THE EMPEROR MOTHS OF NAMIBIA
by Rolf Oberprieler
Available in the USA from Flora & Fauna Books, P. O. Box 15718, Gainesville, FL 32604.
This well-presented little treatise of the Saturniidae of Namibia, in southwestern Africa, offers excellent color figures of all adults and their larvae, the results of the author's extensive rearing program of many years. An extensive introduction is provided, covering habitats and diversity of these moths in Namibia, followed by sections on their biology and techniques for collection and rearing. Coverage totals 27 species, including 3 thought to occur in Namibian border areas, and only 5 species do not include excellent color photographs of the larvae. Most of the Namibian fauna of Saturniidae is unique to this area of Africa, with endemic African tribes and genera, so the work is highly interesting in documenting these rarer elements of the family. The work is a fine addition for an remote area of the world and should be on the shelf of everyone interested in these large moths.

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CARCASSON'S AFRICAN BUTTERFLIES
An Annotated Catalogue of the Papilionoidea and Hesperioidea of the Afrotropical Region
edited by P. R. Ackery, C. R. Smith, and R. I. Vane-Wright
1995. CSIRO Australia. 803 pp, cloth. $140.
More than twenty years have passed since work began on this monumental project, though a summary checklist was published by the late Bob Carcasson and was used by D'Abrera in his illustrated work. Based on the original draft, staff of the Butterfly Section of what was then BMNH, have devoted years of hard labour to the project, assisted by specialists in many groups. It was worth waiting for.
As a tribute to Bob, his lucid paper from 1964 on Afrotropical butterfly biogeography is reprinted in an edited version, with some additional comments. It has stood the test of time well — indeed it remains one of the finest contributions to its subject and is still widely quoted today in papers that have nothing to do with butterflies.
In the systematic part, a total of 3600 species in 300 genera are covered, having generated a total of 14,000 names in nearly 2500 papers and books since 1758, many so obscure as to be virtually unobtainable. For each of these names you get a precise reference to the original publication, the author, a bibliographically correct entry, the type locality, its original combination, and its present status and synonymy in the consideration of the editors or their collaborators. For each species and subspecies considered valid, their broad range in Africa (and beyond) is given, as is host-plant information when known. There must be at least 150,000 'facts' in the book; that's about 1000 facts a dollar!
I am in a rather unique position to review the catalogue, because the editors allowed me full use of the initial manuscript and the proofs during my work on books on the butterflies of Kenya, Botswana, and West Africa (the last two still unpublished). I have also used it to check numerous references in smaller papers for ten years. I must qualify as its 'ideal target audience'. The verdict of this 'ideal target audience' is as follows: anyone having to work on books on butterflies should be on the shelf of everyone interested in these large moths.

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