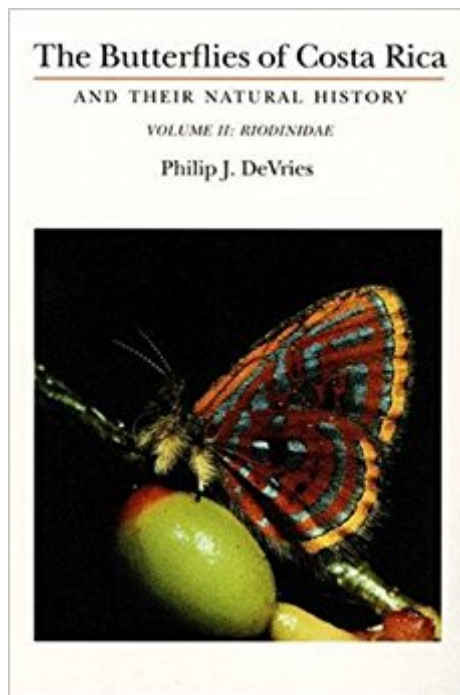




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# The Butterflies Of Costa Rica And Their Natural History, Vol. II: Riodinidae



## Synopsis

With habitats ranging from sea level to over 3,800 meters, the small Neotropical country of Costa Rica encompasses more than fifteen distinct life zones and contains a large percentage of all the butterfly species known from Central America. In this field guide, a sequel to the volume on Papilionidae, Pieridae, and Nymphalidae, Philip DeVries provides the first detailed treatment of over 250 species of Costa Rican butterflies in the family Riodinidae. Drawing from his extensive fieldwork, museum research, and surveys of scientific literature, DeVries presents the means to identify riodinid butterflies to the species level and gives an overview of their natural history. This guide illustrates nearly all of the Costa Rican species in color and provides a large sample of detailed line drawings and scanning electron micrographs of riodinid early stages for the first time ever. The book's coverage makes it useful for identifying riodinids throughout Mexico, Central America, and substantial portions of South America. The introductory chapter brings together a large body of material that applies directly to understanding riodinid butterflies in general. The taxonomy, distribution, and natural history of each taxon is discussed in detail. The author also provides sections on ecology, evolution, behavior, symbioses with ants, caterpillar acoustical calls, systematics, collecting and preserving, hostplant relationships, and the comparative diversity of riodinid butterfly faunas. A section on butterfly biologists of the last century provides a historical perspective to the basis of our understanding of Neotropical butterflies.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Invaluable to anyone studying the butterflies of the Neotropics."--New Scientist

With habitats ranging from sea level to over 3,800 meters, the small Neotropical country of Costa Rica encompasses more than fifteen distinct life zones and contains a large percentage of all the butterfly species known from Central America. In this field guide, a sequel to the volume on Papilionidae, Pieridae, and Nymphalidae, Philip DeVries provides the first detailed treatment of over 250 species of Costa Rican butterflies in the family Riodinidae. Drawing from his extensive fieldwork, museum research, and surveys of scientific literature, DeVries presents the means to identify riodinid butterflies to the species level and gives an overview of their natural history. This guide illustrates nearly all of the Costa Rican species in color and provides a large sample of detailed line drawings and scanning electron micrographs of riodinid early stages for the first time ever. The book's coverage makes it useful for identifying riodinids throughout Mexico, Central America, and substantial portions of South America. The introductory chapter brings together a large body of material that applies directly to understanding riodinid butterflies in general. The taxonomy, distribution, and natural history of each taxon is discussed in detail. The author also provides sections on ecology, evolution, behavior, symbioses with ants, caterpillar acoustical calls, systematics, collecting and preserving, hostplant relationships, and the comparative diversity of riodinid butterfly faunas. A section on butterfly biologists of the last century provides a historical perspective to the basis of our understanding of Neotropical butterflies.

This book, together with the vol.1, is a surprisingly complete publication of butterflies and their natural history written by a single author. I put two volumes and Corbet/Pendlebury's *Butterflies of West Malaysia* on a book shelf near at hand and look at the pages quite often. Now I am too old to go to Costa Rica to look at the butterflies, but the pages of this book gives me clear images of imaginary travel in the jungles in Costa Rica. I hope the 3rd volume of this book on Hairstreaks/Blues or Skippers will be published in near future.

This is a wonderful book on butterflies, well-researched, more photos than you can review in a day, and a joy to behold. DeVries has provided the amateur, the professional or the everyday reader with all the known information of every butterfly found in Costa Rica. ( Yes, many of them get to the U.S.) DeVries' attention to detail, his photos and his comments demonstrate discipline ordinary writers can only envy. Also be warned, this is "Volume II" of his massive opus to our winged-friends. You

will have to find "Volume I" on the used book sites. DeVires is now teaching and researching at the University of New Orleans, but at the end of the day, this volume and the previous volume will stand as testimony to what a field researcher can do. Buy this book.

Great and affordable product. Good weight which means less pressure while cutting. Excellent ergonomic. Sharp. Cutting tomatoes and onions was a pleasant experience. I bought this product to replace a old one. very recommend . These shears are very durable and made of high quality material. my family need it , good product with high quality.

This hefty book is not a book you would like to drag along in you daypack (I tried, so I know). Yet, you will need it around (so, in your lodge or tent) when you're walking the rainforests and trying to make out what you've seen. It gives a clear description, added to clear drawings, of all the butterflies in the described families. That leads me to the only drawback: it's "just" a number of famlies described here, so the title is somewhat misleading. I'm eagerly awaiting the follow-up with the rest of the Lepidoptera, hoping that they will be covered in a similar way.

For all of you who are looking for a good quality source book for your art projects this is the book that will provide you, not only, with detailed drawings but also with beautiful color images of Costa Rican butterflies. I only wish there were more color photographs of the insect, but since I researched line drawings to incorporate them into design this book even exceeded my needs. It also helped my seven year old daughter to understand and appreciate the complexity of this species not only its beauty. The text is easy to understand and can make a good vacation reading

After traveling different countries and using various field guides, I can say that this one needs a lot of improvement. This book only covers a small section of species. The specimens that are used are tattered and some are difficult to use for ID purposes. In most guides, the photo description on the left usually include the page number for the text, this one doesn't. So, you have to check the name and look to the index to cross over to the text page. Speaking of names, they are only called by the Latin scientific name. This is probably not a big issue since most do not have one. Now, the text is very thorough and there have been a great deal of time and patience to acquire the information and data. I still would recommend this book despite its flaws. So far, it is probably the only book describing Costa Rican Butterflies.

This book along with the photo essay book "Costa Rica : The Last Country the Gods Made" should be owned by anyone who loves Costa Rica, even if they think they despise nature studies as dry and limited. Buy it just for the color plates. This book's spirit is undeniable.

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