

BOOK REVIEW

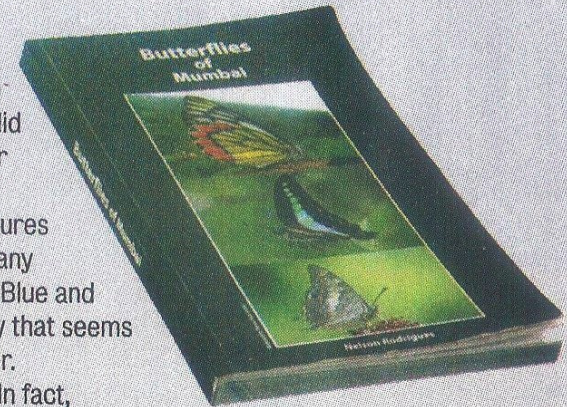
Title: Butterflies of Mumbai
Author: Nelson Rodrigues
Publisher: Anitha Art Printers
(www.anitaprinters.com)
Price: Rs. 490

An Unusual Guide to Butterflies

I am a huge fan of macro and nature photography. So, when I was given *Butterflies of Mumbai* to review, I was really excited. I was sure I would learn a thing or two, considering the number of hours I had spent in a nature park, stumbling around in the bushes, trying to identify butterflies. And the book met all my expectations! Not only did I learn a lot about the lifecycle of butterflies, I also learned the various kinds of danger they face, and how they protect themselves.

The book has been written by Nelson Rodrigues over a period of six years and features a catalogue of 153 butterflies. Interestingly enough, the book has not been divided by any scientific classification. Rather, it has been divided by the colours Yellow and Orange, Blue and Green, Brown, Black and Multicoloured and so on. So if you spot a particular butterfly that seems like it belongs to one of these shades, all you need to do is flip to the concerned colour.

Unlike most reference books, *Butterflies of Mumbai* is not preachy or boring at all. In fact, the language is lucid and easy to understand. Nelson also annotates the photos with symbols and abbreviations when trying to talk about lots of different things. Thus, these symbols act as quick guides to understanding whether a certain butterfly is male or female and what it looks like during a particular season. Not only this, Nelson has also included photos of the pupae and caterpillars of a variety of butterflies. All in all, it is a wonderful reference book that gives plenty of information in a simple and fun manner.



— Ambarin Afsar