

Est. 1978 Official Newsletter of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society

Vol 23 NO. 2

**JUNE 30, 2001** 

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

### J. BARRY LOMBARDINI: EDITOR

# BRYANT MATHER MOTH COLLECTION DONATED TO THE MISSISSIPPI ENTOMOLOGICAL MUSEUM AT MISSISSIPPI STATE

[Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the Mississippi State Alumnus magazine (Winter 2001 issue, Volume 77, Number 1. The author is Mr. Bob Ratliff. Article re-printed with permission from Mr. Alan Snow, Editor of the Mississippi State Alumnus magazine. My thanks to Mr. Snow.]

**MOTHER LODE OF MOTHS COMES TO MSU** — For more than half a century, Clinton resident Bryant Mather spent his days providing expertise on concrete to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His nights, however, were devoted to the pursuit of the moths of Mississippi. The result is one of the most extensive private moth collections in the United States, much of which was donated to the Mississippi Entomological Museum at Mississippi State following Mather's retirement earlier this year.



Bryant Mather

Mather, a geologist by training, came to Mississippi in 1946 to work for the Corps of Engineers at Vicksburg. During his more than 50 years with the Corps, he became internationally known as an authority on concrete, traveling the world to provide expertise on the construction of dams and other concrete structures. His interest in insects dates back to his youth in Baltimore, Md. "The summer when I was 12 years old, my parents sent me to YMCA camp," Mather said. "I shared a tent with a slightly older boy who collected butterflies. I came home and told my mother I wanted to do that, so I went to the local public library and learned how to get started."

Rocks also fascinated the young man, who went on to earn his bachelor's degree and did graduate work in geology at Johns Hopkins University.

His first assignment with the Corps of Engineers was in 1941 with the Central Concrete Laboratory at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. His next assignment was in Vicksburg, and Mississippi's abundance of insects rekindled his interest in collecting.

"In 1946, there was little literature on Mississippi butterflies, so Mr. Mather began documenting them," said Richard Brown, director of the Mississippi Entomological Museum. "He and his late wife Katharine wrote the first and still the only publication covering all of Mississippi's butterflies." After 10 years of work with butterflies, he turned to moths, the more nocturnal members of the order *lepidoptera*.

Many of his nights and mornings before sunrise were spent collecting moths and other insects from lights around Mississippi. The result is a collection that includes an astounding number of specimens. "Mr. Mather accumulated more than 190,000 moths and thousands of other insects," Brown said. "He exchanged specimens with other collectors for species from other areas of the U.S. and donated many specimens to the American Museum of Natural History, the Smithsonian Institution, and other institutions, keeping the best and unique for his personal collection."

That collection was donated to the Mississippi Entomological Museum earlier this year. A recent inventory of the collection shows it includes almost 45,000 moths and almost 3,000 specimens of other insects. Eight species of insects – including five moths, two butterflies, and a fishfly he discovered – are named *matheri* in his honor. The collection donated to MSU also contains a large number of paratypes: specimens that have been used in species descriptions by entomologists.

Collectors around the world would pay several dollars each for many of the specimens in the collection, but Brown says the data with the specimens are more valuable than the insects themselves. "Mr Mather has provided us with the most comprehensive set of data on Mississippi moths ever collected," he said. "This includes information about moths from areas of the state where we have not collected data."

Brown and other entomologists at the museum are busy sorting and storing the hundreds of boxes containing the Mather collection. During the course of their work, they have discovered his sense of humor. "Someone gave him a rubber spider," Brown notes. "He dutifully labeled it as a Vicksburg specimen and placed it in a collection box containing rows of other spiders."

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

**DUES NOTICE:** Please note the **year** on your **address label**. Your dues are in arrears if the number is <u>not</u> at least 2001 [\$15/year - regular; \$12/year - student; \$25/year - sustaining; \$50/year - contributor].

#### \*\*\*\*\*

#### UNIDENTIFIED?????

Two more unidentified Noctuidae from Vernon Brou. Specimen pictured in Figure 3 (Please See Color Page Insert) is genus *Anomis* and specimen in Figure 4 (See Color Page Insert) is genus *Ogdoconta*. Also an unidentified specimen from JB Lombardini that was caught in Monahans Sandhills State Park (See Color Page Insert, Figure 5). Any suggestions as to genus and/or species of these unknowns. Please send the Editor your answers. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*\*

# **MEMBERS' NOTICES**

For Sale: LIGHT TRAPS: 12 volt DC or 110 volt AC with 15 watt or 20 watt black lights. The traps are portable and easy to use. Rain drains and beetle screens protect specimens from damage. For a free brochure and price list contact: Leroy C. Koehn, 202 Redding Rd, Georgetown, KY 40324; Tele.: 502-570-9123; E-mail: Leptraps@aol.com.

For Sale: BAIT TRAPS: 15" Diameter X 36 "Height, collapsible tor travel. Two types available: Flat Bottom and Inverted Funnel. For a free brochure and price list contact: Leroy C. Koehn, 202 Redding Rd, Georgetown, KY 40324; Tele.: 502-570-9123; E-mail: Leptraps@aol.com.

# THE GENUS HELIOTHIS OCHSENHEIMER (NOCTUIDAE) IN LOUISIANA

#### BY

### VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

ABSTRACT. Records for four species of the genus Heliothis in Louisiana are discussed, and dates of capture are displayed and compared. For one species, Heliothis phloxiphagus G. & R. specific location and capture dates are newly reported for Louisiana.

Additional key words: corn earworm, light traps, tobacco budworm, voltinism.

Poole, Mitter, and Huettel (1993) revised the Heliothis virescens (Fabricius) species group, recognizing 13 species, eight of them described as new. H. virescens, known as the tobacco budworm is considered a major agricultural pest, and Heliothis subflexa (Guenee), a minor pest. These authors state virescens occurs from portions of Canada, south through most of South America, and the similar looking and often easily confused subflexa, occurs over much of the United States, south to most of South America.

In 1965, Hardwick created the subgenus **Helicoverpa** for the agricultural pest species zea (Boddie). In Louisiana, three species: Helicoverpa zea, H. virescens, and H. subflexa occur commonly, as well as the much less often encountered Heliothis phloxiphagus G. & R. Numerous authors previously reported zea and virescens from Louisiana. These two species, along with subflexa were listed for Louisiana by Chapin and Callahan (1967). Chapin, et.al., (1997), again listed zea, virescens, as well as phloxiphagus from numerous pheromone traps operated in 12 mostly northern parishes of the state. During the past 30 years, this author has recorded these species from the following Louisiana parishes (Fig. 3): H. zea: Ascension, Natchitoches, Orleans, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, and W. Feliciana. H. virescens: Ascension, Beauregard, Ibberville, Lafourche, Natchitoches, Orleans, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Webster, H. subflexa:





Cameron, Lafourche, Natchitoches, Orleans, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany, H. phloxiphagus: Cameron, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany.

No information was given by Poole, Mitter, and Huettel (1993) nor by Hardwick (1996), concerning the flight periods of virescens or subflexa. Covell (1984) stated virescens has two broods. Forbes (1954) stated zea is a continuous breeder, and phloxiphagus has two broods. But neither Covell nor Forbes offered any evidence for these statements. Oliver and Chapin (1981) indicated zea has four to five broods and virescens requires 50 days for one brood with three or four broods occurring in Louisiana.

This author has captured adult virescens using ultraviolet light traps in all 12 months in Louisiana. Based on a sampling of capture dates (Fig. 1), it appears there are five or six broods of virescens occurring at approximately 45-day intervals, with first brood peaking approximately April 25. Nevertheless, such statements without analysis are misleading, as brood four of virescens occurring in September accounts for about 95% of all captured specimens. Based on a smaller sampling of capture dates (Fig. 2), it appears there are at least 5 broods of subflexa in Louisiana occurring at approximately 40-day intervals with first brood peaking early May. In Louisiana, based on a sampling of over 2000 specimens, zea appears to have at least six broods at approximately 40-day intervals with the initial brood peaking about April 11. Adult specimens of zea have been captured in all months except December in Louisiana, though 98% were captured July through October using ultraviolet light traps.



Fig. 2. Voltinism of Heliothis subflexa (Guenee) at Abita Springs, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, 1986-97. N = 89.



Heliothis virescens (Fabricius)



Heliothis subflexa (Guenee)



#### Heliothis phloxiphagus G. & R

Helicoverpa zea (Boddie)

#### Literature cited

- Chapin, J. B., D. R. Ganaway, B. R. Leonard, S. Micinski, E. Burris, and J. B. Graves 1997. Species composition of Heliothinae captured in cone traps baited with synthetic bollworm or tobacco budworm pheromones. Southwestern Entomol. 22:223-231.
- Chapin, J. B. and Philip S. Callahan 1967. A list of the Noctuidae (Lepidoptera, Insecta) collected in the vicinity of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Proc. La. Acad. Sci. 30:39-48.
- Covell, Jr., C. V. 1984. A field guide to the moths of eastern North America. The Peterson Field Guide Series No. 30. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. xv + 469pp., 64 plates.
- Forbes, W. T. M. 1954. Lepidoptera of New York and neighboring states, Part III, Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. St. Mem. 329. Ithaca, New York, 433pp.
- Hardwick, D. F. 1965. The corn earworm complex. Mem. Entomol. Soc. Canada No. 40.
- Hardwick, D. F. 1996. A monograph to the North American Heliothentinae. privately printed. 279pp., 25 plates.
- Oliver, A. D. and J. B. Chapin 1981. Biology and illustrated key for the identification of twenty species of economically important noctuid pests. La. Sta. Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bull. No. 733.
- Poole, R. W., C. Mitter, and M. Huettel 1993. A revision and cladistic analysis of the Heliothis virescens species group (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) with a preliminary morphometric analysis of Heliothis virescens. Miss. Agr. & Forestry Exp. Sta. Tech. Bull. 185.

