

frames can be stacked to give one sharp image. For eggs this is no problem, but if insects are your subjects they may move. Dust spots on the sensors of digital SLRs are also a big problem when using lens at large F stops and again these need to be cloned away in photo editing software (or clean your sensor before hand!). Dust spots on compact cameras don't occur as these are sealed. Ensure that all plans of focus in the stack are captured when filming your Z stack otherwise you will have sections out of focus!

I would like to thank Janine Fletcher for posting me the samples of the different eggs. The egg images were captured using a Canon MPE-65mm macro lens mounted on a Canon EOS 5DmkII body. Exposed using a Canon ringflash MR-14EX at 1/200sec, F5.6 and ISO 100 on a tripod and macro rail for each image in a stack.

Picture legend for image on front page.

Phasmid eggs. 1st row Left to Right. PSG103 *Sipyloidea* sp. "THAILAND 8" , PSG14 *Eurycnema goliath*, PSG145 *Paramenexenus laetus*, PSG15 *Anchiale briareus*, PSG151 *Asceles margaritatus*.

2nd Row Left to Right PSG157 *Ramulus* sp. , PSG200 *Lonchodes malleti*, PSG225 *Clonaria conformans*, PSG200 *Lonchodes malleti*, PSG258 *Parectatosoma mocquerysi*.

3rd Row Left to Right PSG276 *Sipyloidea meneptolemus*, PSG281 *Pterinoxylus crassus*, PSG55 *Ramulus nematodes*, PSG6 *Acanthoxyla prasina*, PSG73 *Phenacephorus cornucervi*.

4th Row PSG72 *Phyllium giganteum*, PSG13 *Acrophylla wuelfingi*, PSG225 *Clonaria conformans*, PSG278 *Phyllium* sp. , PSG85 *Pseudophasma rufipes*.

Book Review: The Complete Field Guide to Stick and Leaf Insects of Australia

Ed Baker (Editor)

Paul D. Brock and Jack W. Hasenpusch
xii+204pp - full colour
ISBN:9780643094185
CSIRO Publishing



Despite the large number of books on stick and leaf insects published in recent decades, there have been few field guides. Indeed this is the first publication to use the term "field guide" in the title. It should be noted that for many of the more temperate regions the number of phasmids is small enough that they do not warrant their own field guide, and they are adequately covered in books on the orthoptera or insects of a region (the exception to this is Brock's Stick-Insects of Britain, Europe and The Mediterranean - although it covers a large geographic area).

Good field guides must fulfil a number of criteria:

Identifiability - is it possible to accurately identify specimens in the field?

Size - the book must be easily carried alongside any collecting and photographic equipment. This means it must be small enough to fit in the side or top pockets of a rucksack, or in a camera or map case.

Durability - you don't want the cover falling off or pages falling out!

The issue of size remove Salmon's *The Stick Insects of New Zealand* and Seow-Choen's *An Illustrated Guide to the Stick and Leaf Insects of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore* from being considered as field guides. These books are much better suited as reference works before and after a trip, as is Bragg's *Phasmids of Borneo* and Brock's *Stick-Insects of Britain, Europe and The Mediterranean*. These books may well be worth taking with you on your trip, but are best left behind where you're staying when you venture into the field.

The only two previous publications that have use as field guides therefore are Seow-Choen's *Phasmids of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore (A Pocket Guide)* and Brock's *Stick and Leaf Insects of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore*. As would be expected these have a large overlap! Seow-Choen's publication is full colour throughout with every species photographed, Brock's contains the taxonomic detail supported by line illustrations. *The Complete Field Guide to the Stick and Leaf Insects of Australia* covers the middle ground between these two - albeit for a different region.

Following a forward by David Rentz (a leading Australian orthopterist who has the genus *Davidrentzia* and species *Onchestus rentzi* & *Sipyloidea rentzi* named after him) the introductory chapters cover the basics of phasmid life cycle,