

Handbook of Insect

Photographic Guide for Identification



 SCIENTIFIC
PUBLISHERS

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HANDBOOK OF INSECTS: PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE FOR IDENTIFICATION

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Published by

SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHERS (INDIA)

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Website: scientificpub.com

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ISBN: 978-93-88172-78-3 (Hardbound)
978-93-88172-80-6 (E-Book)

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Printed in India

Dedication

*This book is dedicated to
Dr. H.S. Zim, E. Cotton
and
Dr. Goodden Whose
work forms the base of this book.*

PREFACE

This book entitled "Insect at a Glance" includes the familiar insects of Asia, America, Africa and Australia. This insect collection was made and photographed by me in 1960. I would like to mention that since my schooling days, I was very much interested in collecting and studying insects due to their beauty and mysterious ways of Life. I found that they appear when temperature and humidity are ambient and after a few months they disappear. Later, I found that in adverse Indian conditions undergoes hibernation or aestivation or diapause in larval, pupal or adult stages. In beauty and variety they are next to flowers.

Long ago I read "Insect A guide to familiar American insects" by Zim and Cotton (1956). I found that guide very useful when I was a student of entomology for correct and quick identification of insects, without consulting advance books due to their coloured and clear illustrations. Thereafter more than 62 years elapsed but no book of such a character was published for beginners and graduate students of entomology. I thought to compile the common insects in colour for beginners as well as graduate students of entomology of a large part of world.

I would like to state that except a few, a large number of same species of insects viz. butterflies, moths, bugs, beetles, blue and green bottle flies, fruit flies, horse flies, flower flies, dragon flies, ant lions, cockroaches, stored grain insects aphids, milk weed, bugs, stink bugs, honey bees, crickets, termites ants, mosquitoes, stick insects etc. are either cosmopolitan or common in Asia, America, Africa, Australia and several other countries with slightly different colour forms due to change in climatic conditions (winter forms/ summer forms). Hence, they have not been classified/categorized country wise in this guide. Infact, insects have no boundaries like man and are free to migrate from one country to another.

This book deals only with common important and showy insects of a large part of world. I hope the book will be useful for quick and correct identification of insects.

I also hope that the students not only study insects but also help in the conservation of these tiny beautiful creatures (only 1% are harmful). Which are facing great difficulty due to lack of water bodies, destruction of food plants and deforestation, global warming lack of proper ecophysiological living conditions, human interference as well as unwanted use of synthetic pesticides. Many species which were commonly seen a few decade ago now have totally disappeared from the globe. I am extremely thankful to my wife Sneh Lata for her constant encouragement and whole hearted support, I am particularly grateful to my daughter Shubha for reading the proof and suggesting necessary corrections.

Dr. V.B. Awasthi

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to mention very honestly that I was very much impressed by Zim and Cotton (1956) when I was young and number of illustrations that are still in good condition have been reproduced in this book for which I whole heartedly acknowledge. In addition Dr. Lefroy, Fletcher, Goodden, Blaney, Trivedy, Pradhan etc. whose books have a great source of illustrations and information which I gratefully acknowledge.

