



Phil's collection is a most valuable accession for the ANIC.

There are several highlights. On the basis of Phillip's observations and rearing, Ray Straatman artificially paired a male *Troides oblongomaculatus papuensis* with a female *Ornithoptera priamus poseidon* and some of these progeny ended up in ANIC via Don Sands with the female parent of the cross. There are also specimens of *Philiris* (Lycaenidae) which Don Sands is anxious to examine when the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. There are also two *Artipe grandis* (Lycaenidae) not previously represented in ANIC. There are more exciting species and further gems will undoubtedly appear as the collection is examined more closely.

The Lepidopterists at ANIC earnestly thank Phil and his family for this wonderful donation which, when added to the Brandt, Gerrits and Gotts collections, significantly increases our ability to support scientific work on New Guinean butterflies.

Ted Edwards, ANIC

The foregoing notes were edited and put together by Ted Edwards who wishes to thank all contributors and offer sincere condolences to Phil's family. Sadly Phil's wife also passed away in November 2021, and all at ANIC offer his family their sincere condolences.

Events

Recent Presentations

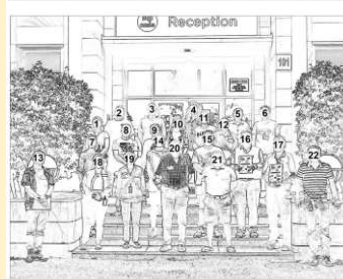
Nothing submitted for this newsletter but if members are aware of presentations that might be of interest, or are planning to give a presentation, please let the editor know.

Meetings and Conferences

The 10th ANIC Moth Meeting

The 10th ANIC Moth Meeting was held in Canberra from 5-6 February 2022. Issues with COVID 19 meant that only a small group attended, but it was a great pleasure to see old friends again. The Lepidoptera collection in the ANIC hall came alive with a group of knowledgeable and excited Lepidoptera fans. You Ning Su excelled himself with the group picture where everybody is duly identified.

10th ANIC Moth meeting 5-6 Feb 2022



- 1 Pleines, Thekla
- 2 Zwick, Andreas
- 3 Hilton, Doug
- 4 Beaver, Ethan
- 5 Harris, Gary
- 6 Kallies, Axel
- 7 Wild, Andrea
- 8 Hobern, Donald
- 9 Rammohan, Su
- 10 Koopmans, Bonnie
- 11 Braby, Michael
- 12 Sundholm, Allen
- 13 Moore, Antony
- 14 Fisher, Ned
- 15 Nielsen, John
- 16 Edwards, Ted
- 17 Cocking, Glenn
- 18 Luo, Ying
- 19 Horak, Marianne
- 20 Owen, Graham
- 21 Moore, Mike
- 22 Su, You Ning

Field Trip Reports

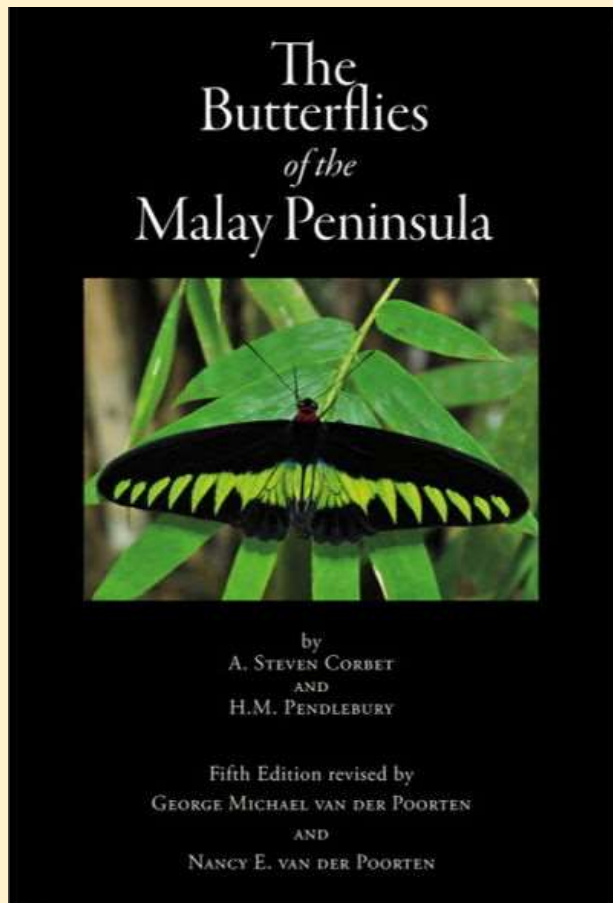
Been somewhere interesting? Please let the editor and the membership know about it.

Book Reviews

The Butterflies of the Malay Peninsula.

