

species into subspecies, as is the case of *P. sesostris zischraei* – considered a distinct subspecies by Möhn and synonymous with *P. sesostris sesostris* by Racheli.

As Möhn's volume features a brief abstract about each one of the species and subspecies, this volume, by itself, can be considered an extraordinary field guide to *Parides* identification. It is important to acknowledge the careful work that was performed in order to catalogue the figures of *Parides* species and subspecies. Möhn's illustrations are pleasant, yet remain faithful to scientific accuracy, and the care with which small wing pattern differences along the geographical distribution of each entity is shown is impressive. The pictures make it possible to understand how difficult it is to identify *Parides* species and subspecies, due both to their intraspecific variability and their interspecific similarity.

Racheli's monograph on *Parides* is amusing reading for both Lepidopteran academic scientists and butterfly enthusiasts. The Supplement alone is a worthwhile

purchase and the concurrent acquisition of the Möhn's volume is recommended, but not mandatory, to be fully updated on this butterfly group.

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BUTTERFLIES OF WEST AFRICA, 2 volume set, by Torben B. Larsen. 865 pages, 125 plates; 11.3 × 8.4 in; ISBN 10: 8788757439 and 13: 978-8788757439; USD \$229. Apollo Books; Publication date: October 2005.

This impressive two-volume work illustrates and guides the reader through the extraordinary butterfly fauna of fifteen countries comprising tropical West Africa. From savannah to rain forest, each of the roughly 1500 species is described in detail with notes on identification, habits, early stages and distribution. The author's enjoyable writing style, and first hand accounts through his extensive field work takes the reader into the tropics for a unique perspective on the lives of these fascinating and diverse creatures.

The first volume contains introductory chapters covering evolution, historical accounts of past researchers, a global perspective of the region's fauna, the biogeographical regions of West Africa, ecology, migration, extinction and conservation. A color map of the vegetation zones and current political boundaries of Africa is included. The bulk of the text is devoted to species accounts in a well-organized structure. Distinguishing features of tribes and genera are discussed followed by species accounts. Numerous line drawings and black and white photographs punctuate the text. The author has gone to great lengths to allow the reader to identify even difficult groups through the use of illustrations conveniently located within the text.

The second volume contains 130 stunning plates depicting approximately 3800 specimens in full color. Upper- and undersides are depicted for most species. Specimens are clearly identified by scientific name and a species number corresponding with the species accounts. Country of origin for each of the specimens illustrated is included. The volumes are well indexed by genera and species.

Several impressive regional volumes have been published in recent years, including Parson's "Butterflies of Papua New Guinea" and Mayberry's "Butterflies of Australia". Larsen's "Butterflies of West Africa" continues the trend of excellence and gives the reader a comprehensive identification guide and in-depth understanding of life histories, habits, and a historical account of the butterfly fauna of West Africa. Considering the number of species treated, this work is truly monumental.

"Butterflies of West Africa" is a must for anyone interested in the butterfly fauna of Africa and perhaps sets a new standard for any regional identification guide. Readers interested in butterflies, especially tropical butterflies, ecology or conservation will find this work fascinating.

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