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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 (WEBSITE: www.southernlepsoc.org/)

## J. BARRY LOMBARDINI: EDITOR

## KEY WEST BUTTERFLY HOUSE BY JOHN B. HEPPNER

The new Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory opened in January 2003 at the southernmost land area in Florida, on the southwest tip of Key West. The butterfly house is on the main tourist street in Key West, Duval Street, about



Fig. 1. Main entrance building of the Key West butterfly house.

midway between the main restaurant area on the north end of the street and the old ferry landing on the south end.

Although the house for the facility is newly built, it has been designed to fit in with the island-style housing prevalent for old Key West, a white clapboard style housing. The house itself contains the public entrance, gift shops and office areas, while in the back is a large glasshouse. The actual butterfly conservatory is something of a Victorianera styled glasshouse, although the roofing arrangement is very modern, with complex rounded and moveable glass panels designed to properly ventilate the glasshouse and prevent overheating. The conservatory is 4,890 sq. ft. in size, and about 30 feet high at the center. At the rear of the main building (entrance area of the glass house) is a small area of offices for rearing and preparing butterflies for release in the conservatory.

In early December 2002, I had the opportunity to visit the new facility as part of the permitting inspection for the

Fig. 2. The conservatory glass house at the rear of the main building.

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Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services. Along with a USDA inspector, the new butterfly house met all requirements for public safety and control of live exotic butterflies, as they were finishing up the main construction and installing plantings inside. The figures show the exterior (Fig. 1-2) and the interior (Fig. 3-4) as they were in December 2002, when the owners (George Fernandez and Samuel Trophia) showed us the facility. Once the plantings settle in, the visual effect will be even better.

In keeping with the Victorian style glasshouse, the interior of the butterfly house is also somewhat formalized, with neat walkways, a wooden gazebo, and other garden decorations like giant bronze butterfly sculptures (Fig. 4). The garden house and



Fig. 3. Interior view towards the back, showing plantings and gazebo.

Fig. 4. Interior view showing plantings and decorative bronze butterfly art.

other structural elements are painted white, as is the main entrance house, much in keeping with the architectural style in Key West. Among the rocks and plants inside the butterfly house, there are a mechanical stream and waterfalls (these were not yet in operation when seen).

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The Key West butterfly house will present the usual array of exotic butterflies, as is typical of butterfly houses. One unique thing about this facility will be the butterfly decorative artworks that will be sold there, since one of the coowners is much involved in that with his Wings of Imagination company. While some real butterflies will be in frames, as are found in other butterfly house gift shops, the main gift items will be hand-made butterfly-themed gifts out of wood and other materials.

To contact the Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory, the telephone number is (305) 296-2988, or by e-mail to wingsofim@aol.com, or contact them at 1316 Duval St., Key West, FL 33040.

(John B. Heppner, Lepidoptera Curator, FSCA, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, P.O. Box 147100, DPI, FDACS, Gainesville, Fl 32614-7100)

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## THE JOHN ABBOT AWARDEE FOR 2003 IS IRVING FINKELSTEIN

Congratulations to Irving Finkelstein for being voted the John Abbot award for this year. We will look forward in a subsequent issue of this Newsletter to some thoughts by the newest recipient of this award.

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

## GETS IN THE CAR WITH YOU AND YOU GET OUT BY J. BARRY LOMBARDINI

While on a collecting trip to the Davis Mountains August 15-17, 2003, Chuck Garner and I were stocking up on water



and snacks at the local grocery store in the town of Fort Davis anticipating our hike on Saturday, the next day. Also needed some gas from the pumps which were at the side of the store. We had arrived in Fort Davis early afternoon on Friday and while the tent was set up at the camp site in the Davis Mountains State Park, most of our other equipment was still in the car including a pheromone trap (lure PB-SVB - Squash vine borer; Great Lakes IPM, Inc., Vestaburg, MI). Having just finished getting gas, but still parked at the pumps, and forgetting that I had the trap in the car, a *Melittia grandis* flew in the open window. Should have seen me scramble for my net [after I realized that it wasn't going to bite (sting) me]. Caught one, and then over the next half hour 5 more *M. grandis* were attracted to the pheromone, flying in and out of the open door and opposite open window, zeroing in on the trap but never landing or going in the trap. While the Sesiids probably would have entered the trap with time, since I had my net handy it was

easier to capture them immediately rather than wait. Beautiful specimens! Again a situation of being at the right place at the right time.

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

**DUES:** Members please note the year on your address label. If it is less than "2003" you owe dues. Please remit same to Jeffrey Slotten, Treasurer, 5421 NW 69<sup>th</sup> Lane, Gainesville, FL 32653.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: If you move please send your new address to Jeffrey Slotten. Please include your telephone number and your e-mail address.

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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 or the Society Website: www.southernlepsoc.org/

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## YOU MISSED IT: FALL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY WAS HELD SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2003.

A report with pictures (hopefully) will be published in the December issue of the Newsletter.

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**MEMBERS:** Please send your Editor any items that you think will be of interest to the membership. Everybody can be an author. Your newsletter is only as good as the members make it. How about an article on some personal field trip. Review a new book on lepidoptera. Send me pictures.

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## NEWS FROM THE FLORIDA STATE COLLECTION OF ARTHROPODS BY JOHN B. HEPPNER

The Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA), a part of the Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services, in Gainesville, Florida, has been undergoing considerable refurbishing during the past year. As one of the largest insect collections in North America, with about 8.3 million curated specimens, the FSCA has been getting cramped for collection space. An NSF grant, awarded in 2001, has greatly helped to alleviate space problems at the FSCA.

In recent years, one collection room at the FSCA was compacted for conservation of floor space, so each side of the room has 10 compactor carriages put in place (the 10<sup>th</sup> unit on each compactor is at one end of the room and is designed for horizontal files and upper shelving to house documents, reprints, and books, instead of insect drawers). However, while the compactor was a new addition, the old cabinets and drawers had to be retained due to lack of money for new ones, so maximum space efficiency could not be obtained, since the old cabinets did not fit on the carriages precisely nor did they go high enough to hold the greatest number of drawers. Additionally, planned conversion to thinner drawers would allow even more drawers to be added in the same space.

The NSF grant has now allowed the FSCA to convert this collection room as it was meant to be, with new thinner drawers, so-called California Academy style (versus the 3-inch high Cornell style drawers), that enable the compactor to be fully utilized. New cabinets that are the correct size have been purchased and the thinner drawers added, so where previously there were 2,688 Cornell drawers in this collection room, there now are 8,748 thinner drawers in the same space, an increase in drawer capacity of over 325%. The other FSCA collection room for pinned specimens has another 11,644 thinner drawers in non-compacted cabinets, plus an assortment of odd cabinets and the Odonata collection. The old Cornell drawers will be used in McGuire Center for Lepidoptera Research, adjacent to the FSCA, for temporary storage of Lepidoptera collections as they are sorted before being placed in the main collection.

The new drawer capacity for the FSCA, as provided by the NSF grant, currently is allocated for Diptera, Hemiptera-Homoptera, and the North American moths. All exotic Lepidoptera at FSCA, plus North American butterflies and larger moths (Saturniidae and Sphingidae), are housed in the second collection room, in 2,526 thin drawers and 375 Cornell drawers.

