



OBITUARY – HERBERT OTTO

(22.09.1966–19.10.2016)

Belinda Otto & Justin Bode

TRIBUTE

It was with great sadness that we heard of the untimely passing of Herbert Otto, at the age of 50, due to cancer, which was a shock to all who knew him and a loss to the Society as a whole.

Herbert Otto was born in Zimbabwe and moved to South Africa in 1972 with his family. He graduated with a BSc from RAU in 1989. After completing his military service, as a Lieutenant, at Hoedspruit, in 1991, he pursued his calling as a teacher, by acquiring a Higher Education Diploma.

Herbert taught various subjects at schools in Gauteng and Mpumalanga, as well as a year in Taiwan, always carrying his passion for butterflies with him.

During his time as a teacher at Barberton Primary School, he instilled a love of nature in many of the pupils that he taught. He was always willing to “guide” fellow Lepidoptera enthusiasts around his local patch which he did with great enthusiasm and he always had a little historical anecdote to share about the localities that were visited. A case in point is the trip to Barberton that the Bode’s planned in May 2009, when Herbert was contacted by them for locality information for good butterfly spots around Barberton. Without ever having met them he offered to show them around the area and a great day was had in Shiyalongubo Forest and around Sheba Mine, with him telling stories of the gold-rush years of Barberton and reeling off butterfly names as they were encountered.'

His knowledge of Lowveld butterflies and his love for the area was manifest through his “11 year labour of love” *Butterflies of the Kruger National Park & Surrounds* which was published in 2014. The book covered his research into the etymology of butterfly names for his book and this broadened our knowledge of this subject. Based on the research undertaken for the book he co-authored an article in *Metamorphosis* that recorded 61 new larval host-plants.

His move to Oman did not stop him from contributing to our knowledge of Lepidoptera and he published several papers in *Metamorphosis* on his observations of butterflies on the Arabian Peninsula.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother and leaves a brother and a sister behind.

PUBLICATIONS

OTTO, H.H.H., GARDINER, A.J. & SHARP, I.C. 2013. New larval host plant records for butterflies of the Kruger National Park and its surrounds, Limpopo & Mpumalanga, South Africa. *Metamorphosis* **24**: 69–74.

OTTO, H. H. H. 2014. Applying lepidopteran oviposition science to establish new butterfly larval host plants from Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces, South Africa. *Metamorphosis* **25**: 82–89.

OTTO, H. H. H. 2014. A new locality and larval host plant recorded for *Brephidium exilis exilis* (Boisduval, 1852) on the Arabian Peninsula. *Metamorphosis* **25**: 97–99.

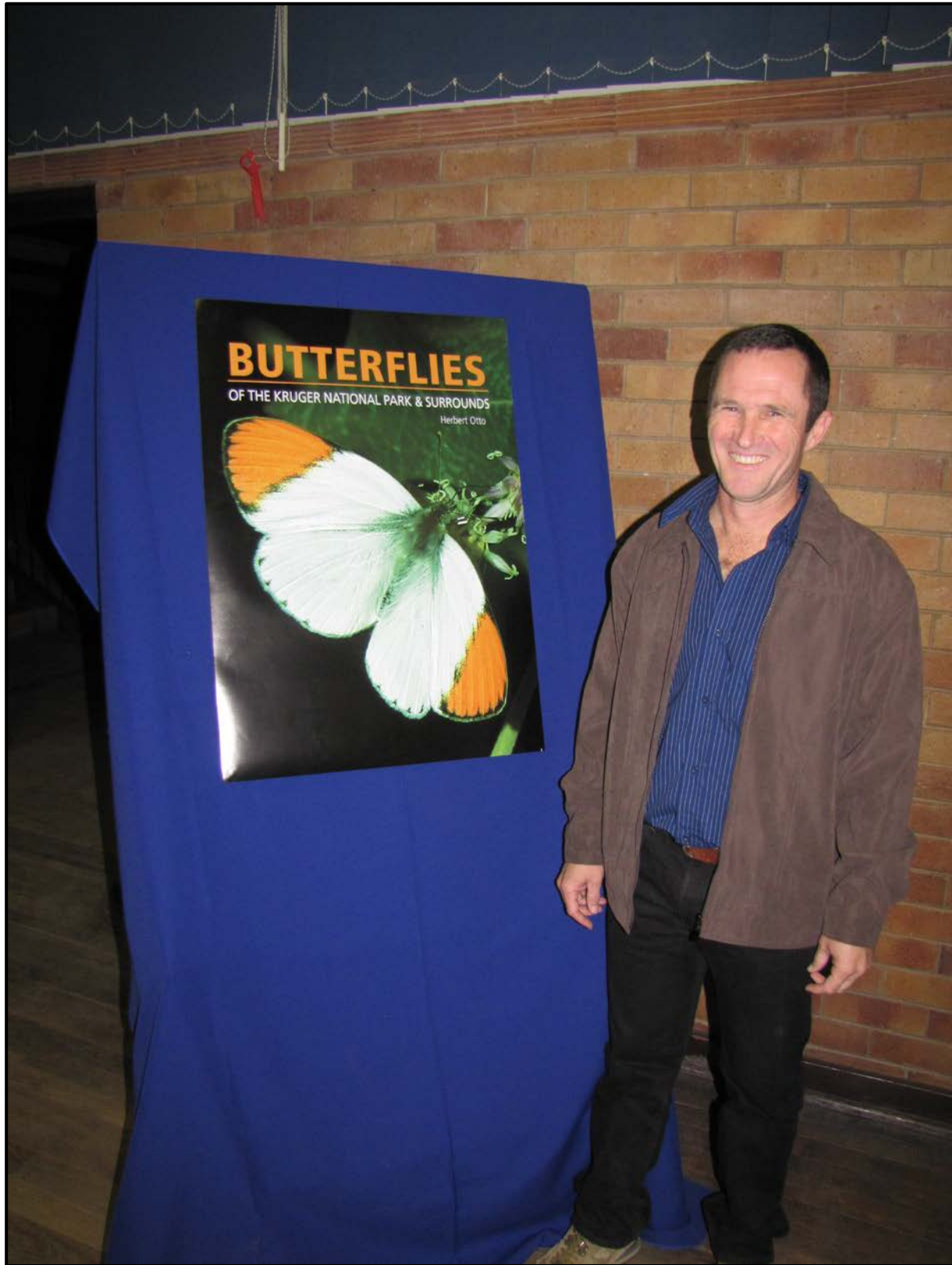
OTTO, H. H. H. & LARSEN, T.B. 2014. A new locality for *Euchrysops osiris* (Hopffer, 1855) in Sohar, Oman. *Metamorphosis* **25**: 149–151.

OTTO, H.H.H. 2014. *Butterflies of the Kruger National Park and Surrounds*. Struik Nature, Cape Town. (ISBN PDF 978-1-77584-168-5).

OTTO, H.H.H. 2016. NOTE: A new larval host-plant record for *Spialia mafa* (Trimen, 1870) in Oman, Arabian Peninsula. *Metamorphosis* **27**: 44–45.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Herbert's publications were of an increasingly high standard, and we have lost a passionate lepidopterist who also was a keen and observant scientist, and had already made many significant discoveries. We shall all sadly miss him at LepSoc Africa, and our heartfelt condolences to his friends and family.



Herbert Otto at the launch of his book “Butterflies of the Kruger National Park and Surrounds”