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BOOK REVIEW

Butterflies of West Malaysia and Singapore. W. A. Fleming. 1975. Longman Malaysia Sdn. Berhad, Kuala Lumpur. Vol. 1, x + 64 pp., 54 color plates. Vol. 2, x + 93 pp., 90 color plates. £19.50.

The area specifically covered is roughly the broader distal portion of the Malay Peninsula that extends from mainland Asia toward the Indonesian islands. This is an especially interesting area, not only because of the wealth and intrinsic interest of its species, but because of the vastly complex zoogeography of the whole Indo-Australian Region. A total of 1000 species and 95 additional subspecies are covered, including the HesperIIDae, under the general term 'butterfly'. All species recorded from the area are included. For each are given the general range of the species and more specific records in the area, as well as short notes on identification, habitat and foodplants (when known). Nearly all are illustrated by color photographs, both sexes and the underside being shown in many instances. Considerable preliminary information is given about butterfly characteristics in general and the complex geography of the region.

We are glad to note a plea for the conservation of rare species, some of which are definitely endangered. This is all the more pertinent because of commercial interests in India, Taiwan and the Philippines, and unscrupulous collectors elsewhere, who are flooding the markets with literally hundreds of thousands of specimens.

The author has lived in the region since 1937, and so has wide field experience with the majority of the species. The 1579 illustrations, which show excellent color reproduction, are mostly from his own collection but partly from other collections including the British Museum (Natural History). The nomenclature appears to be up to standard, in general following that of Corbet and Pendlebury's *The Butterflies of the Malay Peninsula* (1956), now out of print. This should be an interesting and worthwhile book for everyone interested in butterflies on a worldwide bases, as well as for specialists in the region.

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