A. Steven Corbet and H.M. Pendlebury. Fifth Edition revised by George Michael van der Poorten and Nancy E. van der Poorten. Malaysian Nature Society, Kuala Lumpur. 2020. xiv+492 pp, 138 pl; hardback; 19.8 cm x 25.8 cm. ISBN 978-983-44886-3-5. Price £65.

The Malay Peninsula includes the countries of southern Thailand, western Malaysia and Singapore in South-East Asia. It is located just north of the equator, lying to the south of Thailand at its northern end and at its southern end almost touching the Indonesian island of Sumatra, where it is separated by the Straits of Malacca.



The Malaysian Nature Society have had a long tradition of making works on the natural history and biodiversity of the Malay Peninsula available to the public. They first published "The Butterflies of the Malay Peninsula" more than 80 years ago in 1934, which was followed by a 2nd Edition in 1956. The last two editions were revised by John N. Eliot (3rd Edition in 1978, 4th Edition in 1992) and have long been out of print. It is therefore heartening to see this classic work fully revised again. The 5th edition has been revised by the van der Poorten's, substantially updating the text of previous editions with new information on distribution, life histories and larval food plants. The taxonomy and nomenclature of each species has been updated, and the text and relevant keys have been revised with newly published information. Additionally, the layout has been modernized for improved readability. Moreover, the previous colour plates depicting adults of museum specimens have been completely replaced by an exquisite set of new photographs.

The long history of collection and study of butterflies of the southern Malay Peninsula can be traced back to 1751 and has resulted in a fauna that is now exceptionally well inventoried. This relatively small area supports a staggering 1,051 species of butterflies, of which 17 (1.6%) are endemic to the peninsula. The most species rich groups are the subfamilies Theclinae (Lycaenidae) and Hesperinae (Hesperiidae), with 233 and 188 species respectively. The theclines are dominated by the tribe Arhopalini with 113 species, most of which belong to the speciose genus *Arhopala*. Four major floristic zones are recognised on the peninsula – coastal mangroves, lowland secondary forest, lowland primary forest (between 0–750 m), and montane primary forest (750–1500 m). Secondary forest comprises cleared areas in various states of ecological succession. Although this habitat is important for many butterflies (c. 120 species) most species occur in lowland primary forest. The authors claim that it takes at least 250 years before secondary forest reverts to primary forest, highlighting the importance of maintaining



Sample plate from *Butterflies of Malay Peninsula 5th Edition*



large tracts of primary forest for biodiversity conservation.

The 17 endemic species consist mainly of lycaenids (11 species) and a few hesperiids and one pierid, *Ixias alticola*. The endemics occur either in lowland or highland (montane) areas and are considered rare, often known only from a single type specimen. Of the 10 species of *Delias* recorded from the Malay Peninsula most are restricted to the montane forest zone. Differentiation within species on the peninsular is not particularly pronounced, but *Delias georgina* is of particular interest. Four subspecies of this butterfly



Sample plate from *Butterflies of the Malay Peninsula 5th ed.*

have been recognised from the peninsula, with three of these endemic to isolated mountains: *D. georgina keda* (Kedah Peak), *D. georgina tahanica* (Gunong Tahan), and *D. georgina orphne* (Mt Ophir). The other subspecies, *D. georgina zenobia*, is more widely distributed, but is restricted to the highlands of the Main Range.

The book is organised into 16 chapters with the introductory chapters (Ch 1–10) dealing with morphology, life histories, nomenclature and

classification, geographical distribution and biogeography, wing pattern and variation, speciation, population size, history of collecting, and methods of collection and study. A key to identify families is provided. The remaining chapters (Ch 11–16) are the species treatments and make up the bulk of the book, with a single chapter devoted to each of the six families. Apart from the HesperIIDae, which are treated last, the order of families follows modern classification according to phylogenetic relationships. A series of detailed Appendices then follow, which provide a checklist of species, species omitted and those with questionable records, species endemic to the Malay Peninsula, notes on taxonomy and distribution, the numerical composition of species and subspecies in each family, subfamily and tribe, and comments on erroneous records of larval food plants. The text concludes with an extensive bibliography, acknowledgements and three indices (general, common names and scientific names).

The last 166 pages of the book are devoted to the figures and colour plates. The black and white figures (25 pages) portray more than 450 clear line drawings of genitalia to aid in taxonomic identification. The colour plates comprise a completely new set of 132 plates illustrating every species reliably recorded from the area, showing a half image of the dorsal and ventral surfaces of both males and females. There is also a smaller set of six colour plates illustrating the immature stages of selected species, representing each butterfly subfamily. The new colour plates are an outstanding feature of this edition. Endless hours have been spent photographing and editing thousands of images, all based on specimens preserved in the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum in Singapore, the Natural History Museum in London, England, and a few private collections.