In 2004, the Lepidoptera at FSCA will all be moved to new facilities at the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera



Fig. 1. Installing new triple-column steel cabinets after the old cabinets had been removed from their temporary placement on the compactor carriages.

Research, which is now being constructed at the Florida Museum of Natural History on the University of Florida campus, just adjacent to the FSCA and Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services property. Currently the added drawer space at FSCA is allowing the North American moths to be better curated and many of the specimens previously housed in overflow boxes are now being integrated into the main collection. Where only 1,248 Cornell drawers were allocated for North American moths in the old arrangement, there now are 4,374 thinner drawers in the same space (half the collection room, with the other half being for Diptera and Hemiptera-Homoptera). Other Lepidoptera drawers accommodate the exotic species, butterflies and larger North American moths, in the second

collection room, as already noted.

Overall, the NSF grant has increased current drawer space for all Lepidoptera at FSCA to a total of 7,275 drawers (mostly thin drawers, plus some Cornell drawers still used for sorting of exotic moths), to house the approximately 1.8 million specimen Lepidoptera collection. This allows curation of most of the Lepidoptera at FSCA into a better organized collection prior to the move to McGuire Center in 2004. Once McGuire Center is fully operational with new drawers in 2004, the collections will be integrated and curated further so adequate space is available for all specimens, arranged according to our modern classification, and more easily accessible to users. FSCA specimens will be labeled to show their origin from the FSCA, while all specimens at McGuire Center will also eventually be bar-coded for computer tracing of all specimen data from all collections housed there.

The accompanying figures (Fig. 1-4) show the stages of adding the cabinets and drawers to the FSCA compactor during the past year. The year before, new cabinets and drawers were added for the Diptera and Hemiptera-Homoptera side of the room. Now, the Lepidoptera side of the room is completed, with new cabinets and thinner drawers. The two FSCA compactors in the room each have 9 carriages for drawers, with each carriage holding 486 drawers in 6 metal cabinets (3 pairs of back-to-back cabinets on each carriage, each holding 3 columns of 27 drawers). Again, the 10<sup>th</sup> unit on each compactor holds files and reprints. The surrounding walls of the collection room still retain the storage shelves for insect

boxes above counters and desks used by the staff. The old



Fig. 2. Lepidoptera compactor with all cabinets in place (end panels remaining to be added).

FSCA insect cabinets are being loaned to FSCA Research Associates for their needs (some excess Cornell drawers are also available).

Once the FSCA Lepidoptera are moved to McGuire Center, the collection room with the compactors will be devoted



Homoptera, plus Orthoptera, on the other side, plus some minor orders. The other collection room at FSCA, still with free-standing cabinets, will then hold only Coleoptera and Hymenoptera, plus the Neuroptera. In the back of this room will also be the cabinet areas for the Odonata collection and research space for the FSCA Odonata Center.

to Diptera on one side and Hemiptera-

In total, the collections remaining at the FSCA when the NSF grant period has ended in 2005, including all nonlepidopterous insects (except for the aquatics collections housed at Florida A. & M. University, in Tallahassee, Florida, and also part of the FSCA), will be housed in a total of 23.076

Fig. 3. Lepidoptera compactor ready to house specimens, with all drawers in place.

insect drawers, including 720 Odonata drawers (4 inches high). In the future, it is likely that the second collection room will also be compacted, thus nearly doubling the drawer capacity for Coleoptera and Hymenoptera, and

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Fig. 4. General view of compactor arrangement at the FSCA for half the room involved properly. The latter is important since (Diptera and Hemiptera-Homoptera side shown when Lepidoptera side was being collections already willed to the FSCA readied for cabinet addition), separated by a 5 foot central aisle when both compactors in the room are filled with cabinets and drawers (the open compactor opening on the Diptera compactor, seen in the figure, is the same for each compactor, namely one space that can be opened at a time on each side so users can work with specimens).

allowing more floor space for the Odonata Center as well.

All these developments to enhance the FSCA have made for much curatorial work, but also considerable excitement among the staff in being able to better curate large sections of the collection that previously could only be housed in storage boxes and were in much disarray. With the new curation, by 2005 visitors and staff will more easily be able to find all FSCA specimens, something so important for on-going research projects. The FSCA will now also have some excess capacity, so expected in-coming collections will have space available to be housed properly. The latter is important since will more than double the Odonata holdings and likewise will add large donations to the beetle section and many other groups of insects at the

### FSCA.

In the future, plans still call for the FSCA to add another wing to the insect museum to house the growing collections, to have adequate space for the Odonata Center, and to eventually make room for the entire aquatics collections (*ca.* 850,000 Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera), which currently are housed at Florida A. & M. University, in Tallahassee, Florida, where researchers there are active in these insects.

(John B. Heppner, Lepidoptera Curator, FSCA, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, P.O. Box 147100, DPI, FDACS, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100)

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

A hearty welcome to the following new members to the Southern Lepidopterists' Society:

Katherine A. Cook 2910 London Court Pearland, TX 77581 Carleton Swafford P.O. Box 47 Collegedale, TN 37315-0370

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

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** A member recently quite correctly pointed out that the name of our Newsletter is the "Southern Lepidopterists' News" and not "The News of The Southern Lepidopterist' Society" which has been appearing internally on the top of each page of the newsletter. This has now been changed. *At least somebody is reading the newsletter*!!!

Also this same member suggested that it would help if the year "2003" was added to the heading. So be it!

## McGUIRE CENTER PROGRESS BY THOMAS C. EMMEL AND JOHN B. HEPPNER



Fig. 1. McGuire Center site (present FMNH building is to the left).



Fig. 2. McGuire Center initial construction, May 2003 (viewed from south side).

As of late July 2003, construction of McGuire Center for Lepidoptera Research, in Gainesville, Florida, is progressing very quickly. Major work will be completed by February 2004 for this new insect museum, research center, and butterfly house addition to the Florida Museum of Natural History (FMNH), of the University of Florida. All Lepidoptera collections from the Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA), next door to FMNH, and the Allyn Museum, in Sarasota, will then be moved to McGuire Center during Spring 2004.

The accompanying figures show the museum site in April 2003 (Fig. 1) and the beginning of construction in May (Fig. 2). As of July (Fig. 3), construction already is completed for the base of the vivarium and two of the museum floors. The museum will have three floors in total. The bottom floor will comprise one of three nearly 4,000 sq. ft. collection rooms. The room layout shown in Fig. 4, shows the final plan for the main (ground) floor of the museum, with offices and one of the collection rooms, plus public exhibit areas in front of the vivarium butterfly house complex. Total museum space, including offices and research laboratories, library, and meeting rooms, comes to about 39,000 sq. ft. of floor space on three levels. The vivarium includes about 7,000 additional square feet of areas for public access.

The butterfly house vivarium will have one main level in a tropical rainforest habitat, with extensive plant growth, pools, waterfalls and streams, and varying walkways for access to see the live butterflies and large moths. The vivarium shell will be about 40 feet high at the walls and about 50 feet high in the center of the interior above the lower water pools. Future expansion may allow the vivarium to continue along the outside of the museum another 150 feet to provide a long flyway for the butterflies, as well as more public viewing space.

