

FOUNDED 1978 VOL: 15 NO. 3 SEPT. 30, 1993

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AND KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO UNDERSTANDING THE LEPIDOPTERA FAUNA OF THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE UNITED STATES

CHAIRMAN: JOHN CALHOUN

SECRETARY-TREASURER: TOM NEAL

ACTING EDITORS: TOM NEAL AND JEFF SLOTTEN

SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING: GAINESVILLE, FL 2-4 SEPT.

The 1994 Annual Meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society will be held on Labor Day weekend, 2-4 September at DPI Auditorium in the Doyle Connor Building in Gainesville, Florida. This is the same site as the previous two meetings and is the location of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods. The meeting will begin at 8:00 A.M. Saturday and there will be an hour-long informal lunch at noon. The meeting will end at about 5:00 P.M. with optional activities after that. A field trip will be held on Sunday.

The insect collection will be open at 8:00 A.M. Saturday. You are encouraged to bring along specimens that you are having difficulty identifying. You should bring along any other material of interest including slides. If you wish to present a research paper or give a slide presentation please contact the Chairman, Ron Gatrelle at 126 Wells Rd. Goose Creek, SC 29445; ph. (803) 553- 8817. As usual, expect an informative meeting including lively discussion. Below is a map of Gainesville showing the Doyle Connor Building in relation to all of the major thoroughfares leading through Gainesville. Should you need further directions or information on other aspects of the meeting contact Jeff Slotten, 5421 NW 69th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32606; ph. (904) 338-0721 evenings or Tom Neal, 1705 NW 23rd Street, Gainesville, FL 32605; ph. (904) 375-1916.





Directions to the Doyle Conner Building in Gainesville:

Gainesville is bordered on its western edge by Interstate 75, a major north-south thoroughfare. East of Gainesville, Highway 301 passes through the small towns of Waldo and Hawthorne, as well as crossing State Road 26 just west of Melrose. A quick study of the map should help you get your bearings, no matter which way you may be approaching from.

The Doyle Conner Building, which houses the Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA), is located on the eastern side of State Road 121, which becomes JAth Street as you travel through the town of Gainesville. State Road 26 similarly becomes University Avenue in town, but at the edges is known as Melrose Road to the east and Newberry Road at the vestern edge of town. The Doyle Conner Building faces a traffic light at 20th Avenue, and a protected turn arrow is there to help if you're coming from the north. Ample parking is available at the Conner Building. The Southern Lepidopterists' signs with the group logo vill also be placed conspicuously to help you.

There are numerous hotels and motels in the Gainesville area. Although this is a college town, there is no home football game that weekend. Should you need information on local accommodations or directions to the meeting, Jeffrey Slotten, a Gainesville resident, will help you: Jeffrey Slotten, 5421 N.W. 69th Lane, Gainesville, Florida 32606. Telephone (904) 338-0721, evenings.

1993 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

JACK HEINRICH

INTRODUCTION: The morning session was given over to examining and identifying specimens, studying the museum collection and sharing experiences. Twenty-two members were present for the formal meeting which began at 1:30 P.M.. Jeff Slotten was thanked for making the physical arrangements and organizing refreshments. All attendees received free lunch at Subway.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. The first formal presentation was a slide lecture by James K. Adams followed by questions. His topic was **The Immature Stages of the Genus** <u>Anisota</u> (Saturniidae) and Implications on the Phylogeny of the Genus. Kirby Wolfe and Ric Peigler were given credit for assisting with the research and photography.

2. Ron Gatrelle then gave a lecture on the topic What Is Your Taxonomic Mindset?. Philosophically we may be evolutionists or creationists, lumpers or splitters. A taxonomist who studies systematic relationships is looking for something new or overlooked. We have a need to know and all knowledge has to be related to other disciplines to be complete. For example, biogeography, geology and botany are all related to the study of Lepidoptera. Ron raised the question of whether we were too locally or state oriented to see the big picture. He also stressed the need to have actual specimens in hand for taxonomic and related studies.