As with any book of this magnitude, errors are inevitable. Many of the errors in the book concern the colour plates, and the authors have prepared a Corrigenda, which can be accessed from the Moths of Borneo website <https://www.mothsofborneo.com/>, or from the Lepodon Books website http://www.lepodonbooks.com/TheButterfliesOfTheMalayPeninsula_5thEdition.html. Some of the errors in the colour plates concern identification of sex,



which have arisen due to mislabelling or naming the images with the wrong sex.

These issues are relatively minor considering the excellent presentation of 30 years of new information that the authors have painstakingly accrued for this impressive, revised edition. If you love butterflies generally, have a professional or amateur interest in the scientific study of butterflies, or want to learn more about the butterfly fauna of the Oriental region then this book is definitely for you!

Michael F. Braby
The Australian National University &
The Australian National Insect Collection

Recent Publications

A Look at Books with 'Uncle Wattleberry'

The Man who shot Butterflies.

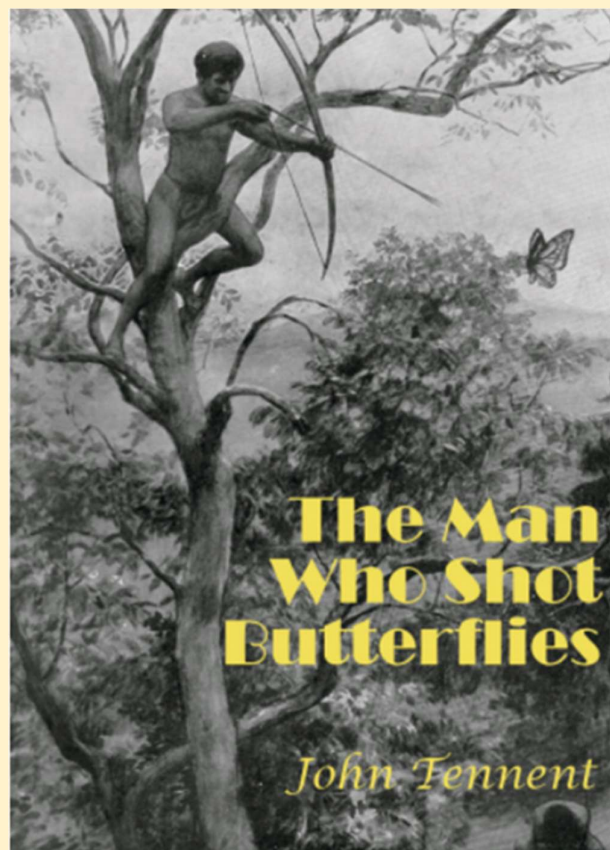
John Tennent. Storm Entomological Publications, Oxfordshire, England, 2021. pp. 1-603. Hardcover ISBN 9780954204525. Price UK£89 (it is subsidised by the author). Cost of freight from UK (DHL) UK£53.04. Available from the author's site at www.johntennent.co.uk> shop. This site permits online ordering. This book is not to be found in other bookshops, either physical or on-line.

This is a blockbuster of a book. It is a heavy tome of long, dogged scholarship and delicious detail which takes A.S. Meek from the shadows to the limelight, not always to his credit.

The man who shot butterflies – Albert Stewart Meek – was one of the last great collectors of natural history specimens, literally thousands of which were new to science. Sponsored by Walter Rothschild and curators at Rothschild's private museum at Tring, Meek was one of the most successful southwest Pacific explorers and adventurers of his time: a period of history when many missionaries, traders and gold miners died from fever or were killed and eaten by cannibals.

A highly focused but modest man, Meek suffered unimaginable physical hardships in reaching parts of New Guinea and the Solomon Islands where no-one had been before. More than 100 of the undescribed species he collected now bear his name. He was one of natural history's most successful explorers, discovering the world's largest butterfly and many

other birdwing butterflies as well as numerous birds and other creatures. Whilst others talked about their plans to travel to obscure and remote places, Meek actually did it ... and then went the extra mile.



Little was generally known about Meek's adventures or his private life. Until now! With a particular interest in the history of discovery, John Tennent describes events Meek experienced in both their historical context and from personal experience. Over two decades of his own research, Tennent stayed some three years in the forests of New Guinea and the Solomons in places Meek had visited a century before. This definitive and unique biography of Meek has a substantial autobiographical element. It draws freely on 500 pages of Meek's letters written to Tring curators archived in the Natural History Museum in London, as well as Meek's personal photograph album now in the care of Sir David Attenborough.

In summary, this outstanding book covers the physical, intellectual and private life of a truly remarkable man, whose courage, endurance, organisational abilities and foibles combined to leave a unique and lasting legacy in the museums of the world. More than the numerous and diverse