The McGuire Center collection rooms will be in three levels, encompassing compacted cabinets and insect drawers that eventually will be able to house about 100,000 insect drawers. One floor initially will be devoted to moths and one floor for butterflies, all in modified California Academy-style drawers (FSCA standard). The lowest floor will have compactors for older Cornell drawers accumulated from the Allyn Museum and the FSCA, plus ample space for tables, so the room can serve as a giant sorting area for incoming collections. Here specimens can be sorted, curated and arranged before being put into the main collections on the upper two floors. Eventually, as space is needed for the growing main collections, the bottom floor will also be used for the permanent collections.

With the FSCA immediately behind McGuire Center by a distance of only about 50 meters, easy access will be



Fig. 3. View of north side of McGuire Center construction, July 2003, Showing the vivarium foundation and base walls at left, with the main museum area at right. The Intact building at left and center is the present FMNH building to which McGuire Center will be attached. FSCA is just behind the trees at right.

available for staff of either museum to visit each building and use the respective libraries and other facilities as needed. The FSCA will retain all the general taxonomic books and journals on insects, about 13,000 volumes, while the McGuire Center library will have all the Lepidoptera literature, about 12,000 volumes plus about 25,000 reprints of Lepidoptera papers. FSCA also has 1000s of reprints of papers on other insect groups. A substantial collection of books on evolution, ecology, botany, conservation, and general natural history will also be housed in the McGuire Center library, as part of the FMNH library resources. The University of Florida has all general science books in its Marston Science Library in the main campus area, with about 850,000 science books and journals, and the main University library has of about 3 million volumes on all other subjects.

Once Lepidoptera are moved to McGuire Center, the FSCA will have about 23,000 insect drawers for all other insect groups in Gainesville, totaling about 6.5 million specimens, including 850,000 specimens of aquatic insects (mainly Trichoptera, Plecoptera, and Ephemeroptera) housed in Tallahassee at Florida A. & M. University (FAMU), which are officially part of the FSCA but currently housed and studied at FAMU.

Lepidoptera specimens at McGuire Center will total over 4 million butterflies and moths by the end of 2004. The FSCA component comes to about 1.8 million Lepidoptera specimens, primarily moths but also including over 265,000 butterflies. The Allyn Museum portion includes about 1.2 million specimens, mostly butterflies, but with large holdings of such macro-moth groups as Saturniidae, Sphingidae, and Arctiidae, plus such specialized collections as for Castniidae. Other collections being brought to McGuire Center will round out the figures and bring the total to more than 4 million specimens to begin with. The collections will be labeled for museum or donor origin and will eventually be bar-coded for computer access to all specimen data at McGuire Center. Planned large-scale expeditions and promised donations of collections will likely double McGuire Center specimen totals within only a few years. Eventual space will be available at McGuire Center for as many as 23 million Lepidoptera specimens, once all present museum capacity is filled up.

The ultimate goals of McGuire Center are to develop a complete Lepidoptera collection of all known species in the world so research can be conducted on their taxonomy and biology. It may seem difficult or impossible to contemplate, but extensive and intense survey collecting by teams of collectors in all regions of the world, especially in remote tropical areas, plus donations of other collections, should enable McGuire Center to approach this goal to house perhaps 90% of the world's Lepidoptera species within the next 20 years. Clearly, older museums will continue to house more holotypes of named species than McGuire Center, but comparative specimens of species are nearly as useful as the actual holotypes if accurately identified by experts. Such resources, plus the accompanying laboratories, library, expert staff, support for graduate students, teaching vivarium, and ancillary facilities, will make McGuire Center the leading research center for Lepidoptera in only a few short years.



Fig. 4. McGuire Center floor layout for the main floor, showing one collection room (*ca.* 3600 sq. ft.) in the upper left corner, part of the vivarium in the upper right corner, with public areas next door, and all the other rooms and offices at center and lower left (all areas at the lower right are part of the current main museum areas of the FMNH). The lower floor of McGuire Center has one more collection room under the main floor collection room shown, and the upper floor has another layer of offices and another collection room above what is shown (public areas as open air space on upper level).

(Thomas C. Emmel, McGuire Center for Lepidoptera Research, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611;

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## DEFINITIONS

**Chaparral** - low, thick, scrubby growth consisting of evergreen shrubs, thorny bushes, and/or low trees which are common in semiarid environments.

Riparian - of, adjacent to, or living on, the bank of a river/stream or, sometimes, of a lake or pond.

Arctic-alpine - pertaining to high elevations of mountains with arctic conditions, usually above timberline.

Arroyo - a gully or dry stream bed in an arid country.

## TEXAS DESTINATIONS: SANDERSON, AND THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT BY ED KNUDSON & CHARLES BORDELON

## INTRODUCTION

Sanderson, Texas, located in Terrell Co., is a little town in the middle of the eastern portion of the Chihuahuan desert. It lies along US 90, about 100 miles from Del Rio to the east, and about 40 miles to Marathon to the west. The town has an interesting history, including a devastating flood in the 1950's that almost destroyed the town. Sanderson has fallen on hard times lately, due mainly to the closing of the



Sanderson, TX: Town & Country Station

railroad service depot, which was once its main industry. Many trains, including passenger trains, pass by, but they rarely stop. Sanderson now gets by mainly by tourism, ranching, mining, and services to truckers. As it lies along the route taken by many lepidopterists, as they are heading for Big Bend, the Davis Mountains, or other western destinations, one should consider at least an overnight stop to sample what the area has to offer. Many moths can be found here that otherwise are not seen outside of Big Bend National Park, Black Gap WMA, and Big Bend Ranch State Park, and no permits are required to collect in Sanderson. It must be conceded that there are places one can collect in the Big Bend region, especially at Study Butte, Terlingua, and Lajitas.

The Chihuahuan desert is one of North America's four great deserts, and if the Mexican portions are included, it is probably the largest. It is a "succulent" desert, dominated by Agaves, Yuccas, Sotol, and Cacti. Flat areas are dominated by Creosote Bush. Hillsides have many other shrubby plants such as Ocotillo, Screwbean Mesquite, Allthorn, Purple Sage, Desert Plum, and others. Arroyos, canyon bottoms, and roadsides may have larger trees such as Desert Willow, Honey Mesquite, Little-leaf Walnut, Hackberry, Texas Persimmon, Ash, Elm, and Junipers. One may also find stands of Coyote Melon along roadsides, as well as many flowers (if there has been some rain). This desert is rich in Lepidoptera, especially moths in the family Noctuidae.