3. Jeff Slotten and Ron Gatrelle then shared their experiences in responding to inquiries made by personnel of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to a legal case they were investigating. Jeff described an encounter wherein specimens and correspondence in his possession were seized by a Fish and Wildlife agent. Ron urged members to be "up front" with the investigators who are only doing their job in enforcing federal laws. The practice is to follow the strictest interpretation of the Codex of Federal Regulations Section 50, paragraphs 15, 16, 17, and 23 which deal with export and import of animal specimens. It is sometimes difficult to obtain all of the necessary literature and regulations and to know when and where meetings are held to formulate such regulations. In addition, the U.S. Lacy Act requires enforcement of the laws of any country, such as Mexico, which requires permits for collecting. U.S. endangered items or CITES items aside, there is no other U.S. regulation dealing with Mexican or Canadian specimens.

4. Dave Baggett then gave us a report on the Florida Biological Diversity Project which has a goal of identifying the existing diversity on both public and private lands in the state. The question for the Society and its members is to what extent do we wish to be involved in this study as it relates to lepidoptera.

If the protection of individual species is connected with environmental land use permitting, there would be a major impediment to development. Sometimes there are conflicting environmental requirements for two or more threatened species. Is biodiversity to include fungi, bacteria, and viruses as well as the better known vertebrates and invertebrates? Preservation 2000 has a goal of acquiring five to six million acres to protect Florida's unique wildlife. At current prices this would eventually cost the average household \$6000 to accomplish.

There was considerable discussion of this topic and no clear consensus emerged. Dave felt that our participation in the diversity survey should be based on whether we had control over how the resulting information was used by the state. Tom Neal thought that it would be an unrealistic expectation to, in effect, be empowered to determine governmental policy. John Calhoun will talk to the project administrators and update us on the situation.

BUSINESS MEETING:

1. The chairman informed us that he is resigning due to pressures of other duties. Ron Gatrelle was elected the new chairman and was asked to search for a permanent editor for the newsletter.

2. There was some discussion relating to the starting time of the meeting and to stick more closely to the published time schedule. There was a consensus that next year's meeting should start at 10:00 AM.

3. It was voted that in the future the business meeting be conducted by the board of directors at an open meeting held prior to the general meeting. It was stressed that the membership should be given adequate notice of such meetings.

CONSTRUCTING NON-ADJUSTABLE INSECT SPREADING BOARDS VERNON A. BROU JR. DISCUSSION:

Though I have used insect spreading boards for over thirty years, I do not own a commercially made board. I was never satisfied with the cost, materials used, or size and dimensions. Also, component sizes are not standardized, causing specimens placed on different batches of boards to be pinned at different heights and angles. The non-adjustable boards described here are the result of my own pinning technique. Balsa boards allow the holding down of both antennae and all four wings of most moths (wingspan to 8 cm.) with only two insect pins and two light cardboard pieces. Instructions for constructing adjustable spreading boards were given by Covell and Cornell (News Lep. Soc., Nov. 1972).

By standardizing certain component dimensions which affect specimen height of pinshaft and wing angle, boards can be fabricated which give superior results. Stored specimens will have a uniform and neat appearance which will aid in the shingling of winged specimens. Reasonable space above the specimen on the pin shaft is needed for safe handling and below for labels and insertion in storage box pinning bottom.

Boards are 18" in length and are constructed totally of balsa wood. Sheets and strips of balsa 36" in length and in dimensions and shapes from 1/16" x 1/16" on up are available at hobby shops. Soft balsa sheets 3/8" and 1/4" in thickness make excellent boards. Strips can be cut from these sheets for all parts needed. For angling wingboards, 1/16" x 1/16" or 1/8" x 1/8" strips are useful (see Fig. 1), as well as prebeveled triangular shapes in similar thicknesses (see Fig. 2). Strips in place of a one piece solid bottom allows for additional airflow around specimens in drying racks or ovens. When pinning specimens on these boards, begin at center cross-member support and work toward you. Turn board around for other half.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

