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A Photographic Field Guide to the Amphibians of Sri Lanka / Anslem de Silva,
Kaniskha Ukuwela & Dian Chathuranga (Ed)

John Beaufoy Publishing Ltd.,UK 2021

248p.

9781913679118

\$ 45.00 / null

666 gm.

A Photographic Field Guide to the Amphibians of Sri Lanka is a complete guide to the 120 species of frog, toad and caecilian found in Sri Lanka. Extinct species are also listed for completeness. With photographs from the authors, each species is illustrated with many variants. The general introduction includes details of the climate, geography and vegetation of the island, key characteristics that can be used in the identification of amphibians, information on amphibian conservation in Sri Lanka, a brief introduction to folklore and where to look for amphibians. The species descriptions include the common English name, the current scientific name, the vernacular name in Sinhala, a brief history of the species, a description with identification features, and details of habitat, habits and distribution (in Sri Lanka and outside the country). Key external identification features, such as body form, skin texture and colouration, are provided, to help in the identification of an animal in the field.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=791726>

The Hairy Rhinoceros: History, Ecology and Some Lessons for Management of the
Last Asian Megafauna / John Payne

Natural History Publications (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia 2022

xviii, 198p.

Includes Index

9789838122047

\$ 75.00 / HB

898 gm.

Species do not suddenly go extinct. Behind every extinction is a long history. Until a century ago, human actions were only a part of that history. Now, preventing extinctions depends entirely on human interventions. The days of small groups of dedicated people taking actions to try to prevent extinctions ended in the 1960s. The management unit that addresses endangered wildlife now is the nation state. Governments make the wildlife policy decisions. But governments are influenced by nongovernmental advisers and public opinion. Five concepts in population biology show that leaving Hairy rhinos in the wild was never going to be successful in preventing the species extinction: the species-area curve, sufficiency of habitat in protected areas, extinction debt, the Allee effect and ecological tipping points. On top of that, a quintet of human cognitive biases mean that no decisions and wrong decisions are made repeatedly: shifting baseline, risk aversion, us-and-them, fashions and opinions.

Like many other endangered large mammal species, the Hairy rhinoceros is drifting to extinction not primarily because of ongoing and future habitat loss or poaching. Those impacts started hundreds and thousands of years ago, and were the issues of immediate concern in the twentieth century. The issue to address now is paralysis in making the best decisions on what exactly to do about the remaining and mostly non-viable clusters.

Interventions necessary for recovery might include treating all surviving members of a species as a single metapopulation, ensuring that remnant clusters have sufficient quality habitat to sustain viable numbers, putting in place measures to ensure that all fertile females achieve high birth rates, ensuring that every remaining individual contributes its genes to future generations, and addressing inbreeding risks. Such interventions have been too little, too late or, more commonly, are non-existent.

The story of the Hairy rhino, told here from a Malaysian perspective, can help to inform governments on how to prevent further megafauna extinctions, through targeted interventions for population recovery.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799761>

Pelagus National Park: Biodiversity Above the Rapids: Life From Headwaters to the Coast / Andrew Alek Tuen (et al.)

Natural History Publications (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia 2021

xii, 878p.

9789672298588

\$ 37.50 / null

226 gm.

Pelagus, located along the middle reaches of the Rajang River, in central Sarawak, was gazetted as a National Park in the year 2009. It covers an area of circa 2,041 hectares of pristine and old secondary forests, the latter being reminders of logging activities from the early 1960s. Here, at the heart of Sarawak's Iban country, visitors can spend a leisurely day or two, walking on some of the nature trails, while on the lookout for birds, frogs and mammals, and enjoying calls of gibbons and hornbills.

Remains of a former luxury resort lend a curious twist to the place, the abandoned structure overlooking the mighty rapids and witness to numerous tragedies involving boats crashing on the rapids. Legends from nearby longhouses say these rocks were formed by a mythological being killed by an Iban warrior, and local communities continue to make offerings to the Rapids to this day.

The current work presents results from a joint Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and Sarawak Energy Berhad project, bringing to the general public information on key groups of plants and animals of the Pelagus region. The goal is to provide information of our natural heritage to stakeholders, management authorities, naturalists, researchers and the general public.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799762>

Morning Glories of Thailand and Southeast Asia / George Staples, Nelly Bouilhac & Kongkanda Chayamarit

Natural History Publications (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia 2021

xii, 168p.

Includes Index

9789838122009

\$ 90.00 / HB

790 gm.