(Vernon Antoine Brou Jr., 74320 Jack Loyd Road, Abita Springs, Louisiana 70420. E-mail: vabrou@bellsouth.net)

# EDITOR'S PLEA

Please send me articles, notes, your requests, comments, gripes, compliments, anything and everything, etc. The NEWS is only as good as the membership's contributions.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

# THE BLACK WITCH

Lubbock, Texas: The Black Witch (*Ascalapha odorata*) is coming - is here!!! This very impressive insect is showing up in people's basements, doorways, and underhangs, and many are convinced that a bat has invaded their territory. With an approximate 6 inch wingspan there is no wonder that people are startled when they come across the **Black Witch**.

The other moth that is taking over in the Lubbock area is the White-lined Sphinx (*Hyles lineata*). A bumper crop due to all the right environmental conditions coming together earlier in the Spring - lots of rain = lots of vegetation = lots of adults.

EDITOR'S NOTE: As the membership can obviously see I have added a color page as an insert to this month's newsletter. Have no fear, an anonymous donor has footed the bill of the extra cost for the color page. This color page is a "page insert" since to have it incorporated into the newsletter, I was told, would require two pages of color and would become prohibitively expensive. In researching the cost of a color page, I surveyed a number of different print shops. I even asked three different individuals at the same print shop and came up with 3 different price quotes. To make a very long story short, it would add approximately an additional \$3.00 to the cost of each copy of the newsletter. Thus the "color page insert" which is considerably less expensive !!!

Legends for the figures in the "page insert":

- 1. Monahans Sandhills State Park in West Texas (35 miles southwest of Odessa, Texas) sand dunes stabilized by vegetation.
- 2. Monahans Sandhills State Park sand dunes with minimal vegetation; note 2 people in center of figure.
- 3. Unidentified Noctuidae (Genus Anomis) submitted by Vernon Brou.
- 4. Unidentified Noctuidae (Genus Ogdoconta) submitted by Vernon Brou.
- 5. Unknown submitted by JB Lombardini found in Monahans Sandhills State Park.
- 6. Eupseudomorpha brillians found in Lubbock, Texas (just an interesting record that the Editor thought the membership would like to see).
- 7. Schinia volupia found in the Lubbock area (just an interesting record).
- 8. Schinia snowi found in Post, Texas (just an interesting record).
- 9. Schinia citrinella found in Monahans Sandhills State Park and the Lubbock area.
- 10. Schinia regia found in Monahans Sandhills State Park.
- 11. Schinia gaurae found in Monahans Sandhills State Park and the Lubbock area.
- 12. Monahans Sandhills State Park Shin Oak (Ouercus harvardi).
- 13. Monahans Sandhills State Park sand dunes with vegetation.

Please drop me, the Editor, a line and let me know if you like the color page. If the membership thinks that color (even an insert) adds to the Newsletter, I will try to have another page in issue #3.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# 2001 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA 22 & 23 SEPTEMBER 2001

The 23rd Annual Meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society will meet on 22 September 2001 at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Fernbank Museum provides a great setting for the annual meeting and all are encouraged to attend. After the business meeting with the election of officers and officers' reports, there will be the presentation of the 2001 Abbot Award. Presentations by members are also planned. A group dinner at a local restaurant will be followed by a reception and slideshow at the home of Bill Russell. On Sunday, 23 September, there will be field trips to nearby localities. The registration fee for the meeting is \$15.00.

The Fernbank Museum is located at 767 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30307, which is approximately 3 miles east of the city center. The registration fee for the meeting will also provide access to the Museum's displays (large dinosaurs, gems, etc.) as well as the 2 Imax shows. More detailed information can be found on the Museum website: www.fernbank.edu/museum.

Registration for the meeting will start at 9:00 am and the meeting will begin at 9:30. The program will be arranged to permit opportunities for viewing the museum.

We are still finalizing the meeting agenda. If you are interested in presenting a paper or short talk, please contact: Bill Russell, 772 Yorkshire Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30306 (404 876 3655, Email: whrinatl@aol.com). This promises to be a great meeting so please plan now to attend.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

# 2001 ABBOT AWARD CANDIDATES

The Abbot Award for 2001 will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society in Atlanta on 22 September 2001. According to our constitution, "the board will submit a ballot containing the name or names of at least one, but not more than three, eligible recipients to the members with the announcement of the annual meeting. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes by return of this ballot to the Secretary will be the recipient." The John Abbot Award is presented no more than once a year to any individual who has demonstrated excellent service to the Southern Lepidopterists' Society and /or is recognized for outstanding contributions towards our understanding of the lepidoptera fauna of the southern United States. The candidates need not be members of the Society.

Past recipients of the John Abbot Award are Charles P. Kimball (1981), Charles V. Covell, Jr. (1982), Bryant Mather (1983), Roy O. Kendal (1984), Andre Blanchard (1985), Ed Knudson (1986), Dale H Habeck (1987), J. Richard Heitzman (1988), Thomas C. Emmel (1990), Howard V. Weems (1991), Douglas C. Ferguson (1992), John B. Heppner (1997), Jeffrey R. Slotten (1998), Marc Minno (1999), and Vernon A. Brou (2000). Please take the time to submit your vote and recognize the hard work of another worthy lepidopterist.

The candidates for this year's Abbot Award are:

James K. Adams has published many papers on the Lepidoptera of North America and provides much support and expertise to the Southern Lepdopterists' Society, including hosting field trips. He is currently conducting a survey of Lepidoptera in North Carolina.

Leroy Koehn has contributed tirelessly to Southern Lepidopterists' Society in many capacities including organizing meeting and, most recently, serving as the Newsletter Editor (now retired). He has made many presentations at these meetings.

#### Please send the ballots to the Chairman: Bill Russell, 772 Yorkshire Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

\*\*\*\*\*\*

# **UPCOMING ISSUE VOL 23 NO.3 - POTENTIAL ITEMS**

# **TO BE PUBLISHED**

1) Article on Copper Breaks State Park in Texas

2) Article on Sesiid moths from Dr. John Holoyda

3) Article by Vernon Brou

4) Article by Dr. Roy Rings on the Moths of Florida

5) Updates on the "Texas Lepidoptera Survey" by Ed Knudson and Charles Bordelon

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# SAHARA DESERT IN WEST TEXAS

# BY

# J. BARRY LOMBARDINI

Now some individuals, the uninformed and/or the misinformed, may state that all of West Texas is a desert, but for those of us who live in the region we would beg to differ. However, there is one specific area that would justify the name - Sahara Desert. This is the area near the town of Monahans, Texas. The Monahans Sandhills are located between the low Sacramento Mountains of New Mexico and the Southern High Plains of Texas. The area encompassing the Sandhills (or sand dunes) are 70 miles in length and 20 miles in width and are located primarily in West Texas with a small portion extending into New Mexico. To the east lies the Caprock Escarpment which begins the Southern High Plains or the Llano Estacado (Staked Plains). The Plains are some 300 ft above the Sandhills. The escarpment, thus, is a natural barrier to hinder the sands from being dispersed by the every present wind. The sand dunes had their beginnings approximately 25,000 years ago when the region was humid and water was plentiful in the form of rainfall and permanent streams. The streams eroded the mountains of New Mexico and carried much sand and silt eastward to the present area. However, during this period, the late Pleistocene Epoch when the ice age was retreating in North America, the area became drier and warmer and the sands started to be moved by the wind into a linear formation along the southwest frontier of the Southern High Plains forming dunes.



The sand dunes (Fig. A) are mostly stabilized by vegetation (See Page Insert, Fig. 1) but a portion are considered unstable and without vegetation (See Page Insert, Fig. 2), and thus are constantly changing with the strength of the winds. The vegetation in this region that is crucial for the stabilization of the dunes is the Shin Oak (Quercus harvardi, also called the Harvard Oak; See Page Insert, Fig. 12) which attains a maximum height of approximately 30 inches and bears quite large acorns nearly an inch long and half an inch wide. While the exposed portion of the Shin Oak is small, the root system is quite extensive reaching a maximum of 70 ft. Honey mesquite (Prosopis glandulosa) is also present in the dune areas along with a number of different native grasses

which are important in dune stabilization. Yucca and cactus are present and there can be an abundance of wildflowers after the spring rains.

After the rains, water remains in depressions between the dunes for extended periods and if the water has remained for considerable time, vegetation takes hold (Fig. B) and even desert willow trees (Chilopsis linearis) may grow. These permanent, shallow ponds (or semipermanent ponds, usually less than 3 feet



deep) attract an abundance of wildlife which includes coyote, mule deer, gray fox, bobcat, possum, wild hog, porcupine, skunk, ground squirrel, cottontail, jack rabbit, and of course, insects (Fig. C). Aquatic and amphibious animals such as frogs, toads, and water insects are also present. In one specific pond, goldfish have been present for several years (not native to the area). Eighty-two different species of birds have been recorded from the Park including the more uncommon or



rare species to the area such as the following: Swainson's Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Cassin's Kingbird, Horned Lark, Hermit Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Orange-crowned Warbler, Scott's Oriole, Western Tanager, Crissal Thrasher, Green-tailed Towhee, and the Gray-headed Junco.

