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## BOOK REVIEW

SCOBLE M.J.: THE LEPIDOPTERA. FORM, FUNCTION AND DIVERSITY. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1992, 352 pp., 4 colour plates, 321 Figs. Price £ 45.00.

Dr. Scoble's book is a modern textbook of basic lepidopterology for undergraduate and graduate students. It is similar to a recent lepidopterological book written by I.F.B. Common (1990), which is an excellent handbook for advanced students of Australian fauna. Scoble's work deals with details of morphology and anatomy, with outlines of the ecological importance and taxonomical diversity of Lepidoptera. The systematic part of the book provides the most up-to-date picture of the diversity of moths and butterflies. The part dealing with environmental aspects of Lepidoptera seems very

heterogenous. Most of the examples (including those for problems of bioindication and conservation) are derived from tropical fauna or tropical studies. Very few examples of cold adapted taxa are included. All of the illustrations are instructive, and some are original figures. The colour plates are also useful, but unfortunately two errors are notable: Plate 1 – Fig. 5: *Smerinthus ocellatus* is in a warning (not resting) posture; Fig. 9: the lycaenid is not a Palearctic *Strymonidia w-album*, but probably a palaeotropical species of *Cheritra*. The slight imbalance in the book's contents does not affect the importance of this publication. It will prove useful to anyone who is interested in the study of Lepidoptera.

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