visit the Gebel Elba in southeasternmost Egypt, an area interesting for its Afro-tropical elements that remain almost unknown today, though the species that have been found are tantalizing. The book should have been much stronger had access to the Gebel Elba not been denied. A comprehensive bibliography for Egyptian butterflies completes the treatment.

I have the impression that publication of this volume, for whatever reason, was premature. Larsen's entire series on middle Eastern butterflies, which concludes with this volume, should not be judged on this book alone.

Anyone with an interest in Mediterranean butterflies should buy this book to complete an otherwise excellent series. Others may or may not wish to buy this work: it is really not a "coffee table" book, nor does it have the "meat" of his other faunal works.

LEE D. MILLER, *Allyn Museum of Entomology, Florida Museum of Natural History, 3621 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, Florida 34234.*