Annual precipitation in the region is approximately 12 inches which classifies the area as semiarid. In certain years even 12 inches of rain are not attained and then drought conditions arise. During the years of extreme drought the sand dunes extend into the vegetated areas, but when the rains resume the vegetation again covers the area so that there exists a balance between growth and nongrowth. This unique relationship has been present for the last many thousands of years. Temperatures in this area can vary widely. One of the coldest days recorded in the winter was -8 degrees (F) and there is a recorded high in the summer of 110 degrees (F).

The sand dunes (See Page Insert, Figs. 12 and 13) are composed of a homogenous grains of sand with an average diameter of approximately 0.22 mm. Ninety-eight percent of the sand is composed of clear quartz which also contains some iron-rich clays which gives the sand particles a tan color. The remaining 2% of the sand is made up of a variety of other materials that have different colors but the quantity is not sufficient to change the overall color of the dunes.

The wind is the primary, necessary ingredient in changing the position and height of the sand dunes. The unvegetated (is this a new word?) dunes are active (referred to as active dunes) and range in height from 6-8 feet to 85 ft. Through the years it has been shown that the active dunes have reached a dynamic equilibrium in that the migration patterns of these dunes [documented for a 25 year period (1954-1979)] have not changed. In certain years the extent of the margins of the dunes may fluctuate up to 65 feet depending upon the winds, precipitation, and vegetation, only to return to their initial positions within one year.

Through the ages, the dunes have covered a variety of animal remains and have preserved the bones due to the arid climate. Fossilized bones of camel, mammoth, and giant bison from 10,000 to 25,000 years ago have been unearthed with the shifting dunes due to the winds. There is also much evidence of prehistoric man that has been uncovered. A human skeleton thought to be approximately 10,000 years old has been discovered along with other human artifacts. Flint projectile points have been found embedded in the bones of mammoth and giant bison. Charred



hearth stones tell a story of human presence that was perhaps more than transitory.

It is thought that the habitation of this area was continuous up into modern times when the Apaches and Comanches were the dominant force in the Sandhills. The attraction to this area was the water deposits which were also frequented by game and thus a source of both water and food, and also the acorns and beans from the Shin Oak and mesquite trees which grew in the area. The acorns and beans were used to make flour by the Indians and thus was an important dietary staple.

The Spanish arrived in the Sandhills in the 1500's and were amazed by the enormous hills of sand. The early American settlers feared the sand dunes primarily because of the Indians who used to hide behind the dunes and then unexpectedly attack the wagon trains. The sand was also a hindrance to the wagons of the early American settlers with

much lost time when the wagons floundered in the deep shifting sands. Thus, the settlers avoided the Sandhills if at all possible.

In 1848 Captain R.M. Marcy mapped the region for the U.S. Army and then the railroad traversed the area in the 1880's. The city of Monahans sprung up when deep ground water was discovered and the town became an ideal stopping point between the Pecos River and Big Spring, Texas. After the railroad was established homesteaders started to arrive and ranching developed into the principal activity in this area. In 1928 oil was discovered (Fig. D) and then petroleum became the lifeline of the area. Today, ranching and oil are both important to the area.



Monahans Sandhills State Park (Dunagan Visitor Center, Fig. E) was established in either 1956 or 1957 depending upon which brochure one reads and the Park consists of 3,840 acres located 5 miles east of the City of Monahans. The Park Headquarters and Museum tell the history and geology of the Park. The Park has picnic and camping areas. The major recreational activity of the Park is sandsurfing down the sand dunes.

Some of the more interesting moths (in my opinion) that are present in the Park are Shinia citrinella, S. regia, and S. gaurae (See Page Insert, Figs. 9, 10, 11),

And finally, I have an unidentified specimen (See Page Insert, Fig. 5) that was caught in Monahans Sandhills State Park on October 15, 2000. Can anybody help me name this moth?

#### Reference

Machenberg, M.D., Geology of Monahans Sandhills State Park, Texas, Guidebook 21, 1984, Bureau of Economic Geology, W.L. Fisher, Director, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78713.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

# **RANDOM SAMPLES: SOME NOTES ON** BRITISH COLLECTORS AND COLLECTING

#### BY

### JOHN HYATT

In late September-early October 2000 a business trip to England and Wales gave me the opportunity to take a few days' vacation and call on some British collecting acquaintances. It was interesting to get a glimpse at how the collectors on the other side of the ocean manage, and I thought some of our Southern Leps members might like to hear my impressions from the visits.

Of course the study of Lepidoptera is a long and honored tradition in Great Britain. A fair number of butterfly specimens taken in the late 1700's reside in museums (The Dale collection in the Hope Dept. at Oxford University is particularly rich in ancient leps), and natural history clubs have been active from that day until the present. The recently published Aurelian Legacy: The British Butterflies and their Collectors (M. Salmon, Univ. of California Press 2000, ISBN 0-520-22963-0) is a wonderful read for those who want to learn about this collecting tradition. I have no hard data to support it, but I think that the incidence of collectors in the general population must be quite a bit higher than it is in the US. There seem to be a lot more commercial butterfly houses in Britain than in the states as well (see below).

I spent quite a bit of time with Edward Sadler of Andover, England (about an hour SE of London). Edward is a moth collector who makes occasional trips to the US to collect. This brings up a key point about British lepidoptera: there aren't all that many of them. The butterfly fauna of Great Britain these days runs to less than 60 species, and the moth list is likewise small by comparison with that of a similar-sized area in the states. Thus an energetic collector there will exhaust the possibilities for accumulating novelties before too long, and it's not uncommon for lepidopterists to travel to Europe or the US to collect. Edward once achieved a collection of the complete British moths, sold it, and then started over. I spent a couple of cool, windy evenings collecting moths with him (butterflies, save for the odd hibernator such as Inachis io, were finished in England by the end of September!). The standard

protocol is to use a mercury-vapor lamp (black lights are very rarely used) above a sheet placed horizontally on the ground; if the lamp is to be run overnight, a few egg cartons are spread around to give moths a hiding place to retreat into when day breaks. Moths are collected into individual clear-topped "pill boxes" (to which a drop or two of ether is often added to anesthetize frisky specimens). This allows the collector to carefully examine the insect before deciding whether to release or kill it (cyanide jars are commonly used), or save it for breeding.

There is much greater emphasis placed on rearing moths and butterflies in Britain than in the US. Most collectors seem to be avid rearers, and the reason for field collecting for quite a few collectors is to obtain females from which to breed series. Hence collections in Britain are often astonishingly immaculate – series of bred material of many species are fairly commonplace. I got the impression that exchanges of livestock are as, if not more, common than exchanges of papered material.

Not only did British collections look great in the drawers – they look wonderful on the outside too! Collections are generally housed in absolutely beautiful wood cabinets of drawers, the cabinets oftentimes having glass doors. Mahogany seems to be the wood of choice, and a large number of very old, lovingly constructed cabinets are still in use. By comparison our racks of basswood or pine Cornell drawers look horribly inelegant and utilitarian! The only US installation I've ever seen which remotely approaches a typical British collection is at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, where some old glass-fronted cabinets from Holland's day are still in use.

British drawers are smaller than ours in all dimensions. Lepidoptera are mounted on English pins, which are headless and have lengths proportionate to their thickness. A typical pin (as thick as, say, our #2) is only about 1 1/4" long. The use of these short pins is dictated by the height of those gorgeous old drawers, and I must say that the series of small leps do look good on the short pins. The pin length doesn't leave much room under the insect for a stack of labels, and data are not uncommonly pinned separately beneath the specimens. Facility with pinning forceps is of course essential – a few attempts to handle bugs on headless pins leaves one with sorely punctured thumb and forefinger!

Along with breeding material, a second trait of British collectors seems to be a love of individual variation. I visited with Mr. A.D.A. Russwurm at his home near the New Forest (new in the day of Henry VIII, that is) not far from Plymouth. Mr. Russwurm wrote and illustrated <u>Aberrations of British Butterflies</u> (E. W. Classey, 1978) and is a fascinating individual. At the age of 95 and confined for the most part to a wheelchair, he is a retired telegrapher who has devoted the past many decades to collecting and illustrating variations of British butterflies. His paintings are absolutely exquisite (he still does one each year for his Christmas card design), and his cabinet was filled with great series spanning the known range

#### VOLUME 23 NO.2, PG. 23

#### The Southern Lepidopterists' Society

#### **OFFICERS**

Bill Russell: Chairman 772 Yorkshire Rd., NE Atlanta, GA 30306 E-Mail: <u>WHRINATL@aol.com</u>

Jeffrey R. Slotten: Treasurer 5421 NW 69<sup>th</sup> Lane Gainesville, FL 32653 E-Mail: slotten@ccgnv.net

Paul Milner: Membership Coordinator 272 Skye Drive Pisgah Forest, NC 28768 E-Mail: pamilner@citcom.net

Marc Minno: Member at Large 600 NW 35<sup>th</sup> Terrace Gainesville, FL 32607 E-Mail: afn10853@afn.org

J. Barry Lombardini: Editor 3507 41<sup>st</sup> Street Lubbock, Texas 79413 E-Mail: phrjbl@ttuhsc.edu

The Southern Lepidopterists' Society is open to anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the southern region of the United States. Membership dues are annual:

Regular	\$15.00
Student	\$12.00
Sustaining	\$25.00
Contributor	\$50.00

A newsletter, The News of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society is published four times annually.