## WHERE AND WHEN TO COLLECT

If one arrives without a blacklight, good collecting can be had in town, especially around the large service station and café on the west side of town. This establishment is open 24 hours a day and is a busy place, with many truckers stopping at all hours. Otherwise, one can collect around one of the 4 motels that are operating, the roadside rest area about 4 miles east of town, or around one of the various bridges over Sanderson Canyon, which are both to the east and west of the town. Ten miles east, on the north side of US 90 is an unfenced area which is called "Fulvia Hill". *Chlosyne fulvia* and other sp. may be found here occasionally, especially if there has been plenty of spring and late summer rain (which is not usually the case). About 20 miles west of town one enters a 10 mile wide wedge of Pecos Co., before entering Brewster Co., exiting Sanderson Canyon and entering the vast, grassy Marathon Basin. Roadside collecting can be good in all of these areas. All fenced off areas are private land and one should not cross fences without permission from the land owner. Collecting in the Sanderson area is best from mid-August to early October, with different species appearing every 2-3 weeks. April and May may also be good if there has been rain.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS / HAZARDS**

Of the 4 motels in Sanderson, we prefer the Desert Air Motel on the west side of town. It is not fancy, but well maintained. Reservations are not normally necessary, unless there is a local event or a roadwork crew in town. Call 432-345-2572. Sanderson has two "restaurants", the Dairy King on the east side and the T&C grill in the big service station across from the Desert Air Motel. There is no emergency medical



clinic closer than Alpine, about 60 miles. There are no drugstores or sizeable grocery stores. These facts mandate that one should bring a first aid kit and potentially needed medications along. The most serious hazards come from injuries that could occur from stepping on broken bottles, nails, old barbed wire, and other trash, as well as the Agave plants and Cacti. Rattlesnakes are common and usually avoid people, but one should take sensible precautions. Scorpions (none lethal), giant centipedes and poisonous spiders (widows & recluses) are common in town. Tarantulas are also common, but these are not dangerous, nor are the vinegaroons and wind scorpions (Solpugids). Take care in collecting around the service station at night, as truckers may not see you, and you should inform the store clerk about what you are doing.

Sanderson, TX: Desert Air motel across from the Town & Country Station.

### **ILLUSTRATIONS (COLOR INSERT A) AND COMMENTS**

NOTE: Figs. 1-5 are 1X, Figs. 6-23 are 2X

### Sesiidae:

Fig. 1: *Mellitia grandis*. Occurs around patches of Coyote Melon (*Cucurbita foetidissima*), especially 10-20 miles west of town, along US 90. Adults fly about noon, but may be found resting on the hostplants in the cool of the morning.

Fig. 2: *Mellitia gloriosa*. Probably the largest sesiid in the world. In flight, it somewhat resembles a Cicada Killer wasp. Habits the same as preceding. This, and the preceding species are most common in early Sept. A much smaller species, *M. snowii*, usually flies earlier in the year.

Fig. 3: Zenodoxus mexicanus. Occurs in Big Bend Nat. Pk. and Sanderson. At least 2 other species, Z. palmii and Z. rubens occur in Sanderson. Similar Z. maculipes, which lacks orange abdominal bands, occurs in south Texas to Del Rio.

### Arctiidae:

Fig. 4: Lycomorpha splendens. Sanderson to El Paso and westward.

Fig. 5: Syntomeida melanthus. Lower Rio Grande Valley to the southern Hill Country, westward to Big Bend.

## Noctuidae:

Fig. 6: *Aleptina clinopetes*. Uncommon. Known in Texas from Kinney, Val Verde & Terrell counties. Compare to Fig. 7.

Fig. 7: Aleptina inca. Common in south, central, and west TX. More mottled than preceding, with larger orbicular spot and whitish hindwings.

Fig. 8: *Tripudia chihuahua*. Occurs in Big Bend and Sanderson. Resembles *T. inquaesita*, from the same region, but *inquaesita* is darker, with less contrasting pattern.

Fig. 9: *Tarachidia clausula*. Occurs from Del Rio to Big Bend. Resembles a miniature *T. semiflava*, but division between yellow and dark gray areas is vertical, not oblique.

Fig. 10: Acontia lucasi. Big Bend to Sanderson. Similar A. expolita lacks the toothed margin of the white costal bar.

Fig. 11: Acontia sedata. West and south central TX. Similar A. tenuicula lacks the dark basal patch on the inner margin of the forewing.

Fig. 12: Eutelia furcata. Del Rio to SE AZ. Resembles eastern E. pulcherrima.

Fig. 13: *Stiria dyari*. Discovered in TX by James Adams. Uncommon in Sanderson area, also AZ. Differs from fig. 15 by smaller size and lack of brown basal patch on forewing.

Fig. 14: Stiria blanchardi. Widespread, but local and sporadic in west TX.

Fig. 15: Stiria intermixta. Widespread in central and west TX. This is the western counterpart of the eastern S. rugifrons.

Fig. 16: Angulostiria chrysochilus. This Mexican species is known, in the US, only from Sanderson. About a dozen examples have been collected in late Aug.- early Sept.

Fig. 17: Chalcopasta fulgens. South, central, and west Texas. The burnished gold and brown forewings are frosted with whitish scales, unlike those of C. howardi, which occurs in the same habitat.

Fig. 18: Plagiomimicus olvello. Occurs in Chihuahuan desert hills, mainly in Sept.

Fig. 19: *Lineostriastiria hachita*. A beautiful species of the Chihuahuan desert. A related sp., *L. biundulalis*, lacks the orange-yellow on the forewings and occurs in the mesa country of north central, and northwest Texas.

Fig. 20: Oncocnemis toddi. A small species for this genus, which resembles an Acontiine. It occurs only in Big Bend and Sanderson, late Sept. to early Oct.

Fig. 21: *Richia arabella*. Fairly common in Chihuahuan desert habitats. A similar sp., *R. salina*, is much darker in color and occurs in the mountains.

Fig. 22: Schinia miniana. West Texas in September; uncommon.

Fig. 23: Grotella blanchardi. Occurs locally in Chihuahuan desert in west Texas. This beautiful moth can be found around Sanderson in Aug-Oct.

NOTE: For illustrations of other species that may occur in the Sanderson area refer to INSERT B in

Southern Lepidopterists' News Vol. 23, No. 3 (2001), and INSERTS B & C in Southern Lepidopterists' News Vol. 24, No. 3 (2002).

(Ed Knudson & Charles Bordelon, 8517 Burkhart, Houston, TX, 77055)

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## RECENT FSCA ACQUISITIONS BY JOHN B. HEPPNER

The Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA), which is the insect collection of the State of Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, in Gainesville, Florida, receives numerous donations each year from various persons around the world, particularly from FSCA Research Associates. During the past year, the FSCA has received a number of Lepidoptera donations, among many donations of other insect groups, and the larger or more significant ones are noted below:

### W. Lee Adair, Tampa, FL

About 5,800 specimens of Lepidoptera, mostly Florida moths, were brought to the FSCA during early 2003 as the last portion from his collection. This is an exceptional collection of Florida Lepidoptera, all spread, wellcurated, and mostly identified, including some very rare species. This brings his accumulated donations to the FSCA since 1982 to 6,739 Lepidoptera specimens, mostly moths and many in the Microlepidoptera.

### Richard W. Boscoe, Lafayette Hill, PA

For 2001-02, his donation included 262 specimens. Although yearly donations are not large, Richard Boscoe's material is all reared butterflies, all in perfect freshly emerged condition and carefully prepared and spread, along with the associated biological data and larvae preserved in alcohol. His accumulated donations since 1982 amount to 9,039 butterflies from North America.

