

Book Review:
Fisher BL & Bolton B 2016 *Ants of Africa and Madagascar,*
***A guide to the genera* University of California Press. 512 pp.**
ISBN: 978-0520290891

With the publication of this incredible text, we are taken one step closer to the authors' goals of 'imagining what the world would be like if every ant had a name'. Following on from the equally successful *Ants of North America* (2007), and forming part of a series designed to make the ants of the world available to all (*Ants of South America* and *Ants of South-East Asia* are planned to appear in the next few years), this book provides all of the resources needed for anyone to identify the diverse genera of ants known from the African and Malagasy regions. Presented by two prominent ant experts with a deep knowledge of the fauna of these regions (Brian Fisher has conducted decades of ant sampling across Madagascar and Africa and Barry Bolton is the leading authority on many African ant taxa), the field guide includes a updated key to the ant genera of these two regions, incorporating the latest changes in ant taxonomy stemming from the recent development of molecular-based phylogenetic hypotheses. In addition to the well-illustrated keys that are a tremendous help in distinguishing between couplets, the book includes overviews of the ant fauna of each region, distribution maps, photographs, illustrations, and natural history/ecological information for each genus. The inclusion of detailed descriptions of the morphological features utilized in the keys adds to the utility of this book.

This field guide is a valuable tool not only for taxonomists, but for all who would like to identify the ants they find. Entomologists and ecologists, conservation practitioners and land use planners now have access to detailed and accurate information on this incredibly diverse group of ants (11 subfamilies, 122 genera and ultimately perhaps as many as 5,000 species) and this book has already inspired actions to create an Africa and Madagascar section of the international union for the Study of Social Insects.. The valuable WWW site www.antweb.org provides further resources for those wishing to delve into the species identities of the ant genera they have found or needing to keep up to date with any future changes to generic relationships and/or species identities.

With the ant genera of North America, Africa and Malagasy regions now covered in a beautiful and consistent manner, we can only look forward to the Fisher team covering the remaining regions of our planet.

The book is available at www.amazon.com in Kindle, hardcover or paperback form, for only US\$40, \$95 or \$50 respectively.

Do yourself a favour...

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