Information about the Society may be obtained from the Membership Coordinator.

of variation and aberration, particularly among the British Lycaenids. Russwurm's house is named Coridon, after the chalk-hill blue Lysandra coridon.

The New Forest area brings up another point – collecting localities. Britain is densely populated and heavily agricultural, and good collecting sites are apparently getting more infrequent. Many classic localities (*e.g.*, the New Forest) are on government-owned land where collecting is forbidden. On the other hand, the whole country is crisscrossed with walking paths, and ancient law demands that landowners allow access to pedestrians. Fences are therefore equipped with stiles, and I imagine that it's common to request permission to collect on private land thus accessible.

I spent a day at Robert Goodden's Worldwide Butterflies establishment (<u>www.wwb.co.uk</u>) at Sherborne in Dorest. Robert and I had exchanged material many years ago. He is still active as a dealer and in butterfly and moth habitat conservation in Britain, and is perhaps best known as the original developer of the large flight cage/rearing enclosure known as the butterfly house. His original house is still in use - an artificially-lighted indoor enclosure measuring about 14 by 24 feet with glass walls, designed to be viewed from the outside. A larger outdoor greenhouse-type house is also on the premises. It was a pleasure to see Argema mittrei emerging, but somehow it is always a bit disconcerting to me to view North American Papilios flying in the same space with Heliconius and Asian Danaids! One real treat was to see a strongly aberrant P. troilus specimen flying about; Robert said that the smeared-hindwing variation turned up with some regularity in his breeding stock. He attributes it to holding pupae in refrigerated storage for extended periods.

Goodden deals in specimens, display boxes, livestock (ova and pupae of many British and exotic species were readily available), equipment (some beautifully-made rearing cages caught my eye) and the like (he had a number of those wonderful old cabinets from collections he'd bought). This is the sort of business that seems to have completely vanished from the US scene, and it was a pleasure to learn that such things still exist overseas.

Entomological exhibitions are another feature of the British collecting scene. Usually sponsored by groups such as the Amateur Entomologists' Society, these annual meets seem to combine displays, sales of material and equipment by dealers and publishers, and exchanges of specimens and livestock in a style quite different from most meetings of US societies. Public attendance is apparently significant.

My overall impression from the visit is that collecting is different in Britain in every way. Given a long historical natural history and collecting tradition, a small lepidopteran fauna, and a sizable number of enthusiasts, the hobby has settled into a somewhat less scientific orientation than in the US. With most, if not all, counties having had their faunal lists completed long ago and the life histories of most species likewise well known for ages, the goals of collecting are necessarily different. Many collectors pursue the goal of finding all the species in their county, and a sizable number want to rear everything in their area. A lot of attention is paid to monitoring populations, especially at classic localities and in fragile habitats. The appearance of strays and immigrants is watched for with anticipation (1995 was a miraculous year for the number of Vanessa virginiensis seen; it was also a year in which monarchs inexplicably appeared in modest numbers). But the collectors are friendly, hospitable, and gladly share their knowledge and enthusiasm with the visiting collector.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# MOTH COLLECTING IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

# PART II. INCURVARIIDAE TO PYRALIDAE (PART)

### BY

# **ROY W. RINGS<sup>1</sup> AND LORRAINE F. RINGS**

This article is a continuation of the Drepanidae and Geometridae check list published in the Southern Lepidopterists' Newsletter of 20(4):60-63, 1998. Moths were collected by mercury vapor light and sheet in the parking lots of the listed sites. Most of the collecting was done by Lorraine. Roy identified species with standard identification guide books and by visiting the Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA) to compare unknowns with determined material. More difficult identifications were made by Eric H. Metzler, Columbus, Ohio, in the Noctuidae, Notodontidae and Lymantridae and Dr. John B. Heppner, Curator of FSCA, University of Florida, Gainesville in the Tortricidae.

The full names of the collecting sites, cities, and counties are:



VOLUME 23 NO.2, PG. 25

Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Highlands County Avon Park Air Force Bombing Range, Avon Park, Osceola County Highland Hammocks State Park, Highlands County Lake Manatee State Recreation Area, Manatee County Myakka River State Park, Manatee County

The species numbers are from Hodges *et al.* (1983) and the common names of moth families are from Heppner (1998). For each entry the scientific name, author, year of description, and Hodges number are in the upper left. The common name is in the upper right section. On the second and succeeding lines are the collection sites(s), date, or inclusive dates of collection, and the number of individuals collected.

#### **INCURVARIIDAE - Leafcutter Moths**

*Tegeticula yuccasella* (Riley, 1872) **198** Archbold 4/25/99 (1)

#### **TINEIDAE - Fungus Moths**

Acrolophus plumifrontella (Clemens, 1859) **372** Avon Park 4/16/98 - 4/28/98 (24); Myakka River 5/2/98 - 5/17/98 (10).

#### **PSYCHIDAE - Bagworm Moths**

*Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis* (Haworth, 1803) **457** Avon Park 5/8/98 (2): Highland Hammocks 4/10/99 (1).

#### **OECOPHORIDAE** - Concealer Moths

Antaeotricha leucillana (Zeller, 1854) **1014** Lake Manatee 11/20/97 - 12/4/97 (2), 5/15/98 (1).

#### **COLEOPHORIDAE - Casebearer Moths**

*Homaledra heptathelama* Busck, 1900 **1421** Highland Hammocks 5/9/99 (1).

#### **YPONOMEUTIDAE - Ermine Moths**

*Atteva punctella* (Cramer, 1781) **2401** Lake Manatee 10/28/97 (1).

#### **COSSIDAE - Carpenterworm Moths**

*Inguromorpha basalis* (Walker, 1856) **2659** Myakka River 3/26/98 - 11/20/98 (2), 3/26/99 (1).

Cossula magnifica (Strecker, 1876) 2674

Avon Park 4/18/98 (1): Highland Hammocks 4/10/99 (1): Lake Manatee 12/12/97 (1), 4/29/98 - 5/21/98 (4); Myakka River 11/22/97, 3/26/98 - 11/20/98 (7), 4/8/99 (2).

<sup>1</sup>Research Associate, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Professor Emeritus, College of Biological Sciences, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

BAGWORM

YUCCA MOTH

#### Prionoxystus robinae (Peck, 1818) 2693

Avon Park 4/18/98 (2); Highland Hammocks 4/10/99 - 4/24/99 (8); Lake Manatee 2/26/98 - 12/9/98 (5); Mvakka River 1/28/97 - 12/22/97 (12), 3/26/98 - 12/24/98 (75), 1/16/99 - 4/8/99 (33).

#### **TORTRICIDAE - Leafroller Moths**

Cvdia caryana (Fitch, 1856) 3471 Lake Manatee 10/26/98 - 10/17/98 (18); Myakka River 11/10/98 (5).

Cydia ingens (Heinrich, 1926) 3487 Avon Park 5/8/99 (3). Det. by Heppner.

Ecdvtolopha punctidiscana (Dyar, 1904) 3495 Myakka River 10/14/97 (1); 11/10/98 (1), 4/8/99 (1).

Argyrotaenia quadrifasciana (Fernald, 1882) 3621 Avon Park 5/8/99 (4); Highland Hammocks 4/10/99 (3).

Choristoneura rosaceana (Harris, 1841) 3635 Myakka River 2/4/97 - 2/28/97 (2); 5/17/98 (3).

Sparganothis pettitana (Robinson, 1869) 3725 Myakka River 3/26/98 (1).

#### **ZYGAENIDAE - Burnet Moths**

Harrisina americana (Guérin, 1829) 4624 Avon Park 4/28/98 (1); Highland Hammocks 5/8/99 (1); Lake Manatee 4/19/98 - 5/17/98 (13).

#### **MEGALOPYGIDAE - Flannel Moths**

Lagoa pyxidifera (J.E. Smith, 1797) 4642 Avon Park 5/8/99 (1); Lake Manatee 10/11/98 - 10/17/98 (3); Myakka River 10/14/98 - 11/20/98 (6), 1/16/99 (1).

Lagoa crispata (Packard, 1864) 4644 **BLACK-WAVED FLANNEL MOTH** Archbold 4/25/99 (1); Avon Park 4/18/98 (2); 5/8/99 (8); Highland Hammocks 4/10/99 - 5/15/99 (57); Lake Manatee 11/1/97 - 12/21/97 (5), 4/19/98 - 10/17/98 (43), 11/11/99 (1); Myakka River 1/26/97 - 11/22/97 (11), 5/2/98 -10/14/98 (123), 4/8/99 (4).

Megalopyge opercularis (J.E. Smith, 1797) 4647 Myakka River 2/28/97 (1).

SOUTHERN FLANNEL MOTH

### LIMACODIDAE - Slug Caterpillar Moths

Apoda y-inversum (Packard, 1864) 4667 Archbold 4/25/99 (1); Highland Hammocks 4/24/99 - 5/15/99 (7); Myakka River 1/26/97 (1).

Apoda rectilinea (Grote & Robinson, 1868) 4668 Avon Park 5/8/99 (2); Highland Hammocks 4/10/99 (3).

VOLUME 23 NO.2, PG. 27

 Prolimacodes badia (Hübner, 1822) 4671
 SKIFF CATERPILLAR

 Archbold 4/25/99 (1); Avon Park 3/3/98 - 3/28/98 (4); 5/8/99 (1); Highland Hammocks 4/24/99 - 5/15/99 (3); Lake
 Manatee 11/1/97 - 11/6/97 (2), 2/26/98 - 10/11/98 (13), 11/11/99 (1); Myakka River 2/14/97 - 11/5/97 (4), 3/26/98 - 11/10/98 (4), 3/26/99 (1).