### John J. Bowe, Ridgewood, NJ

The remainder of John Bowe's butterfly and moth collection was sent to the FSCA in early 2003, kindly picked up by Dr. Thomas C. Emmel and crew. The total collection donated to the FSCA since 1987 comes to 17,494 Lepidoptera, mostly North American butterflies.

### Vernon A. Brou, Jr., Abita Springs, LA

Another selection of specimens from Vernon Brou's collection came in, amounting to 4,064 moths from Louisiana. This brings his total accumulated donations to the FSCA since 1972 to 102,010 Lepidoptera, mostly all moths from Louisiana, but not counting his exceptionally large collection of worldwide Sphingidae (acquired by Howard Weems for the FSCA).

### Terhune S. Dickel, Anthony, FL

For 2001-02, Terry Dickel's donation to the FSCA amounted to 873 moths, mostly from Colorado. All his specimens are very neatly prepared and spread, and identified to species. His accumulated donations since 1974 total 55,347 Lepidoptera, mostly from Florida and Colorado.

### Jean G. Filiatrault, Laval, Quebec, Canada

The 2001-02 donation was for 514 Lepidoptera from Quebec, a region not well represented at the FSCA. His accumulated donations to the FSCA since 1996 total 3,384 Lepidoptera, mostly from Quebec.

### Irving L. Finkelstein, Atlanta, GA

A donation of 4,354 Lepidoptera was received during 2001, both of North American and exotic species. His accumulated donation total since 1979 comes to 20,717 Lepidoptera, mostly butterflies, including many specimens from Europe and South America.

### Dale H. Habeck, Gainesville, FL

Prof. Habeck's extensive collection of larvae, mostly Lepidoptera, has been donated to the FSCA. As sections of this collection get ready for transfer from the University of Florida campus, they are brought to the FSCA and incorporated into the main larval collection. Since 1964, his total donations come to 104,034 Lepidoptera adults and larvae, mostly from Florida and Wisconsin.

### John B. Heppner, Gainesville, FL

The donation for 2001-02 and early 2003 came to 25,087 moths, mostly from Taiwan and South America. His total accumulated donations since 1973 amount to 149,143 Lepidoptera, mostly moths and including numerous Micro-lepidoptera and some larvae, from many parts of the United States, including such western states as California, Arizona, and Utah, and foreign countries, including Bulgaria, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Malaysia, Peru, Romania, Serbia, Taiwan, and Venezuela, among others.

#### John Holoyda, Chicago, IL

The remainder of the collection of Sesiidae of the late John Holoyda was donated to the FSCA during 2001, amounting to 244 specimens of this rarely collected group of moths. All are neatly prepared and identified.

### Edward C. Knudson, Houston, TX

Recent donations from Ed Knudson amounted to 440 Texas moths, all neatly prepared and spread, and identified. His accumulated donations since 1980 total 6,173 moths, almost all from Texas.

#### Peter J. Landolt, Wapato, WA

Donations by Peter Landolt during 2001-02, plus early 2003, came to 330 moths from Washington and Idaho, since he moved to Washington from Florida. All are neatly spread and identified, and from a region thus far poorly represented at the FSCA. His accumulated donations to the FSCA since 1984 total 6,919 Lepidoptera, mostly exotic and North American moths.

### Robert B. Miller, Shasta Lake City, CA

Donations from Robert Miller came to 4,882 insects from 2001-02, including 2,250 Lepidoptera, mostly moths, all from northern California. His accumulated donations to the FSCA since 1980 total 6,324 moths, not counting many other insects.

#### J. B. Sullivan, III

During 2001-02, Bo Sullivan donated 1,180 moths from North Carolina. All specimens are neatly prepared, spread, and identified. His accumulated donations to the FSCA since 1982 total 21,325 Lepidoptera, mostly North Carolina moths, but also many from Colombia.

Donations to the FSCA since the Research Associate program began in 1962 (and from others before that), and have in total greatly increased the FSCA holdings of Lepidoptera and other insects. For Lepidoptera, the FSCA has received more than 80% of its holdings through the generous donations of past and present FSCA Research Associates and other donors. There are numerous other donations involved than those noted above, sometimes just single specimens of rare species, but all are welcome. The FSCA is among the largest insect collections in North America, and has strong holdings in many groups and for many states, but still lacks adequate material from many regions of the United States, and from many foreign countries, and welcomes donations anytime.

To become an FSCA Research Associate does not require the donation of any specimens or payment of any kind, and there are many benefits besides being affiliated with a recognized museum. For example, FSCA Research Associates can obtain yearly collecting permits for all Florida parks and recreation areas (butterflies require a special permit) without charge, and when in Gainesville, have access to the DPI library and the FSCA collections and research facilities. Beginning in 2004, the FSCA Lepidoptera collections will be moved to McGuire Center, on the campus of the University of Florida adjacent to DPI, so those facilities will also be available to FSCA Research Associates.

Anyone interested in joining the FSCA Research Associate program, or otherwise wanting to donate specimens, is welcome to write for more information, or contact Dr. Gary Steck, Res. Assoc. coordinator at the FSCA (to DPI, P.O.

Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100; or, via e-mail to steckg@doacs.state.fl.us).

(John B. Heppner, Lepidoptera Curator, FSCA, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, P.O. Box 147100, DPI, FDACS, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100)

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## CATOCALA CHARLOTTAE BROU IN LOUISIANA BY VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

The underwing *Catocala charlottae* Brou (Fig. 1), type locality: Louisiana, St. Tammany Parish near Abita Springs, was first discovered by this author in 1982 and subsequently described (Brou, 1988). The adults of *charlottae* can be easily mistaken for *Catocala alabamae* Grt. at Abita Springs, Louisiana, as both species can have nearly identical forewing maculation and silver-gray color, though when very fresh, *alabamae* forewings are dull blue-gray. In Louisiana, I have taken *charlottae* commonly at UV light and at fermenting bait only at the type locality. I surmise this location may be on the western edge of the range for this species.

**Catocala charlottae** also has a very similar resemblance to **Catocala praeclara** Grt & Rob. except that **charlottae** lacks the black basal dash. Some lepidopterist have questioned it's species status because of the similarity in appearance of **charlottae** and **praeclara**. It is possible that **charlottae** could be a geographically consistent variation of **praeclara**, perhaps as a result of the founder effect, though **charlottae** occurs east to Florida. The forewing color of **praeclara** can vary over it's considerable range from pastel green to violet in appearance. Here in Louisiana, the forewing ground color of **charlottae** is consistently silver-gray in appearance, and the basal dash attribute occurs in < 0.30% of the population, n = 1054.

In Louisiana, *charlottae* is fairly common at uv light and fermenting fruit bait from the end of April to the end of June (Fig. 2), with the single brood peaking during the third week of May.



Fig. 1. Catocala charlottae Brou, female topotype

Fig. 2. Catocala charlottae adults collected as sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 miles NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 1054.

#### Reference

Brou Jr., V.A. 1988. A new species of Catocala from the southeast United States. J. Lepid. Soc. 42: 116-119.

