

BOOK REVIEW

100 Butterflies and Moths: Portraits from the Tropical Forests of Costa Rica

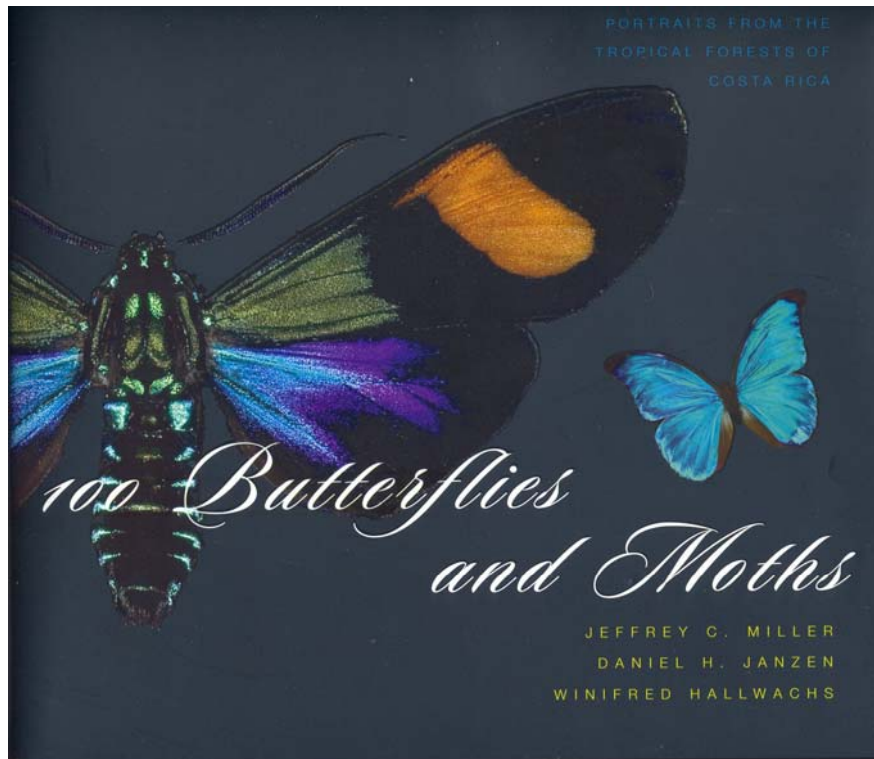
Jeffrey C. Miller, Daniel H. Janzen and Winifred Hallwachs (2007)

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'100 Butterflies and Moths: Portraits from the Tropical Forests of Costa Rica' is the follow-up to '*100 Caterpillars: Portraits from the Tropical Forests of Costa Rica*' (reviewed in Volume 35 of *General and Applied Entomology* (2006)). Like its predecessor this too, is a truly impressive book and like the earlier volume it combines the visual appeal of a coffee table book of insects that anyone might pick up, with detailed information on the ecology of each species that will interest the entomologist. The quality of the photographs and the overall presentation are excellent. As the title suggests there is a gallery of 100 large format photographs of moths and butterflies in all their colourful splendour. The species chosen for this book are not the same as those chosen for the 'caterpillar' volume. Instead, the 100 species were chosen from among an estimated 10000 species that exist within the Area de Conservacion Guanacaste in Costa Rica, to represent the taxonomic diversity and variation in behaviour and life-history within the fauna. The photographs that form a large portion of the book are standardised in that each specimen is presented against a black background. The stunning images are complemented with informative accounts of the life-history and behaviour of each species in accordance with the author's philosophy that "*a beautiful creature is made more beautiful if it is understood*".

There are magnificent composite photographs of the eggs of several species and of the pupae of several nymphalid species to highlight the diversity of morphology. Although the individual species will be unfamiliar to Australian readers, the family to which each species belongs is provided. Like the earlier volume this book is strongly bound in cloth cardboard with an attractive fly cover. Being the same size as the earlier work the two books make perfect partners on the bookshelf. The authors rightfully point out that images are not a substitute for field experience but from half a world away few of us can expect to experience the Area de Conservacion Guanacaste first hand. In the meantime however, this book provides the next best thing!

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