Natada nasoni (Grote, 1876) **4679** Highland Hammocks 4/10/99 - 5/15/99 (2); Lake Manatee 5/6/98 (1); Myakka River 2/28/97 (1).

Monoleuca semifascia (Walker, 1855) **4691** Avon Park 5/8/99 (3).

*Euclea delphinii* (Boisduval, 1832) **4697** Avon Park 3/3/98 (3); Highland Hammocks 4/10/97 - 12/4/97 (4); Lake Manatee 1/4/98 - 11/21/98 (17), 11/11/99 (1); Myakka River 1/26/97 - 11/22/97 (11), 3/26/98 - 10/14/98 (5).

*Euclea nanina* Dyar, 1899 **4697.1** Archbold 4/25/99 (1); Avon Park 5/8/99 (1); Highland Hammocks 5/15/99 (4); Lake Manatee 2/1/98 - 3/25/98 (4), Myakka River 4/16/98 - 12/24/98 (11), 2/9/99 (6).

*Sibine stimulea* (Clemens, 1860) **4700** Archbold 4/25/99 (1); Highland Hammocks 4/10/99 - 4/24/99 (3). SADDLEBACK CATERPILLAR

#### **PYRALIDAE - Snout Moths**

Munroessa gryalis (Hulst, 1886) 4751 Lake Manatee 10/11/98 - 10/26/98 (2); Myakka River 10/14/98 - 12/24/98 (20).

*Synclita obliteralis* (Walker, 1859) **4755** Myakka River 12/24/98 (17).

*Parapoynx obscuralis* (Grote, 1881) **4760** Lake Manatee 4/19/98 - 12/9/98 (2).

*Parapoynx seminealis* (Walker, 1859) **4763** Lake Manatee 4/1/98 - 12/9/98 (3); Myakka River 10/14/97 (1), 10/14/98 (1).

*Pyrausta bicoloralis* (Guenée, 1854) **5040** Avon Park 5/8/99 (2); Highland Hammocks 4/10/99 - 5/15/99 (3); Myakka River 12/24/98 (1).

*Pyrausta insignitalis* (Guenée, 1854) **5044** Lake Manatee 10/11/98 (1).

*Pyrausta tyralis* (Guenée, 1854) **5069** Lake Manatee 10/28/97 (1), 5/15/98 - 11/11/98 (4).

*Udea rubigalis* (Guenée, 1854) **5079** Myakka River 5/14/97 (1).

*Diacme elealis* (Walker, 1859) **5142** Lake Manatee 5/6/98 - 12/23/98 (3).

Sameodes albiguttalis (Warren, 1889) **5149** Highland Hammocks 5/15/99 (1); Lake Manatee 11/1/97 (1).

Samea ecclesialis Guenée, 1854 5150 Lake Manatee 10/28/97 - 12/21/97 (24), 2/26/98 - 12/23/98 (20); Myakka River 10/14/97 - 11/22/97 (6).

Samea multiplicalis (Guenée, 1854) 5151 Lake Manatee 1/4/98 (1).

Nomophila neartica Munroe, 1973 5156 Lake Manatee 10/11/98 -10/26/98 (2); Myakka River 10/25/97 (1), 1/16/99 (1).

Desmia funeralis (Hübner, 1796) 5159 GRAPE LEAF FOLDER Highland Hammocks 4/10/99 - 5/15/99 (3); Lake Manatee 10/28/97 - 11/6/97 (17), 3/25/98 - 12/23/98 (131), 11/11/99 (32); Myakka River 2/28/97 - 11/5/97 (4), 4/16/98 - 12/24/98 (166).

Desmia ploralis (Guenée, 1852) 5167 Lake Manatee 11/20/97 - 12/21/97 (18), 2/1/98 - 2/26/98 (2); Myakka River 11/22/97 (13).

# **OBSERVATIONS ON TEXAS SESIIDAE**

# PARANTHRENE SPECIES AND SYNANTHEDON KATHYAE

#### BY

# **ED KNUDSON & CHARLES BORDELON**

Four species of Paranthrene inhabit southeast Texas, all of which are widespread in the eastern and central US. However, up until this year, we had only collected two of these in SE Texas. Most of the observations below are from our yards in Beaumont (Bordelon) and Houston (Spring Valley)(Knudson). Last year, several willow and cottonwood trees were cut down in or near Knudson's yard and many trees were destroyed behind Bordelon's yard to make way for drainage improvements and a new fire station. These events, we believe, may have served to attract the species we found this spring. Our observations began on March 30. The weather had been unseasonably cool throughout most of March. We also made use of a new lure "tabaniformis PB-PATA" from Great Lakes IPM.

#### Paranthrene tabaniformis (Rottemberg)

Two specimens were collected in a pheromone trap with the "tabaniformis" lure, at Spring Valley (Knudson), in early April. The trap was about 20 feet off the ground. No specimens were seen flying, but one of the two specimens was found in the trap at about 4:30 PM CST, still alive. In Texas, this species is also known from Brazos Co. P. tabaniformis resembles several species of Potter Wasps (Eumenes sp.), which were flying in Spring Valley in early April. Some Texas examples of another sesiid species, Carmenta odda Duckworth & Eichlin, resembles P. tabaniformis quite closely, but odda is a smaller, and more slightly built species.

#### Paranthrene dollii (Neumoegen)

One specimen was collected in flight near the "tabaniformis" lure at Spring Valley, at about 4:30 CST, on March 31 (Knudson). Five more specimens were collected in both Spring Valley (Knudson) and Beaumont (Bordelon) in early to mid-April. One of the Beaumont specimens appeared to be the typical form, while the rest were form "castanea". P. dollii was collected previously in Beaumont (Bordelon) about 3 years ago in July, suggesting that it is double brooded, and it is also known from Travis Co. P. dollii resembles several

Polistes sp., esp. P. metricus, which also serves as the model for Podosesia syringae (Harris). Vitacea admiranda (Henry Edwards), also resembles these somewhat, but this was not seen in Spring Valley until May 5.

#### Paranthrene asilipennis (Boisduval)

Several specimens were collected in Beaumont (Bordelon) in early April, flying to pheromones. Knudson & Bordelon took several more in Liberty Co., on April 9. This species was previously known mainly from northeast TX. P. asilipennis does not seem to have a good model in the spring in our area, but resembles the Cicada Killer (Sphecius sp.), in flight.

#### Paranthrene simulans (Grote)

Several specimens were collected in Beaumont (Bordelon) in mid to late April, flying to pheromones. This species has previously been collected in Spring Valley (Knudson) and many other counties in east and central Texas by both authors. It can be extremely abundant at times, as was the case in 1999 at Stengl Ranch (Bastrop Co.). Texas examples are perfect mimics of the European Hornet (Vespa crabro).

#### Synanthedon kathvae Duckworth & Eichlin

This unusual species is very different in appearance in Texas, than from the type specimens from Canada (Nova Scotia). Texas examples could easily be mistaken for S. alleri (Englehardt), which has not yet been found in our state. All specimens we have seen have mostly opaque forewings and may possess one or two yellow bands on the abdomen, or may be entirely unmarked. The identity has been confirmed by dissection (Knudson, Eichlin). One specimen was collected in Beaumont (Bordelon) in mid April, and six were collected in Liberty Co., on April 9, 10 (both authors). S. kathyae flies from mid morning till about noon, and seems to be attracted to a variety of pheromones. We have found this species in wooded habitats, often near swamps, in several counties in SE Texas. Males, observed at pheromone lures, fly with the abdomen raised slightly giving it the appearance of certain mining bees or solitary wasps.

#### COMMENTS:

Since the advent of commercial phermones, many Lepidopterists have taken a keen interest in Sesiidae, since formerly they were extremely difficult to collect. These moths are not only attractive, but are extremely interesting to observe. We have found that pheromone lures attract many species very well, but many of these do not seem to be "fooled" well enough to enter the traps. It is necessary, therefore, to spend some time observing the lures at different times of day and in different locations, including vertical placement. This also affords the opportunity to see just how these male moths behave and what Hymenopteran model they resemble in flight. Lures should also be attached to one's car and nets. It is indeed surprising to see what can come to such lures in seemingly unlikely habitats. Pheromones and traps, for sesiids, as well as other Lepidoptera, may be purchased from Great Lakes IPM, Vestaburg MI (517-268-5693 or at www.greatlakesipm.com.). Prices are reasonable and service prompt.

There are 62 species recorded from Texas, of which we have been able to find 49 in about 5 years of study of this group, mostly by the use of pheromone lures. This, of course, tells only half of the story of these remarkable insects. Field observations around known or suspected host plants is needed to provide more information about the life history of many species. Both sexes may also occasionally be found nectaring on flowers and a few species will come to lights. We would be most interested to hear from anyone who has records or other information on the sesiids of Texas and adjacent states.

