

## BOOK REVIEW

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BRABY M. F.: BUTTERFLIES OF AUSTRALIA. THEIR IDENTIFICATION, BIOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, VIC., 2000, pp. (Vols 1+2). ISBN 0 643 06591 1. Price: Aust\$ 125.

This very comprehensive two-volume book includes all the butterflies in the Australian faunal subregion: Papilionoidea and Hesperioidea. Records from Australian islands outside the subregion are also included in the concluding part of the book. Introductory sections deal with the modern classification of butterflies, morphology of immature and adult stages, geographic distribution, taxonomy, conservation of threatened taxa, methods of collecting, rearing of immatures stages and documentation. The last part of this general section is a check list of the butterflies of Australia. The most comprehensive part of the Braby's book are the five systematic chapters dealing with the families Hesperidae, Papilionidae, Pieridae, Nymphalidae and Lycaenidae. Satyrinae and Danainae are treated as subfamilies of the Nymphalidae. Details are given of the characteristics of all the subfamilies and genera. The following details are provided for every species: scientific and common names, detailed description and diagnosis with illustra-

tions, geographic variation, immature stages, larval food plants, life cycle and behaviour, distribution and habitats (with maps of geographic range in Australia), major references. The book's concluding section consists of six appendices dealing with the following subjects: butterfly species recorded from islands in the Australian faunal subregion and Australian island territories, which are not part of the subregion, list of endangered butterflies important for conservation and legislation, reference list of larval food plants and a list of attendant ants. An extensive glossary, bibliography and index complete the work. All adults and selected immature stages are illustrated in 70 fascinating colour plates.

This outstanding two volume work of Michael F. Braby is the most important definitive guide for the identification of all 397 recorded Australian butterflies. The author follows the best tradition of Australian research on Lepidoptera and has produced a magnificent piece of work of great general value. It is also a model book on the application of butterfly studies to habitat conservation and will be highly appreciated by entomologists and conservationists, not only in Australia.

*K. Spitzer*