This handy little book treats the True Butterflies of the World. It has been designed and produced to serve as a popular and easy guide to the identification of the True Butterflies (Papilionoidea) at least to genus level. It contains extremely clear and accurate figures in colour, of at least one species for most, if not all, of the known genera of this important Superfamily of the order Lepidoptera (the others being ‘skippers’ and all the moths). It is superior in numbers of figures, quality of printing, and scientific utility, to any similar work, past or present.

The gorgeously printed 6,400-plus figures show the butterflies at approximately 60% of natural size. They are all in scale, one to another. Each accurately coloured figure is referenced to a brief but authoritative text, showing the number of known species in the genus and the distributions of the species figured. The author, arguably the most famous ‘butterfly man’ in the world, has utilised the most up-to-date taxonomy in his text.

There is also a brief introductory text on the biology and behaviour of butterflies. This section is accompanied by strikingly beautiful photographs of living insects, taken by the author, in available light. As with all his renowned photography, the author has only used traditional film, particularly high-definition Kodak Ektachrome. Consequently his images are superior to those from any other medium of photography, and unlike the digital medium, are capable of indefinite archival storage.

The specimens chosen for figuring in this book are reproduced from the now famous 20-volume work entitled The Butterflies of the World (1969–2004) by Bernard d’Abera. This unique and now irreplaceable series was itself based largely on the peerless collections of the British Museum (Natural History) in London.

The complete series is as follows:

- Butterflies of the Australian Region (1971, 1st Edition)
- Butterflies of the Australian Region (1978, 2nd Edition)
- Butterflies of the Australian Region (1980, 3rd Edition)
- Butterflies of the Oriental Region Part I (Papilionidae, Pieridae, Danaidae)
- Butterflies of the Oriental Region Part II (Nymphalidae, Satyridae, Amathusiidae)
- Butterflies of the Oriental Region Part III (Lycaenidae, Riodinidae)
- Butterflies of the Neotropical Region Part I (Papilionidae, Pieridae)
- Butterflies of the Neotropical Region Part II (Danainae, Rhodinae, Heliconiinae, Morphinae)
- Butterflies of the Neotropical Region Part III (Bhsrromnae, Acaiinae, Nymphalinae)
- Butterflies of the Neotropical Region Part IV (Nymphalidae, Apatura)
- Butterflies of the Neotropical Region Part V (Nymphalidae, Apatura)
- Butterflies of the Neotropical Region Part VI (Riodinidae)
- Butterflies of the Neotropical Region Part VII (Lycaenidae)
- Butterflies of the Holarctic Region Part I (Papilionidae, Pieridae, Danaidae, Satyridae)
- Butterflies of the Holarctic Region Part II (Satyridae, Nymphalidae)
- Butterflies of the Holarctic Region Part III (Nymphalidae, Libytheinae, Riodinidae)
- Butterflies of the Afrotropical Region (1979, 1st Edition)
- Butterflies of the Afrotropical Region (New & Revised Edition, Volume I)
- Butterflies of the Afrotropical Region (New & Revised Edition, Volume II)
- Butterflies of the Afrotropical Region (New & Revised Edition, Volume III)
- Other titles by the same author:
  - Birdwing Butterflies of the World (1971)
  - Moths of Australia
  - Butterflies of South America
  - Sphingidae Mundi
  - Saturniidae Mundi (Part 1)
  - Saturniidae Mundi (Part 2, in prep.)
  - Saturniidae Mundi (Part 3)