#### \*\*\*\*\*

# STATE COORDINATOR REPORTS

Alabama: C. Howard Grisham, 573 Ohatchee Road, Huntsville, AL 35811, E-Mail: cgrisham@HIWAAY.net

Arkansas: Mack Shotts, 514 W. Main Street, Paragould, AR 72450, E-Mail: cshotts@grnco.net

Florida: Robert Beiriger, 16356 Trafalgar Drive, East, Loxahatchee, FL 33470, E-Mail: brts@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu

David Fine and Jeff Slotton surveyed Big Pine Key and Key West, Monroe Co., on February 23rd and 24th for butterflies. They found the following species: Hylephila phyleus, Wallengrenia otho, Euphyes pilatka, Ephyriades brunneus, Strymon acis bartrami, Hemiargus ammon, Hemiargus ceraunus, Leptotes cassius, Phoebis philea, Phoebis philea, Phoebis sennae. We also found an abundance of Ascalapha odorata in bait traps. On Key West they collected or saw the following: Hylephila phleus, Euphyes pilatka klotsi, Erynnis zarucco, Wallengrenia otho, Strymon columella, and Junonia coenia.

Jeff Slotton reported the weather too overcast and cool for most butterflies on March 16th (Liberty County), but he found the following moths: Zale perculta, Sphinx gordius, and Lapara coniferarum.

Ben Williams reported the following moths from Franklin and Nassau Co. - Franklin Co., Carrabelle, 2 March 2001: Zale perculta; Nassau Co., Fernandina Beach, 14 March 2001: Pygarctia abdominalis; 25-March to 15 April, 2001, Cisthene plumbea/striata "blend". Amelia Island, 26 and 27 February 2001, Psychomorpha euryrhoda.

Robert Beiriger collected butterflies and light trapped for moths in the Ocala National Forest and surrounding areas (Lake Co.) on April 20. Grammia placentia, Holomeline opella, Cisthene kentuckiensis, Hypoprepia fucosa, Pygarctia abdminalis, and Catacala connubialis came to lights. Butterflies on the wing included Papilio glaucus. Ascia monuste, Phoebis sennae, Eurema lisa, Fixsenia favonius, Calycopis cecrops, Phyciodes tharos, Ervnnis juvenalis. On April 21, near Morriston off US 41 (Levy Co.), Eurytides marcellus, Atlides halesus, Fixsenia favonius, and Parrhasium m-album.

Georgia: James K. Adams, 346 Sunset Drive SE, Calhoun, GA 30701, E-Mail: JADAMS@em.daltonstate.edu (Please check out the new GA leps website at: http://www.daltonstate.edu/galeps/)

Records listed below are from James Adams unless otherwise specified. Other contributors include: Ron Gatrelle (RG), Julian Deal (JD), Cecil Smith (CS), Jim Rockett (JR), Bill Russell (BR), Irving Finkelstein (IF), and Jim Vargo (JV). Most records presented here represent new or interesting records (range extensions, unusual dates, uncommon species, county records, etc.) or newly identified species, mostly for NW Georgia. Records are from Calhoun, Gordon Co., GA unless otherwise specified. "Car." represents Carbondale, exit 326 (formerly 136) off I-75, Whitfield Co.; "Hur." is Hurricane Rd. (also Co. Rd. 202 or north end of Pinhoti Trail), Rocky Face ridgeline, atop Dug Gap Battle Mtn. Road, just S. of Dalton, Whitfield Co.; "Dal." is Dalton State College Campus, Dalton, Whitfield Co.; "Pig" is The Pocket area, west side of Pigeon Mountain, 19 miles SW of LaFayette, Walker Co.; "Fort" is Fort Mountain, east of Ft. Mtn. State Park, Hwy. 52 (light trap), Murray Co.; "Mur" is Junction of Hwys. 76 and 411, 6 miles S. of Chatsworth, Murray Co.; "Red" is Red Top Mountain Rd., exit 285, I-75, Bartow Co.; "Atl" is Atlanta, Fulton Co.; "Alla" is Allatoona Dam area, Bartow Co. Definite county/state records are indicated.

NYMPHALIDAE: Speyeria diana, (no date) Acworth, Cobb Co. (JD; COUNTY). LYCAENIDAE: Fixsenia ontario, May 16 2001; Celastrina neglecta-major, 14 April 2001 (Pig; IF); Celastrina neglecta, May 29 2001, upper waterfall along Daniel Creek (Bottom of Canyon) in Cloudland Canyon State Park, Dade Co. (JR; COUNTY). HESPERIIDAE: Erynnis martialis, 4 May 2001, Hales Ridge Rd., Rabun Co. (RG). SATURNIIDAE: Citheronia regalis, 12 May 2001 (Mur.); Callosamia promethea, 27 and 28 April 2001 (COUNTY); Hyalophora cecropia, 4 emerged 15-16 April 2001, from cocoons collected at Alla (IF). SPHINGIDAE: Amphion floridensis (several), 8 -17 April, 2001. NOCTUIDAE: Bomolocha abalienalis, 22 April 2001 (Alla; IF); Catocala louiseae, 17-19 June 1988, Camp Cornelia, Okeefenokee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Charlton Co., (CS; few if any records known for this

species in GA; this specimen is in the UGA collection); Harrisimemna trisignata, 23 April 2001 (Atl; IF); Eutelia pulcherrima, 28 April 2001, Junction of Hwys, 60 and 400, Lumpkin Co. (IF); Baileva sp. (undescribed, near levitans), abundant in my yard, mid to late April 200; Comachara cadburyi (several), mid April in my yard and at Car. (COUNTY, for Gordon); Feralia comstocki, 18 April 2001, Gates Chapel Rd. off of Hwy. 52, 8 miles W. of Ellijay, Gilmer Co. (IF); Elaphria georgei, 7 April 2001 (COUNTY, uncommon); Sideridis congermana, 12 May 2001, (Mur.; STATE); Himella intractata, 8 March 2001 (Atl; IF). NOTODONTIDAE: Hyparpax aurora, 12 May 2001, (Mur.; COUNTY), also 2 June & 9 June 2001. GEOMETRIDAE: Digrammia continuata, 11 April 2001 (Atl; IF); Econista dislocaria, 12 April 2001 (Alla; IF); Paleacrita merricata, 31 January 2001 (Red; IF); Lytrosis permagnaria, 11 May 2001 (Hur.; see also Taylor's Ridge, below); Metarranthis sp. (undescribed, near angularia), 16 April 2001 (Dal); Plagodis serinaria, 11 April 2001 (COUNTY); Ceratonyx satanaria, still flying 29 March, 2001; Lambdina pellucidaria (many), mid April through mid May; Coryphista meadi, 26 April 2001 (COUNTY); Anticlea multiferata (4), 28 April and 4 May 2001 (Alla; IF); Mesoleuca ruficillata, 12 May 2001 (Fort); Cladara anguilineata, 16 March 2001 (Red; IF). COSSIDAE: Prionoxystus macmurtrei (many), early to mid April, also 12 April 2001 (Atl; IF). THYRIDIDAE: Thyris maculata, 14 April 2001 (Pig; IF). TORTRICIDAE: Croesia semipurpurana, abundant!, 5-8 May 2001 (Atl; IF).

Several short trips were taken by different people, with some interesting new county records:

Irving Finkelstein, Bill Russell and Dave Morgan collected at the Ohoopee Dunes, off U.S. Hwy, 0.3 miles S. of I-16 (exit 90), Emanuel Co., April 7, 2001; most records are likely COUNTY records:

SPHINGIDAE: Darpasa pholus, D. myron. ARCTIIDAE: Cisthene plumbea, Spilosoma congrua, Grammia placentia (from larva on Chrysoma pauciflosculosa Michaux). NOTODONTIDAE: Heterocampa astarte. NOCTUIDAE: Hemeroplanis near obliqualis, Cutina arcuata (extremely uncommon in collections and only relatively recently described by Ferguson and Pogue), Panopoda carneicosta, P. repanda, Ptichodis bistrigata, Metria amella, Zale declarans, Z. horrida, Acronicta inclara, A. lobeliae, A. subochrea, A. tritona, Apamea relicina (?, STATE?), Elaphria veriscolor, E. festivoides, Chvtonix palliatricula, Melipotis jucunda, Morrisonia confusa. GEOMETRIDAE: Macaria (Semiothisa) eremiata, Macaria bisignata, Iridopsis defectaria, Eumacaria laetiferrugata, Glena cribrataria, Hydriomena pluviata, Narraga georgiana (type locality; day-flyer). COSSIDAE: Prionoxystus robiniae.

Bill Russell and Irving Finkelstein visited Taylor's Ridge (Co. Rd. 250), 5 miles W. of Villanow, State Hwy. 136, Walker Co., April 14, 2001; James Adams and Jim Vargo visited the same spot on May 15, 2001:

ARCTIIDAE: Cycnia oregonensis (May, STATE?), Spilosoma latipennis (May). NOCTUIDAE: Zale metata (May), Nola triquetrana (April). GEOMETRIDAE: Heliomata infulata (May), Orthofindonia flavivenata (April), Lytrosis permagnaria (many!, May), Besma endropiaria (May), Anticlea multiferata (April). PYRALIDAE: Evergestis unimacula (May).

James Adams visited a cane area at the end of Hightower Church Road, Edmunston Creek, N. of Dahlonega, Lumpkin Co., May 25, 2001:

SATURNIIDAE: Hyalophora cecropia. ARCTIIDAE: Spilosoma latipennis. NOCTUIDAE: Idia sp. (near aemula), Idia scobialis, Machrochilo litophora, Colobochyla interpuncta, Bomolocha manalis, Scoliopteryx libatrix, Calyptra canadensis (3), Acronicta hasta, Argillophora furcilla (7). GEOMETRIDAE: Euchlaena muzaria (the light form called muzaria; though it may not be different from obtusaria). Metarranthis angularia, Cepphis decoloraria, Besma endropiaria.