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

## HOLOMELINA LAETA (GR.-MEN.) IN LOUISIANA BY VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

The very pretty, red and black moth *Holomelina laeta* (Gr.-Men.) (Fig. 1) is reported by Covell (1984) to occur Nova Scotia to Manitoba to South Dakota and Kentucky, on the wing June to September. Quite often, forewing and hindwing color variation occur, including orange or yellow replacing bright red, as well as melanic aberrations, *e.g.* those shown by Brou (1992). Here in Louisiana, *laeta* has been collected using ultraviolet light traps in all months except December, exhibiting at least three broods, peaking during April, June and September. The second brood (Fig. 2) has about 85% more adults than the first brood, third brood is 25% larger than the second. *H. laeta* is fairly common over much of the state (Fig. 3), and this author usually encounters it commonly in piney woodlands.



#### References

Brou, Vernon A. 2002. Variations in Utetheisa bella (L.), Utetheisa ornatrix (L.), and Holomelina laeta (Gr.-Men.). South. Lepid. News 24: 1, insert A.

**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.

Fig. 1. Typical phenotype Holomelina laeta. Fig. 3. Parish records for Holomelina laeta.



Fig. 2. Adult Holomelina laeta captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 miles NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 2317

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

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**WEBSITE:** Do not forget our website at <u>www.southernlepsoc.org/</u> the official site of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society.

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## WHAT DO "LOLITA" AND THE "KARNER BLUE" HAVE IN COMMON? BY J. BARRY LOMBARDINI

Nabokov! Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov the well-known author and lepidopterist who wrote the famous, or perhaps the infamous, novel about a man's affair with his twelve yearold stepdaughter also named and described a subspecies of the Melissa blue butterfly. Vladimir Nabokov was born in St. Petersburg, the Paris of Tsarist Russia, on April 23, 1899, the first born of Vladimir Dmitrievich Nabokov, a Russian criminologist, publisher and liberal politician, and Elena Ivanovna who was a descendent from a wealthy Russian heritage.

Nabokov was the oldest of 5 children with two brothers and two sister. He grew up in luxury in the Russian intellectual aristocracy on the family estate in Vyra, some fifty miles south of St. Petersburg. The family lineage in Imperial Russia included princes from the royal family, government ministers, and generals from the army. It is said that even the family dog was upperclass, a descendent from a pair owned by Anton Chekhov. Nabokov's childhood was a life of opulence and privilege; he was taught by the best tutors of the time and attended the most prestigious primary schools in Russia. He enjoyed playing tennis and soccer. To the people who knew Nabokov as a child the recollection that he was precocious, was extremely spoiled and arrogant. No wonder he was considered a loner. Nabokov was fluent in English and French along with his native tongue, Russian. He described his acquired language skills as "a perfectly normal trilingual childhood". His education also included painting and of which he had drawing considerable talent.

The early childhood years of Nabokov were relatively peaceful and he spent much time in the pursuit of his avid interest - studying butterflies with the future goal of naming new species. By the time Nabokov was 8 years old he had this life's dream already planned. His parents encouraged his hobby of collecting butterflies as was fashionable in European high society of the 19th century. By the age of ten, Nabokov became fluent in the extensive literature of European lepidoptera in both German (with the help of a dictionary) and Russian.

By the age of 17, Nabokov appeared to be what could be called "in an ideal situation". He became extremely wealthy in his own right due to his good fortune of inheriting from his uncle an estate comprising of 2000 acres of land, a mansion, and large sums of rubles.

Immediately prior to World War I, a surrealistic drama was being staged among the monarchs of Europe in which these inbred royal families of Europe were busy about their "royal" pleasures - traveling, playing and partying, visiting one another - all the time not cognizant that their dynastic families would soon be at war with each other. The end or the beginning came quickly. The archduke Franz-Ferdinand of Serbia was assassinated. Fate was cast. A state of war was declared between Russia and Austria-Hungary and its ally, Germany, in August of 1914. The other major European powers soon joined the cataclysmic conflict of World War I choosing sides - the Central Powers vs. the Allies (Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Japan and the U.S.).

As a teenager in 1916 - the year prior times at close range and thrown

to the Russian revolution - political unrest and riotings in Russian were the beginnings of hard times for this once prominent, extremely wealthy family - the Nabokovs. Russia was on a path from world war to civil war. Tsar Nicholas II, at the encouragement of Alexandra, the Empress, believed that he was "ordained by God" to lead the troops in World War I. Unfortunately, he had no adequate preparation to cope with the burdens of a modern industrial world. With a lack of experience, and many sadly said, "interest", in a leadership role, he consequently lost political support of the army, the police, the educated society, and the peasants.

The reliance of Tsar Nicholas II on the Empress during his absence from the capital Petrograd while at the front was compounded by her lack of administrative competence. To exacerbate the deteriorating war situation, Alexandra relied on the mystic monk Gregory Efimovich Rasputin as chief counsel who held extreme power over her in all matters, be they family, social, or political. Rasputin was considered a "staretz", i.e., a "holy man". While far from holy, he was, however, to say the least meddling and influential, especially dominating the Tsaress Alexandra. Relatives of the Tsar and Empress concerned over this fraudulent power behind the throne finally decided to eliminate (permanently) the "holy man". On December 16, 1916, Rasputin was invited to a social function at the palace in Petrograd. There he was offered poisoned hors d'oeuvres, poisoned wine - enough it is said to kill 5 men - but with no noticeable ill effect. Then he was shot multiple through a hole in the ice in the river were the private tutors, private Neva. realize how difficult it was to kill Rasputin as it was subsequently his job in the Provisional discovered when his body floated to the surface three days later that he had air in his lungs which indicated that he was alive when dumped in the river.

World War I extracted a horrible price from the once mighty empire of Russia. Russia was ill-prepared to fight against Germany and Austria. During the next 4 years, eight million soldiers were either wounded, captured, missing or dead; the economy was in ruins, the people were starving. Tsar Nicholas II was oblivious to many of these conditions. Finally, he was given an ultimatum to turn all power over to the Duma, the Parliament, Instead, he attempted to negotiate by suggesting that he relinquish his throne to his son. His advisors warned the Tsar that this was a death sentence for the young boy. He then offered the throne to his brother who refused. Tsar Nicholas II abdicated on March 15, 1917, which brought to an end 300 years of rule by the Romanov dynasty in Imperial Russia. The inept and corrupt rule of Tsar Nicholas II had come to an end - a rule which was weak, archaic and doomed to failure due to his lack of strength and vision in a country that was going through great trials and tribulations. A Provisional Government was established and Nabokov's father emerged, the politician that he was, to become secretary to Russia's new government.

From an expected and former comfortable position of luxury, Nabokov now found himself in times of civil war and his somewhat magical fairy tale world was tumbling down. Gone were the numerous servants with their livery, the excursions by train to other Russian Ilyich Ulyanov using the nom de cities and foreign countries, gone guerre "Lenin" returned to Russia

The perpetrators did not schools, and the country estate. Nabokov senior was then forced from Government. These dangerous times prompted he and his family to move from Vyra to the environs of Yalta in the southern Crimea where he became minister of justice in the Crimean Regional Government. However, this position afforded no security and also was not to last disaster was imminent. Adding to the tenuousness of Nabokov's family life his father ran afoul of the Bolsheviks who imprisoned him for 3 months. During the imprisonment Nabokov's father, ever aware of his son's interests in lepidoptera, wrote and described to him about the butterflies and moths that appeared in the prison yard.

