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## PREFACE AND DEDICATION

The main aim of the Caterpillar Rearing Group (CRG) of the Lepidopterist's Society of Africa is to explore and uncover the hitherto secret lives of African lepidopteran caterpillars and to learn how they interact with other life forms in the great theatre of life. This incredible journey of exploration into the unknown is providing all of us with a seemingly endless feeling of satisfaction, reward and achievement. To say that we are excited about the path of discovery that we are on would be an understatement. In fact, most of us are somewhat overwhelmed by the experience. One cannot describe the feeling of joy you get when you know that you are the first person ever to observe something in nature, be it a new species or a first rearing or an unknown aspect of their behaviour.

This is the third publication of the CRG, where we aim to publish pertinent data from each rearing successfully completed by our members. The first paper, published in 2016, reported on 1 778 rearings comprising 962 species of Afrotropical Lepidoptera and covered all rearings received up to December 2015. A second paper appeared in 2017, which reported on another 458 rearings comprising 424 taxa of Afrotropical Papilionoidea. In this publication we cover all new rearings received up to the end of June 2019. We report on a further 2 371 rearings, comprising 953 species of Afrotropical Lepidoptera, adding 641 species, bringing the total of Lepidoptera reared by the CRG to 2 027 species.

Sadly, one of us, Douglas Kroon passed away on 2 August 2020 at the age of 80. We would like to dedicate this volume to his memory. Whenever I visited Doug, he always had some caterpillar rearings on the go. He was particularly fond of the psychids and sessiids. His major contribution in this field was his compilation of all the Lepidoptera-host associations for southern Africa known at the time, entitled *Lepidoptera of southern Africa, host plants and other associations, a catalogue*, published in 1999.

In this paper we provide a brief overview of the Lepidoptera-host associations for southern Africa known today. About half of the data used for this overview are from Doug's publication.

Much of what we uncover remains unpublished because of the sheer volume of new information streaming in. At the time of writing this preface, we have 98 036 files and photographs relating to African caterpillars in storage. It would be almost impossible to publish all of this information, but with these CRG publications we at least let the world know what we are doing, albeit in an abbreviated form.

Hermann Staude  
CRG Project Leader  
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