D. Fine and J. Hyatt also report that Problema bulenta, Poanes viator, Euphyes dukesi, and Euphyes palatka were found in McIntosh Co., in May.

Louisiana: Michael Lockwood, 215 Hialeah Avenue, Houma, LA 70363, E-Mail: mikelock34@hotmail.com

Mississippi: Rick Patterson, 400 Winona Rd., Vicksburg, MS 39180, E-Mail: rpattel@Entergyl.com

The following county records were collected at the Calhoun County Wildlife Management Area, Calhoun County, Mississippi by Ricky Patterson on 17 May 2001: *Euphydryas phaeton ozarkae* (20m, 4f), *Incisalia niphon niphon* (m, very late), *Satyrium calanus falacer* (1f), and *Satyrium liparops strigosus* (2f).

The following report comes off the Web from Mark Walker, 5062 Nighthawk Way, Oceanside, CA 92056, (760) 941-2614.

I traveled to New Orleans this past week - landing last Sunday (June 10) under a deluge of rain. The same storm had just sent Houston for the open sea, so I decided to attempt to drive out from under the storm. The front had been moving slowly, so I was pleased to find drier ground by the time I reached Slidell, LA. A quick look around proved fruitful, as I began seeing lepidopteron life - in spite of the completely cloudy skies. An early treat was a single Dusky Blue Hairstreak (*Calycopis isobeon*), seemingly far from it's South Texan stomping ground. This was followed by a single *Oligoria maculata* (Two-spotted Skipper). These two were found near water, very close to Interstate 10. The clock was ticking, the leps were flying, and I decided to head for De Soto National Forest in Harrison County, MS., for a look around.

This part of Mississippi is thick with forest. While the sun failed to make a showing, the penetrating radiation made for some hot and muggy collecting. I soon found a nice dirt road, and stopped to take a long walk. Lots of large *Papilio* made this particularly fun - with individuals of *P. cresphontes*, *P. troilus*, and *P. palamedes* all being extremely common. I also enjoyed *Papilio glaucus* - with both yellow and dark female forms present. The swallowtails could be found gathering minerals on the road - along with *Limenitis arthemis* (Red Spotted Purple). Also stopping in the road were a good number of *Erynnis zarucco* (Zarucco Duskywing). Bopping on the sides of the road and through the underbrush were many individuals of *Neonympha areolata* (Orange-ovaled Satyr). *Phyciodes tharos* (Pearl Crescentspot) was also common. Unquestionably, the highlight of the day was a single individual of *Satyrium kingi* (King's Hairstreak) - a bug that has had recent discussion on this list. I had no idea I might find it here, and no other individuals were seen - so I choose to treat the experience as the gift that it was.

As the sun began setting, I decided to chat some more with the two camping vagabonds I had passed on my way into the inner forest. One of them was keen enough to figure out what I was doing, having recalled a childhood friend that had a similar passion - frolicking in his memories from a still segregated south. I suppose befriending a couple of strangers with nothing to lose out in the middle of the Mississippi backwoods is not the smartest thing I could do, but I decided to go with my instincts and take them up on their offer of a bowl of pinto beans - hot off the open campfire. It's amazing how tasty a pot of grub can be when heart and soul are the primary ingredients. I contributed a 12-pack of cheap beer, and the three of us sat and ate - discussing all manner of things until the rains finally came. At first it came heavy, but eventually it fell in sheets. I was thoroughly saturated when I finally took off for the rental car - but the food and fellowship was far too pleasant to panic. I shook hands as we parted company, me for drier pastures and the roadside motels of Hattiesburg, MS - and they - well, they retreated to their makeshift shelters - not fully aware of the magnitude of the coming storm, but no less prepared for worse.

Here's my list: Papilio cresphontes (Giant Swallowtail), Papilio glaucus (Eastern Tiger Swallowtail), Papilio troilus (Spicebush Swallowtail), Papilio palamedes (Palamedes Swallowtail), Battus philenor (Pipevine Swallowtail), Calycopis cecrops (Red-banded Hairstreak), Satyrium kingi (King's Hairstreak), Phyciodes tharos (Pearl Crescentspot), Vanessa atalanta (Red Admiral), Junonia coenia (Buckeye), Limenitis arthemis (Red Spotted Purple), Neonympha areolata (Orange-ovaled Satyr), Erynnis zarucco (Zarucco Duskywing).

Back home after four rough nights off Bourbon Street.

When I awoke in my cozy motel room on Monday (June 11), the heaviest of the rain had arrived in Hattiesburg. Slidell, LA - my pit stop the day before - had taken the full brunt of the storm, with most of it's roads flooded and residents heading for high ground. I thought of my two new friends - and hoped that they hadn't floated out to sea.

I drove to Jackson, MS, and further on west until the skies began looking somewhat more hospitable. I decided to aim for the Delta National Forest, near the SE corner of Arkansas - and just east of the Mississippi River, in Sharkey County. This forest is mostly surrounded by farmland, but the forest itself is as equally thick as the De Soto. I don't

quite know what the difference between the two pockets of habitat are - they aren't more than 150 miles apart - but the leps were not the same.

On this day I experienced one of those experiences that probably comes only once every two years or so. An explosion of butterflies so vast and numerous as to cause one to drop the net and giggle like a school child at the circus. At any given time during my four hours walking in the hot, humid Mississippi woods I had four or five hitchhiking leps joining me for the ride. If you've ever chased after an individual of Polygonia interrogationis (Question Mark), and you appreciate how skittish and difficult they can be to put into a net, then you'll equally appreciate the overwhelming sensation I received when two and three immaculate individuals (form umbrosa) simultaneously landed about my head and shoulders. Perhaps the most numerous (and most likely to ride along) were the Asterocampa celtis (Hackberry Emperors). From the forest edges to the thickest portions of inner forest, these butterflies could be found zipping and flitting about by the hundreds. It's cousin, Asterocampa clyton (Tawny Emperor) could also be found - mostly in the deepest portions of forest, sunning on higher sunlit leaves.

I was pleased to find a different swallowtail - Papilio polyxenes (Black Swallowtail) - common at nectar, and enjoying the sunlit paths through the forest. Another deepest forest dweller (and another huge surprise) were two individuals of Staphylus hayhurstii (Hayhurst's Scallopwing). This butterfly made it's showing only briefly - flitting to a sunlit leaf for only but a few seconds after which it disappeared back into the thicket. As I drove deeper into the woods along the wide dirt access road, I began to see more and more leps clustering in the middle of the road. Soon, large parties of leps with numbers in the hundreds could be seen. It quickly became difficult to drive, and it was all I could do to avoid hitting them - even while driving at exceptionally slow speeds. I would stop occasionally to get closer looks, and after a very short time I began loosing complete interest in catching them. This was what I lived for, and yet I had no desire whatsoever to collect them. Instead I got on my hands and knees, and got up close to watch the Red Spotted Purples, the Hackberrys, the Spring Azures, the Pearl Crescentspots, the Question Marks, and the American Snouts living mostly in harmony - and enjoying whatever they were getting from the dry dirt. I saw many a squished bug - salvaging a few to papered envelopes - these the victims of the occasional vehicle that visited this part of Mississippi. I thought of the collecting debate, and how many leps could be wiped out by a single trip to the Piggly Wiggly. I know for a fact that I, in spite of my dodging and degree of care, killed ten times more bugs with my car than I did with my jars. All in all I probably took thirty insects - including a nice Amphion floridensis (Nexxus Sphinx), several Anania funebris (check Covell, pg. 398), and a number of crazy wasps that I haven't identified yet.

The day couldn't have been more perfect, in spite of the fact that I drove nearly 400 miles to avoid a storm that had pretty much left Louisiana by noon. I was finished by two in any case - the sun, heat, and humidity takes a toll on this California boy. I drove for New Orleans, anxious to get to work and in to the nearest Cajun restaurant I could find. I love Jambalaya - though it might be tough to beat the meal I had the night before.

The list: Papilio polyxenes (Black Swallowtail), Papilio glaucus (Eastern Tiger Swallowtail), Phoebis sennae (Cloudless Sulphur), Calycopis cecrops (Red Banded Hairstreak), Celastrina ladon (Spring Azure - Harry?), Everes comvntas (Eastern Tailed Blue), Libytheana carinenta (American Snout), Phyciodes tharos (Pearl Crescentspot), Polygonia interrogationis (Question Mark), Vanessa atalanta (Red Admiral), Junonia coenia (Buckeye), Limenitis arthemis (Red Spotted Purple), Limenitis archippus (Viceroy), Asterocampa celtis (Hackberry Emperor), Asterocampa clyton (Tawny Emperor), Hermeuptychia sosybius (Carolina Satyr), Megisto cymela (Little Wood Satyr), Epargyreus clarus (Silver Spotted Skipper), Staphylus hayhurstii (Hayhurst's Scallopwing), Ervnnis martialis (Mottled Duskywing), Lerema accius (Clouded Skipper), and a few yet to be determined grass skippers.

Finally back home in Oceanside, CA.

North Carolina: Steve Hall, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, Div. of Parks & Recreation, 1615 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699-1615, E-Mail: Stephen.Hall@ncmail.net

The following butterfly records were submitted by Harry LeGrand. Place names refer to counties unless otherwise stated, and records are not new county reports unless indicated. RG = Ron Gatrelle, HL = Harry LeGrand.

The spring season was reasonably normal in terms of temperatures and rainfall, though some areas of the state were still below normal in rainfall for the season. The flight was close to normal, with several exceptions (see below).