Every Thai person, and a great many visitors to Thailand, knows what phak bung () is. This plant, ubiquitous throughout the Kingdom, is a kind of morning glory and as such phak bung is a worthy ambassador to introduce a large assortment of beautiful and interesting plants. Species classified as members of the Convolvulaceae are found all over the world in tropical and warm temperate climates including every ecosystem and habitat from temperate fields and meadows to ever-wet tropical forests, ocean beaches, dry deserts and high steppes. There are almost 2,000 species known. Thailand has a rich diversity of Convolvulaceae in its flora: there are 147 species documented within the Kingdom's borders and new species are discovered every year. Some Thai species, like phak bung, are very abundant where people live; others are quite rare and found only in pristine natural areas. All of them are fascinating, many are beautiful, and each has a unique place in the natural world around us. Their stories are told here.

This book combines knowledge about Convolvulaceae from three people who specialize in botany and horticulture. These authors introduce you to the Convolvulaceae world-wide, as garden ornamentals, as food plants, in the unique cultural environment of Japan, and finally through a selection of the morning glories of Thailand. Many of the same species found in Thailand grow throughout Southeast Asia and this book is also a field guide to morning glories throughout the region.

Beautifully illustrated with colour photographs throughout there are also illustrations for horticultural practices and propagation techniques that were specially prepared for this book. In total all 27 genera of Thai Convolvulaceae are included and 80 selected species, including several of the rarest and some of the most beautiful among them.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799757>

A Taxonomic Guide to the Stick Insects of Peninsular Malaysia, Volume I / Francis Seow-Choen

Natural History Publications (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia 2021

x, 950p.

Includes Index

9789838122016

\$ 250.00 / HB

3018 gm.

This volume is the seventh in a series of Taxonomic Guides to the Stick Insects of South East Asia and the tenth book on stick insects by the author. It is the third book by the author on the stick insects of Peninsular Malaysia. The present book is different from the authors first two books on Peninsular Malaysian stick insects. This present book follows the concept of the first six volumes by the author in this series: which are A Taxonomic Guide to Stick Insects of Borneo (2016), A Taxonomic Guide to Stick Insects of Borneo Volume II (2017), A Taxonomic Guide to Stick Insects of Singapore (2017), A Taxonomic Guide to Stick Insects of Sumatra Volume I (2018), A Taxonomic Guide to Stick Insects of Borneo Volume III (2019) and A Taxonomic Guide to Stick Insects of Sumatra Volume II (2020). This seventh volume is once again lavishly illustrated with beautiful colour photographs of the various species of stick insects being discussed in the book. This book enables anyone with any interest in stick insects to be able to identify any stick insect one may come across in Peninsular Malaysia. This is possible by the use of the carefully constructed keys or with the help of the numerous colour photographs of all described species of Peninsular Malaysian stick insects.

This latest volume, A Taxonomic Guide to Stick Insects of Peninsular Malaysia Vol 1 (2021) lists 14 new species, two new genera, ten lectotype designations, one neotype designation, seven new specific synonyms, eight revised statuses, three new combination names as well as the description of the unknown sex of five species. The number of recognized species in Peninsular Malaysia stands at 136. This latest publication on the phasmid fauna of Peninsular Malaysia, extends our knowledge of the stick insects of the whole of South East Asia. It will enable conservationists, entomologists and amateur enthusiasts world-wide to better identify, understand and study these insects. Efforts to plan for their conservation as well as for the preservation of their habitats will therefore be achieved in a more scientific way.

Vampire Moths: Behaviour, Ecology and Taxonomy of Blood-Sucking Calyptra /
Hans Banziger

Natural History Publications (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia 2021

viii, 232p.

Includes Index

9789838121996

\$ 125.00 / HB

976 gm.

The book is introduced with the author's scientific odyssey in the quest for the secretive vampire moths, initiated more than half a century ago in Southeast Asia and nearby regions. The main part of the book presents a synthesis of three decades of research based mainly on his nocturnal field investigations in or near forest habitats. What would appear as perverted feeding habits in insects generally thought as gentle flower visitors are exposed as sophisticated adaptations developed in a select group of less than ten of the 180 000 known species of Lepidoptera. Calyptra's unique skin-piercing blood-sucking methods are detailed in photographs and diagrams. The moths' victims range from elephants and rhinoceroses, to tapirs, horses, cattle, deer and pig, and occasionally humans. Other aspects treated include distribution, behaviour, ecology, phenology, and physiology. An identification key facilitates recognition of all Calyptra species (not all are blood suckers), enhanced by illustrations and descriptions of moth adults, their caterpillars and host plants. The moths' veterinary-medical implications are discussed in the light of their being among the largest of all blood-sucking insects, combined with their unorthodox mode to bleed their quarry. The book is rounded off reviewing the most probable scenarios of the moths' evolutionary pathway into blood suckers, and added with a comprehensive list of the subject's literature.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799759>

Urban Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions in Southeast Asia: Perspectives
from Indonesia and Malaysia / Alex M. Lechner (et al.)

ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore 2021

52p.

