

of them are found only in southern England or are listed as rare in northern England and Scotland, which must limit the usefulness of the book as a reference.

The introduction, on p. 69, consists of four full pages of close and forbiddingly unbroken print, since the paragraphs are not indented. There

is an index and a bibliography of 16 good English titles. It is hard to know for whom the book is intended, however. The dust jacket says it is a handy reference and a useful introduction, but it strikes me as too elementary for a reference and too pedantic for an introduction.

—H. R. MacCarthy

BOOK REVIEW

The Skippers of the Genus Hesperia in Western North America, With Special Reference to California (Lepidoptera: Hesperidae) by C. Don MacNeill. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1964. Pp. 221. \$5.00.

This work, Volume 35 of the University of California publications in Entomology, presents a meticulous taxonomic treatment of the western members of North American *Hesperia* besides lucid discussions on some phases of their biology based on "— intimate observation for a limited time upon a limited portion of the fauna." Although the book is chiefly of interest to certain specialists in taxonomy, ecologists and others concerned with biogeographic distribution (11 pp.) and behaviour of adult insects (18 pp.) will find good meat within the section on Biology.

The taxonomy is based on examination of more than 500 ova and 200 larvae and pupae of nine western and two eastern species. Over 7,500 adult specimens were studied representing all known North American species. Details and data on specimens, techniques and methods are fully documented. There are 9

range maps; 28 pages of good diagrammatic drawings of larval setal patterns, pupae, antennae, and genitalia; a coloured frontispiece of adults of one species and three subspecies not previously illustrated; and 8 plates of photographs. All these are satisfactory but some of the black and white photographs do not measure up to the general high standard of the book. The writing is polished; the single error noted is that insidious old acquaintance 'data was' used once.

Proof reading was excellent although there are minor errors in the spelling of a couple of British Columbia place names. Faulty labels and failure to consult a gazetteer are sand traps for uncounted taxonomists.

At the end of the book are 258 references by 170 authors dating from 1793 to 1962. Greatly increasing the value of this list is a brief summary of each reference.

The only major disappointment is that there is no indication that material was submitted to a cytogeneticist for examination; apart from this single omission, the book is a model for emulation.

—D. A. Ross