LYCAENIDAE: Feniseca tarquinius, the species was found in much greater than normal numbers this spring, and several observers even had them in their yards! Reports came from Burke (COUNTY), Caswell, Clay (COUNTY), Durham, Onslow (COUNTY), Orange, Rowan (COUNTY), and Wake. Atlides halesus, Leroy Koehn reported two individuals at the far northern edge of their range in Surry (COUNTY) on April 30. Fixsenia favonius ontario, HL observed two fresh individuals at Crowders Mountain State Park, Cleveland (COUNTY), on May 15. This report is a first for the southwestern quarter of the state's Piedmont province. Records of the taxon are quite scarce west of the Coastal Plain. Callophrys irus, the only report was one seen by John Dole on April 22 in the Sandhills Game Land, Scotland, the primary area in the state for the species. Callophrys hesseli, the only report came from Pinebluff, Moore, on April 14 by HL. The species had been previously found at this site twice in late July during the second brood. NYMPHALIDAE: Chlosyne nycteis, HL, John Finnegan, and Will Rowland observed as many as ten in Halifax (COUNTY) on May 11-12. This site, in the Roanoke River flood plain, extends the known eastern edge in the state to the Fall Line. Chlosyne gorgone, RG collected the species this season, a first (STATE) record for North Carolina. He will report on this finding elsewhere. Previously, the species was known to occur in the foothills in adjacent South Carolina and in the mountains of northern Georgia. Phyciodes batesii, RG noted the first individuals of the single brood on May 14 in Clay. Polygonia progne, RG noted one on May 18 in Clay (COUNTY), well to the south of other records in the North Carolina mountains. Vanessa cardui, despite reports of millions flying in early spring in California and other Western states, it wasn't until May 25 that the first report for North Carolina was received. From that date into early June, a handful had been seen, with the largest numbers from the immediate coast, where the butterflies are probably "piling up" at a barrier. Danaus plexippus, this species was noted only a few times all season across the state. It is suspected that the large kill of millions of adults in Mexico over the winter has led to this scarcity of sightings. HESPERIIDAE: Erynnis martialis, Randy Emmitt found three on April 20 and one on May 19 at the Caswell Game Land. Hesperia sassacus, Derb Carter observed and photographed four individuals near Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Haywood (COUNTY) on May 19, and HL noted one in Watauga on this same date. Euphyes bimacula, Steve Hall observed one in Fort Bragg, Harnett, on May 31. There are very few records for the Sandhills region, and this is one of the least common skippers in the state. Atrytonopsis hianna, RG found one individual in Clay (COUNTY) on May 14; and Derb Carter observed another in Haywood (COUNTY) on May 19. Previously, the only mountain county known to the N.C. Natural Heritage Program was Alleghany. Atrytonopsis sp?, Steve Hall observed at least 100 individuals at three known sites in Carteret on May 2. Taxonomic work is currently underway to determine if these represent a new species or are part of A. loammi (such as a new subspecies of loammi). Megathymus yuccae, a new site for the species was found by HL in Sampson (COUNTY), where three were seen on April 8.

The following moth records were submitted by James Adams from the Highlands area, Macon Co., NC:

March 31 - April 2:

GEOMETRIDAE: Homochlodes lactispargaria (STATE), Cladara atroliturata, C. limitaria. NOCTUIDAE: Psaphida thaxteriana, P. styracis (true styracis, not what most people call styracis), Feralia jocosa, Lithophane hemina, L. innominata, L. near semiusta, L. patefacta, L. antennata, L. baileyi, L. querquera, Eupsilia tristigmata, E. morrisonia, E. vinulenta, E. cirrapalea, E. near cirrapalea, Pyreferra citromba, P. hesperidago, Orthosia revicta, Cerastis fishii, C. tenebrifera.

# April 20 - 22

Many of the species flying in late March-early April were also flying during this visit. Additional species include: THYATIRIDAE: Euthyatira pudens. DREPANIDAE: Drepana arcuata. GEOMETRIDAE: Homochlodes fritillaria, H. lactispargaria (this very northern species was clearly no fluke at the end of March; several specimens were collected suggesting it must be resident in the mountains of NC), Orthofidonia exornata, Lomographa glomeraria, Cabera erythemaria, Selenia kentaria, Plagodis phlogosaria, P. fervidaria, P. alcoolaria, Anagoga occiduaria, Metarranthis near angularia (new species), Anticlea multiferata, A. vasillata (STATE?), Xanthorhoe

lacustrata, Euphyia unangulata, Acasis viridata (STATE?), C. anguilineata, and way too many Eupithecia and Hydriomena that are extremely difficult to identify. SATURNIIDAE: Actias luna. SPHINGIDAE: Deidamia inscripta. NOTODONTIDAE: Hyperaeschra georgica. NOCTUIDAE: Zale duplicata (abundant), Z. helata, Z. unilineata, Z. aeruginosa, Z. lunifera, Z. calvcanthata, Acronicta interrupta, Feralia comstocki, Lacinipolia anguina, Himella intractata, Ulolonche culea, Trichosilia manifesta.

If anyone wants more complete lists or more specific information, they can contact: Dr. James K. Adams, Dept. of Natural Science and Math, Dalton State College, 213 N. College Drive, Dalton, GA 30720, Phone: (706)272-4427; fax: (706)272-2533, http://www.daltonstate.edu/galeps/ (Georgia Lepidoptera).

South Carolina: Ron Gatrelle, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, SC 29445, E-Mail: gatrelle@tils-ttr.org

Ron Gatrelle reports: Fixsenia favonius ontario, Satyrium liparops liparops, Satyrium kingi - all COUNTY RECORDS. (Orangeberg Co., SC, May 24 & 31, 2001) The *ontario* would be the southern most record for this on the eastern seaboard.

On June 5 Satyrium edwardsii meridionale was described from Aiken County, SC (coastal plain) in The Taxonomic Report 3:2 (Author, R. Gatrelle). This subspecies is restricted to the deep South and parallels the typical subspecific pattern of the banded hairstreak species in the eastern US - large, long tails etc. So far it is only known from SC and GA. I expect the populations in the southern part of the North Carolina coastal plain to be this taxon. It may extend westward to southeast coastal Texas.

Tennessee: John Hyatt, 5336 Foxfire Place, Kingsport, TN 37664, E-Mail: jhyatt@eastman.com

Appearance of butterflies in the Southern Appalachians of Tennessee was very delayed in 2001. Over a 25-year period, the average date of first observation of butterflies (usually P. rapae and C. philodice) in Kingsport has been March 12. The earliest dates have been in 1999 and 2000, when butterflies were on the wing in late February. This year, the first butterfly noted by the Coordinator was a C. argiolus on April 5, but within a few days the hibernators (P. interrogationis and P. comma and N. antiopa) were flying amongst fresh P. glaucus, P. troilus, and G. marcellus together with Colias, Pieris, and Anthocaris. On April 22, P. virginiensis were abundant in the woods, with I. niphon also occasionally seen. John also reports that *Plagodis kuetzingi* and *P. serinaria* were found in Sullivan Co. in May.

Noctua pronuba (L) taken at bait, TN, Sullivan Co., vic. Indian Springs, 10-VI-2001 leg. J. Hyatt. This is a state record. Pronuba is a palearctic moth, common in Europe. Very distinctive yellow underwing. Charlie Covell tells me it was recorded in Canada (N.S., I think) about a decade ago and has been moving S and W ever since. There's a single KY record, so this specimen represents a further range extension, I suspect.

Texas: Ed Knudson, 8517 Burkhart Road, Houston, TX 77055, E-Mail: eknudson0@earthlink.net

The greater Houston area has endured a record setting tropical storm, which has caused severe flooding in many areas and dumped from 10-35" of rainfall in the period between June 6-June 10. Unfortunately, for other parts of the state that badly needed the rain, the effects of this were confined to SE Texas, and did not include the lower Rio-Grande Valley.

My bait trap at my home in Spring Valley was quite productive as Allison was winding down, June 9,10. At least 7 specimens of Ascalapha odorata were found, as well as 7 species of Catocala, including: agrippina, dejecta, insolabilis (Harris Co. rec.), cara, ilia, ultronia, and amica.

Bordelon recorded Kricogonia lyside from Chambers Co., on June 7 (new for area).

Bordelon & Knudson spent May 20-27 collecting in the lower Rio-Grande Valley, with poor results. The area was mostly parched, and only about 70 species of Butterflies recorded. The best were sightings only; Dione moneta and Eunica monima, from Sta. Maria NWR, Cameron Co., on June 23,24. The day-flying moth, Phaloesia saucia was not uncommon at the same locality.

USA 55

The sesiid, Vitacea admiranda, was recorded from two new counties, Brooks Co., & Willacy Co., during this period.

The most interesting record known to me is of *Eueides isabella* from San Antonio, collected in early May by Greg Muise (this is a Bexar Co., rec. and northern range ext.).

Virginia: Harry Pavulaan, 494 Fillmore Street, Herndon, VA 22070, E-Mail: hpavulaan@aol.com

\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published four times annually. Membership dues are \$15.00 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, and dues may be sent to: Jeffrey R. Slotten, Treasurer, 5421 NW 69th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32653.

6

Deborah & Terry Lott Box 141034 Gainesville, FL 32614-1034 2001

# SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY C/O J. BARRY LOMBARDINI, THE EDITOR

3507 41st Street Lubbock, Texas 79413