



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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- Sales Rank: #232963 in eBooks
- Published on: 2012-05-30
- Released on: 2012-05-30
- Format: Kindle eBook

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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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Field Guide to Insects of South Africa (Field Guide Series) can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into joy arrangement in writing Field Guide to Insects of South Africa (Field Guide Series) but doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into completely new stage of crucial thinking.

Melinda Brown:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, newspaper, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher which print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to you personally is Field Guide to Insects of South Africa (Field Guide Series) this guide consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. That book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. Often the writer made some research when he makes this book. This is why this book suitable all of you.

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