Includes Bibliographical References

ISSN: 0219-3213 ; 9789815011203

\$ 9.00 / null

98 gm.

Rapid urbanization and development in Southeast Asia have impacted its high biodiversity and unique ecosystems, directly through the use of forest lands for infrastructure building, and indirectly through increasing ecological footprints.

In Greater Bandung, Indonesia and Greater Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, rapid urbanization over the last thirty years has resulted in an increase in built infrastructure of approximately two and three times respectively.

A Nature-Based Solutions approach can potentially underpin urban design and planning strategies in Greater Bandung and Greater Kuala Lumpur, as well as other cities in Southeast Asia, to address biodiversity conservation and also global environmental challenges such as climate change adaption and mitigation, while supporting well-being.

Mainstreaming Nature-Based Solutions in Southeast Asia will require knowledge gaps to be addressed, greater awareness, increasing the evidence base, metrics for measuring success, support from institutions and stakeholders, and new and innovative financing.

The urgency of global socio-ecological challenges, in particular the biodiversity and climate crisis, means transformational change is needed in Southeast Asia, for urban, ecological, technical, economic, and social systems, while still supporting sustainable development.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=788707>

Raffles' Banded Langur: The Elusive Monkey of Singapore and Malaysia / Andie
Ang & Sabrina Jabbar

World Scientific, Singapore 2022

98p.

9789811241468

\$ 15.00 / HB

320 gm.

Sir Stamford Raffles came across an unnamed new species in 1821 when he was documenting natural history in Singapore. This elusive primate, the Raffles' banded langur, was later named after him. This book is a one-stop resource for everything we know about the critically endangered primate that is only found in Singapore and Malaysia, including its distribution, diet, family structure, infant development, threats and conservation. The Raffles' banded langur is a large but slender-bodied monkey with black fur and white bands, while the infants are born with white fur and black bands. Exclusive high-quality photographs of the langurs are featured with family trees illustrating individually-named langurs. Interesting anecdotes about their personalities and behaviours are narrated. Living high up in the tree canopy, they eat a variety of local produce and exotic plants, from the red, juicy rambutans, stinky petai beans, to leafy angkana, perfumed wild cinnamon flowers and large sea almond fruits. This book showcases the diverse habitats of the Raffles' banded langurs, bringing us from the freshwater swamp forest in Singapore to the steep slopes of Gunung Lambak and the primary rainforests of Endau Rompin National Park in Johor, Malaysia. The book also highlights the cross-border conservation efforts and future plans to safeguard the long-term survival of the Raffles' banded langur, and promotes a better understanding and appreciation of our shared natural heritage.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799835>

Crafting a Future : Stories of Indian Textiles and Sustainable Practices / Archana Shah

Niyogi Books, New Delhi 2021

275p.; photos(colour);23cm.

Includes Index

9789391125226

\$ 3.50 / HB

760 gm.

Crafting a Future is a heartfelt celebration of artisans and their vocational skills. Each region in India has its own distinctive raw materials, craft techniques, textiles, motifs and colour palettes, and through her well-researched narrative enriched with numerous stories, Archana Shah demonstrates the diversity and true value of handcrafted textile processes. She believes that handspun, handwoven fabrics made using indigenous fibres and natural materials for dyeing will help create a unique identity for handcrafted textiles and suggests ways to repurpose the abundant artisanal talent available across the country to rejuvenate this sector. These tenets are woven throughout the book, which is broadly divided into three sections based on natural fibres: cotton from plants, silk from insects and wool from animals.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=800509>

Environmental Journalism: Reporting on Environmental Concerns and Climate Change in India / D S Poornananda

Sage Publications Pvt.Ltd, New Delhi 2022

xxiv,340p.;22cm.

Includes Index

9789354793387

\$ 34.00 / HB

620 gm.

Environmental Journalism: Reporting on Environmental Concerns and Climate Change in India examines the increase of environmental concerns and its reflection in Indian media, exploring the possibilities of and constraints in covering environmental news. The book discusses major challenges in environmental reportage, such as political and corporate pressures on media houses and threats to journalists. It discusses why environmental reporting is not considered an important 'beat' and reports covering these issues are usually assigned to junior reporters. This book analyses why journalists lack the proper training to report on environmental issues, focusing on the many obstacles to scientific knowledge and specialized training. It draws critical insights from interviews with environmental journalists, activists and specialists, and will be an important read for scholars of not only media studies and environmental studies but also sociology, politics and development studies. Looking at the media's role in framing environmental degradation as a human rights issue, the book argues that the growth of environmental journalism can contribute significantly to global initiatives for saving the planet.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=800510>

State of India's environment 2022 : a down to earth annual / Sunita Narain

Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi 2022

477p.;illus(b/w) and colour), maps(b/w), and colour) ; 28cm.

9788195266203

\$ 17.50 / null

920 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=800511>

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