



Field Guide to Insects of South Africa (Field Guide Series)

By Mike Picker

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This is the first comprehensive field guide to the insect fauna of South Africa, with detailed descriptions of over 1 200 of the most common, most economically and ecologically important, and most interesting and attractive insects in the region. The easy-to-read text is matched with superb photography. Each account covers identification, biology, distribution and related species, and is accompanied by a colour photograph of the species or family.

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Editorial Review

Review

This new guide will be of great value to entomologists, both amateur and professional, as well as to students, nature conservation officers, game rangers, gardeners, farmers, tourists and anyone with an interest in natural history. An introductory chapter discusses the insect body, life history, classification and distribution patterns and relatives of southern African insects. It also touches on collecting, displaying and curating insects and explains 'How to use this book'. A useful photographic guide to the insects of the region. (*Ian Paulsen, Birdbooker Report, Guardian Newspapers*)

Featuring full-color photography of over 1,200 insect species, Field Guide To Insects Of South Africa is a comprehensive guide to insect fauna of South Africa, now in an updated 2004 edition. Senior Zoology Lecturer Mike Picker, Associate Zoology Professor Charles Griffiths, and retired entomologist Alan Weaving combine their knowledge and expertise in this guide that offers extensive identification details, maps of regional habitats, and basic biology information allowing for quick and simple field identification of insect species. An index of scientific names, and an introduction to insect hunting and classification round out this easy-to-use guide for amateur nature lovers and professional zoologists alike. (*Midwest Book Review*)

Even those insect lovers not living in or bound for South Africa will want a copy of the guide. Clarity defines every aspect of the effort. The introductory material hits just the right general notes regarding life cycle and taxonomic matters. The photographs mesmerize. All or most seem to have been taken with insects in situ. And it not just the showy and clever mimics, such as flower mantids of Hymenopodidae, that get hold of the mind. Every photograph tantalizes the desire to know more, see more, and get out and observe nature. The succinct text gives enough details to ensure that the ways and likely whereabouts of a family are understood. Peculiarities such as the order Strepsitera in which the parasitic females never live apart from the insect host while the males fly freely are described well. A one-page essay on insect photography addresses the depth-of-field issue that all photographers of the six-legged world know well. Indexes to scientific and common names, a further reading list, a list of Websites, and a glossary fortify what is simply a splendid book. (*American Reference Book Annual, Volume 37*)

About the Author

Dr Mike Picker (a lecturer in the Zoology Department, UCT), Alan Weaving (a retired entomologist) and Professor Charles Griffiths (head of the Zoology Department, UCT) have published well over a hundred scientific papers on insect and marine life, a number of popular articles and natural history photographs and several books, including the best-selling *A Guide to the Marine Life of Southern Africa* (Griffiths, Branch and Beckley) and Weaving's *Southern African Insects and their World* (Struik 2000).

Users Review

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Edward Gilbert:

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Robert Bryant:

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