> During all these times, Nabokov had an unsatiable passion for lepidoptera and a consuming interest in collecting butterflies. He wrote his first scientific manuscript in English "A Few Notes on Crimean Lepidoptera" which was subsequently published in The Entomologist in 1920 at the age of 21. Even as a teenager and a young man, Nabokov was already a prolific writer of Russian literature having published a collection of 68 poems in Russian in 1916, 36 poems in Russian published in 1922, 128 poems in Russian in 1923, and a number of other works such as a play, two dramas and a monologue all in 1923. In this same year, 1923, he also published his translation into Russian, Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

> The Provisional Government in Russia was not capable of solving the many crucial problems that beset it and was doomed after only 8 months, coming to an official end on October 25 (November 7, new calender) and referred to as "the Great October Revolution". In 1917, Vladimir

after a 20 year exile and assumed power originating from Petrograd. A Soviet government was in place, and it was officially mandated that the bourgeois were out of power and the dictatorship of the proletariat ruled. Lenin had realized a long dream of a Marxist state for Russia and was now chairman of the Council of People's Commissars and leader of the country, along with his able assistant Lev Davidovich Bronstein "Trotsky" who was commissar for foreign affairs, and Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili "Stalin" who was in charge of national minorities. Communism based on the writings of Marx and Engels as interpreted by Lenin was the new philosophical system.

Russia moved toward civil war which became a reality in the summer of 1918. July 16, Tsar Nicholas II, his wife the empress, and their 5 children (a son and four daughters) were assassinated in Ekaterinburg by the Bolsheviks. The royal family during these last days was captive, under house arrest, and were being constantly moved from place to place. Orders came from Lenin, the family was to told to pose for a group photograph in the basement of a house --- and it was over.

This political unrest in Russia prompted the Nabokov family to move once again - this time in 1919 to England where Nabokov matriculated at Trinity College, Cambridge. By late in the year of 1920 the White movement was defeated, the Red army victorious, the Bolsheviks in power, and Communism was in control.

Still unsettled and certainly not satisfied Nabokov's parents and siblings left London and moved in 1920 to Berlin while Nabokov remained in England to finish his classes. Fortunately, valuable family heirlooms, in particular jewels, and the loyalty of servants enabled the

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Russia and England with sufficient resources to relocate in some semblance of style. Nabokov's father also had access to émigré benevolent funds. In Berlin, his father became a newspaper editor of the Russian exile newspaper Rul. However, as luck would have it, when Nabokov was visiting Berlin in 1922 while still in college, his father was shot and killed during an assassination attempt on the publisher and politician Paul Miliukov. His father had shielded Miliukov, also a political exile, with his body from the gunfire of two monarchist fanatic assassins. Nabokov's mother then immigrated to Prague where she lived until her death in 1939.



Lupine and puccoon in Bloom: Photograph by Paul Labus, The Nature Conservancy Indiana Chapter.

Nabokov graduated from Trinity College in 1922, majoring in both French and Russian literature. He then returned to Berlin which had a large Russian community.

Nabokov supported himself in the ghetto of "Russian" Berlin by publishing short stories and poems using the nom de plume "V. I. Sirin" primarily to avoid confusion with his father (Vladimir Dmitrievich associated with numerous butterfly

poet he found himself in the émigré community of Berlin "dépaysé", i.e., "uncountried" and therefore isolated from Russia, his motherland, with its culture, language and inspiration. His other sources of income were acting, translating, and giving both English and tennis lessons. He was the first to compose Russian crossword puzzles and this was yet another source of income during these lean years.

Nabokov spent most of the night writing as his days were busy and he had trouble sleeping at night. During his 15 years in Berlin he published his first novel plus 4 others along with numerous other works.

Nabokov married Véra Slonim most of Europe. Unfortunately, (1902-1991) also an exile from St. Petersburg. Véra Slonim's family left Russia during the pogroms of Nazis. The Gestapo arrested him in 1919 and took up residence in Berlin. She met Nabokov in 1923. A son was born in 1934 and named Dmitri after Nabokov's father. While the times of their marriage were tumultuous, Vladimir and Véra Nabokov had a marriage that lasted 52 years through many contrasting stages such as exile, poverty, enormous success both literary and financial, an affair in 1937, and idyllic butterfly collecting trips in Europe and the United States (1940-1961). Through the years together Véra was a constant, faithful companion ever watching after her husband's interests whether they be helping him prepare a lecture at Cornell, actually giving one of his lectures, grading student papers, influencing his writings with comments and suggestions, negotiating with literary agents, acting as his secretary both in personal and business affairs, or preparing the logistics for the travels to America.

Nabokov family to depart from Nabokov, 1870-1922) especially collecting trips. A bit of an enigma, because of his political past and she could be prudish at times and yet subsequent death. As an aspiring her husband wrote Lolita which she defended.

> In 1937 Nabokov with his wife Véra and son Dmitri moved to Paris, again because of political unrest due to the Nazis who were in power in Germany, and continued his work writing his first English novel, The Real Life of Sebastian Knight. As stated previously, he was fluent in at least 3 languages writing in English, French, and Russian. He had been quoted as saying that he never learned German, however, having livedin Germany for 15 years this seems not possible. Yet again troubled times forced him to move in 1940. This time he and his wife and young son moved to America, sailing to New York, and thus fleeing the On April 15, 1925, at the age of 26 Nazis who now occupied France and Nabokov's brother Sergei did not flee Germany and was a victim of the 1943 for speaking out against the Third Reich and for his homosexuality and sent him to Neuengamme, a particularly cruel labor camp near Hamburg, where medical experiments were conducted on the prisoners. Records from the camp indicate that Sergei died in January of 1945, only months before Allied liberation, as a result of the severe conditions.

> > In the years leading up to 1940 when the Nabokov family immigrated to the United States, Nabokov had lost at least 3 butterfly collections that were very dear to him. His childhood collection from Russia was gone when his family fled into exile and two European collections were destroyed, the last in his apartment house in France which was ransacked by the Nazis. However, he was able to save a few of his precious "blue" butterflies that sailed with him

## MOTHS FROM SANDERSON, TEXAS



## VOL. 25 NO.3 (2003), INSERT B



Karner Blue (♂): Credit - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, photograph by Ann B. Swengel.



Karner Blue (<sup>2</sup>): Credit - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington DC Library.



Karner Blue (?): Photograph© by Geoffrey Niswander.



Landscape view of a large lupine colony: Credit - ©2001 Becknell and Lucas Media, Ltd. (http://www.bigeastern.com/)



Lupines: Credit - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Cyllopsis pyracmon nabokovi, Butterflies of Southeastern Arizona: Photograph by Bruce Walsh.