Table saw with veneer or plywood blade for professional cut or razor blade knife for hand cutting, tape measure, white glue, #7 insect pins.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Cut 36" boards into 18" lengths. Wing boards may be angle cut as in Fig. 1 or square cut as in Fig. 2. Generously apply common white household glue to all parts when assembling. Hold pieces in place while glue is drying using insect pins (Fig. 1). Remove pins after glue is dry. To construct one board the following pieces are needed:

PARTS	AMOUNT	LENGTH	WIDTH	THICKNESS
Wingboards	2	18"	3/4" to 3"+	3/8"
Bottom boards	2	18"	3/8"	3/8" or 1/4"
Bottom strip	1	18"	1/2" to 1"	3/8" or 1/4"
Crossmember support	: 3	*	3/8"	3/8"
Angle support	6	3/8"	1/16" or 1/8"	1/16" or 1/8"
	PARTS Wingboards Bottom boards Bottom strip Crossmember support Angle support	PARTSAMOUNTWingboards2Bottom boards2Bottom strip1Crossmember support3Angle support6	PARTSAMOUNTLENGTHWingboards218"Bottom boards218"Bottom strip118"Crossmember support3*Angle support63/8"	PARTSAMOUNTLENGTHWIDTHWingboards218"3/4" to 3"+Bottom boards218"3/8"Bottom strip118"1/2" to 1"Crossmember support3*3/8"Angle support63/8"1/16" or 1/8"

* Varies depending on width of board desired and width of center groove.



Fig. 1





The satyrid butterfly <u>Cercyonis pegala abbotti</u> F. M. Brown, a somewhat shy and difficult to capture species, is commonly encountered in the pinelands of Louisiana. When using a hand net to capture this highly wary and elusive species it is often necessary to sneak up on individuals from their blind side as they perch upon bases of large trees. Quite often, only a few specimens are captured after numerous and exhausting attempts. Using fermenting bait traps, the story is quite different and numerous specimens are easily taken in this manner (Brou, 1992). During the species flight period it is not uncommon to find a dozen or more individuals in a single trap daily. Females are considerably larger than males and are more often encountered in traps.

Klots (1951) states "One brood (perhaps two in the south). Adults in late June." Howe (1975) states "Apparently single brooded everywhere; flies in June in the southern U.S.." I have captured <u>abbotti</u> from early June to early October. Figure 1 statistically illustrates the typical population levels encountered in southeastern Louisiana. Based on a composite sample of dates of capture, it is evident that a second partial brood occurs, peaking about 70 days after the primary brood. This second brood represents about 7.5% of the total population and 8.2% of the individuals occurring in the primary brood.

27



Fig. 1. Dates of capture for <u>C. pegala abbotti</u> taken at sec. 24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, 1990-93 (N=702). One dot equals one specimen.

Literature Cited

Brou, V. A. 1992. Extended duty bait traps designed for continual year around use. South. Lep. News 14: 19-20.

Howe, W. H. 1975. The Butterflies of North America. Doubleday & Co. Inc. Garden City, New York.

Klots, A.B. 1951. A Field Guide to the Butterflies of North America East of the Great Plains. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, MA

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS

In the category of it's never too early to develop an interest in Lepidoptera, John Curtis Beauchamp, age 5, son of member Debbie Beauchamp, was awarded first place in the category of life sciences at the Milsap, Texas Elementary School. For his project, entitled "How a Butterfly Sees", John Curtis used a globular-shaped prismascope to simulate the compound eye of a butterfly. He explained how the compound eye sees, that it is made up of a large number of optical units or ommatidia and how a single unit is capable of forming its own image. The judges were so impressed with his



knowledge of the subject that he was also received the Best of Fair award over all categories in his division.

28

RESEACH REQUESTS AND MEMBER NOTICES

FOR SALE: Light traps; 12 volt DC or 115 volt AC with 15 watt or 8 watt blacklights. The traps are portable and easy to use. Flow-through rain drains and beetle screens protect specimens from damage. For a free brochure and price list contact Leroy Koehn, 207 Quail Trail, Greenwood MS 38930-7315, ph. (601) 455-5498.

