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MOTH CATCHER: AN EVOLUTIONIST'S JOURNEY THROUGH CANYON AND PASS. By Michael M. Collins. 176 pages, 13 color plates; ISBN 978-0-87417-725-1 (hardcover), ISBN 978-0-87417-735-0; US\$49.95(hardcover), US\$18.95 (paperback). Univ. of Nevada Press. Publication date: 2007.

Two threads run through the stories of most lepidopterists that contribute to their life-long obsessive fascination with some aspect of entomology, whether they are professionals or avid amateurs. The first is some event of life-changing discovery to light the fire; the second is the timely connection with one or more knowledgeable and nurturing mentors to fuel the fire so that it burns throughout a lifetime. Such is indeed the case with Mike Collins, who shares with us the beginnings and many subsequent years of his own journey as a lepidopterist—in this case pursuing the life history, behaviors and interspecific relationships of western North American Saturniidae.

Migrating from his native Iowa to the western mountains, Mike quickly passed beyond the usual goal of building a large collection of adult specimens and focused on questions of biology and evolution, prompted first by the late Walter R. Sweadner's monograph on the evolution of the genus *Hyalophora*. Seminal to his later researches, Sweadner's treatise on natural hybridization begged for substantiating research. The evolutionary relationships among the 3 *Hyalophora* species—*cecropia*, *gloveri* and *euryalus*—became the major focus of Mike's research. Mike provided important supporting evidence for Sweadner's ideas in collections and by rearing *H. gloveri* and *H. euryalus* from areas of sympatry and allopatry. The discovery and elucidation of the hybrid zone where these two species come together in Monitor Pass in eastern California proved to be a major discovery. This story is the centerpiece of the book.

The sibling nature of *Hemileuca eglanterina*, *nuttalli* and *hera* and their isolating mechanisms was another problem in Mike's voyage of research and discovery. His research on these and other saturniids was woven into his undergraduate years at UC Berkeley, and PhD work under Art Shapiro at UC Davis.

Friendships with several of our colleagues and stories of field adventures together spice the narrative. The account of his first meeting with Art Shapiro gave

me a knowing chuckle. A short biography of Sweadner, and Mike's meeting with his widow and daughter, was of special interest to me, as was a photo of this man who inherited W. J. Holland's curatorial mantle at the Carnegie Museum, but for a tragically short period.

Collins' style is anecdotal, written in the first person, and easily readable. He uses it effectively when describing people and research projects without the cumbersome data found in his scientific publications. There are numerous short treatises on topics pertinent to systematics and ecology: western montane ecology (plant and animal), Neo-Darwinism, industrial melanism, DNA sequencing, speciation (biological species concept versus phylogenetic species concepts), and pre-mating and post-mating barriers, to name a few. The book thus serves as a good primer for bright young people interested in entering the field of population ecology.

Mike's lifelong passion for his chosen specialty in entomology—isolating mechanisms among closely related saturniid moths in the majestic West—shines through from beginning to end. My minor comments concern uneven referencing: some of the major literature cited (*i.e.* Sweadner's monograph, p.24), are mentioned generally (no complete title and other citation details), but not included in the Bibliography. The reader must scout these out from other sources. Also, some less scientifically trained readers might benefit from definitions of more of the scientific terms employed (*genome*, p. 44; "*relict*", p. 56). Other terms are well defined or explained.

It is always fascinating to see how our colleagues began their journeys with Lepidoptera—how and from whom they drew inspiration, nurturing and training—and then see a summary of their career-long contributions to the science. Mike's story is an enjoyable and informative addition to this lore.

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