WE OPERATE PERSONALIZED ENTOMOLOGICAL, NATURALIST, AND BIRDER TOUR PROGRAMS Latest illustrated 12-page Lepidoptera catalogue including South America, Europe, and Far East. Latest catalogue \$1.00 or one year's monthly list via airmail \$6.00. Transworld Butterfly Co. Apartado 6951, 100 S San Jose, Costa Rica, Central America.

CURRENT ZONE REPORTS

ZONE I TEXAS: Ed Knudson, 8517 Burkhardt, Houston, TX 77055

Ed notes that weather conditions were very dry in the Houston area with no rain falling for a month and a half. Nevertheless he's picked up a few interesting things in his yard including Streptopalpa minusculatus, Achyra bifidalis, Stemorrhages costata (Pyralidae), and females only of Schizura concinna. He also notes that earlier in the summer there were some good tineids including Acrolophus mycetophagus, Opogona omoscopa, Hybroma servulella, Monopsis monachella, and Fernaldia anatomella while indoors there were some bad tineids including Tinea pellionella and Niditinea fuscella. (Ed note: Apparently anyone encountering a collector with large holes in his clothes as easily recognizable field marks can be reasonably sure that it's Ed.) Ed's pheromone traps attracted 7 species of sesiids, the best being Synanthedon sapygiformis, and Paranthrene simulans. From 14-16 August Ed wound up his survey in the Guadalupe Mts.. Collecting at Dog Canyon he got a few apparent STATE records, notably Catocala aholibah (which he almost didn't collect, thinking it was ilia) and Spargania bellipicta, a pretty green and orange geometrid. There were four Sphinx species present: istar, separata, chersis, and asella.

James Gillaspy took <u>Parapoynx</u> <u>diminualis</u> at Austin, likely a **STATE** record.

ZONE II ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, TENNESSEE: Vernon Brou, 74320 Jack Loyd Rd., Abita Springs, LA 70420; Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Drive, Clinton, MS 39056.

No report at this time.

ZONE III GEORGIA: Irving Finkelstein, 425 Springdale Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30305

No report at this time.

ZONE IV FLORIDA: Dave Baggett, 403 Oleander Drive, Palatka, FL 32077

Bob Beiriger provided this report on the status of several butterfy

species of interest in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. <u>Siproeta</u> <u>stelenes</u>: Bob collected specimens on 6 Oct. 92 and 6 Nov. 92. He also noted that it was common during the winter of 1992-93. <u>Eurema dina</u>: These were found 31 Dec. 92 then it disappeared until 22 Aug. 93 when it reappeared. Bob notes that it seems to be doing well. <u>Phoebis agarithe</u> and <u>P. philea</u>: These two sulphurs were abundant and apparently the most common butterflies in the hurricane devastated area. <u>Junonia evarete</u>: A few specimens were taken. (Ed note: I'm sure that everyone will agree that this is encouraging news in view of the incredible devastation wrought by Andrew on natural areas.)

ZONE V VIRGINIA, NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA: Bob Cavanaugh, P.O. box 734, Morehead City, NC 28557; Ron Gatrelle, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, SC 29445

A <u>Hydriomena</u> taken by Tom Neal on Mt. Mitchell has been identified by Ferguson (pers. comm.)as <u>H</u>. <u>exculpata</u>, a mostly western species. This represents the first record from the Southern Appalachains (SE U.S.).

The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published four times annually. Membership dues are \$10.00 annually. The organization is open to anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the southern United States. Information about the Society may be obtained from the Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Neal, 1705 NW 23rd Street, Gainesville, FL 32605.

THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' NEWSLETTER c/o Thomas M. Neal 1705 NW 23rd Street Gainesville, FL 32605 LPM LPM L BANKER

Deborah M. & Terry A. Lott Univ. of Florida Dept. Entom. Gainesville, FL 32611