New York's Albany Pine Bush: Credit - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Active dune with lupines in bare sand: Credit -©2001 Becknell and Lucas Media, Ltd. (http://www.bigeastern.com/)



Wild Lupine: Photograph by Jim DeVries, Laurentian Environmental Center, Britt, MN, http://www.laurentiancenter.com/ plantkey/plants/lupine.html.



Wild Lupine: Photograph by Jim DeVries, Laurentian Environmental Center, Britt, MN, http://www.laurentiancenter.com/ plantkey/plants/lupine.html.

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Fig. 2. C. a. ammon green larva



Fig. 3. C. a. ammon larva (4<sup>th</sup> instar) feeding on Acacia.



Fig. 4. C. a. ammon larva (5<sup>th</sup> instar) Fig. 5. C. a. ammon larva feeding on Fig. 6. C. a. ammon green pupa. switched from Acacia to Nickerbean. Acacia and mimicking leaflets. Larva in process of losing maroon coloration.









Fig. 8. Size comparison of Acacia reared C. Fig. 9. Size comparison of Nickerbean



Fig. 7. C. a. ammon. Left: Acacia a. ammon with wild caught Brephidium reared C. a. ammon (left), and wild caught reared; Right: Nickerbean reared. isophthalma pseudofea. C. thomasi bethunebakeri (right). C. thomasi bethunebakeri (right).

Photos by David Fine.



Fig. 10. C. a. ammon (2), dark phase reared under lab lights.



Fig. 11. C. a. ammon (9), light phase reared in dark conditions.

# Life History Notes For Chlosyne definita in South Texas



Fig. 1. Ova on underside of leaf





Fig. 3. Pupa, dorsal

Fig. 4. Pupa, lateral



Fig. 8. Parasitoid wasp on pupa of *C. definita* 



Fig. 2. Stenandrium dulce



Fig. 5. Larva, head view



Fig. 6. Larva, dorsal



Fig. 7. Larva, lateral



Fig. 9. Male, dorsal



Fig. 10. Male, ventral



Fig. 11. Female, dorsal



Fig. 12. Female, ventral



Fig.13. Habitat

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Vladimir Nabokov: Photograph courtesy of Wellesley College Archives. Thanks to Wilma R. Slaight.

In the United States, Nabokov held a number of different positions at various museums and academic institutions. He worked at the American Museum of Natural History in New York where he did



Vladimir Nabokov and wife Véra with two students: Photograph courtesy of Wellesley College Archives. Thanks to Wilma R. Slaight.

butterfly collection, and collected Russian during the 1941-1942 successful as Lolita.

academic year. He was also employed for six years at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology as a curator of butterflies. From 1948-1959 he held a tenured professorship in Russian Literature at Cornell University. While Nabokov excelled in entomology and literature he had no education in entomology and only a bachelor's degree in French and Russian literature. A quote from his friend at Yale, Charles Lee Remington: "...a very good lepidopterist; he would have been even better had he had formal training ... ".

It was on his butterfly collecting vacations, many in the Rocky Mountains, in the summertime that Nabokov worked on his twelfth novel Lolita that would gain him fame and fortune, acclaim and notoriety. Lolita, taking 5 years to complete, was a sensation in the literary world its immoral content. America was not yet ready for the story of a middle-aged European intellectual, named Humbert Humbert, who had a sexual infatuation with his Very early in his book Lolita, stepdaughter, an American "nymphet" merely 12 years old. American publishing houses (four to be exact) were not initially interested in this contentious novel due to its use of child sex as its theme and finally a French press first published the novel in 1955. Three years later Lolita was published in the United States and then in England. Outrage in the press and in the pulpit where many a preacher's sermon condemned this lascivious novel and warned the parishioners against the licentious content helped propel research on lepidoptera, curated the Nabokov's novel to the number one best seller in the United States for six specimens for the Museum. For one months. Nabokov learned well and summer Nabokov taught creative realized that sex could make a writing at Stanford University and fortune and in 1969 published the then moved to Wellesley College even more erotic novel, Ada or Ardo: where he held the position of resident A Family Chronicle. However, this lecturer in comparative literature and literary work was not as financially



Karner Blue: Credit - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In numerous examples Nabokov's extensive literary efforts and butterfly expertise are intertwined. In many of his novels and poems he made reference to the butterflies that he was so fond of in his alternative life as a lepidopterist. This "lepidopteral motif' was every present. He is quoted as saying in an answer to a question if there is any connection between writing and his study of butterflies: "...there is in a general way, because I think that in a work of but also brought outrage because of art there is a kind of merging ... between the precision of poetry and the excitement of pure science ....".

> Nabokov has one of the principal characters, Humbert Humbert, an European intellectual (and pedophile) who is traveling through America refer to a Mrs. Leigh (born Vanessa van Ness). "Vanessa", of course, refers to Vanessa atlanta (the Red Admiral) a member of the family Nymphalidae. This brings one to consider the word "nymph" which is the story of the novel. Throughout the work there are many references to metamorphoses similar to the nymph which eventually, as we are all keenly aware, becomes a butterfly (or moth or any other adult insect). In yet another instance to the "lepidopteral motif" that Nabokov employs, Humbert Humbert states "...some gaudy moth or butterfly, still alive, safely pinned to the wall ... " which is interpreted by the annotator, Alfred Appel, Jr., that H. H. is not a lepidopterist and does not distinguish



Karner Blue, mating pair: Photograph by Paul Labus, The Nature Conservancy Indiana Chapter.



Wild Lupine: Photograph by Jim DeVries, Credit: Laurentian Environmental Center, Britt, MN, http://www.laurentiancenter. com/plantkey/plants/lupine.html.

between a moth and butterfly. Another character in the story is named "Avis Chapman" who gets his name from the European butterfly Callophrys avis Chapman. References to moths such as the Tigermoth and the mulberry moth husband's death. While living in the and other insects are common United States she was highly critical throughout his literary works.

Wide public interest after the publication of Lolita brought fortune to Nabokov allowing him to resign from Cornell University and devote quite liberal intellectual community. perennis), a member of the pea full time to writing. In 1961 after visiting a number of countries in During Nabokov's many travels The male is bright blue on the dorsal Europe, Nabokov and his wife moved throughout the United States on side with a narrow black line on the to Montreux, Switzerland, where his butterfly collecting trips, it was the margins of the wings which ends in a

hoped for a quieter life after the fascinated him (Please See Color publicity of Lolita. In 1962, Insert B). His interest in the "blues" Nabokov wrote the screen play for resulted in his reassessing Lolita directed by Stanley Kubrick. reassigning the taxonomy of the A second movie of Lolita was produced in 1997 by Adrian Lyne.

One idiosyncrasy that Vladimir and Véra Nabokov's enjoyed was that they never owned a house always preferring to rent while moving constantly. When asked about this lifestyle he remarked that it was probably due to his not being able to recreate his childhood environment.

stays in a number of different melissa. He subsequently renamed countries Nabokov maintained a great the Karner Blue L. melissa samuelis love for America and considered in honor of Samuel Scudder whose himself an American novelist. He surname was originally the species resided in the United States for 20 years (1940-1961) becoming an Nabokov's interest was not isolated American citizen in 1945. He is to the Karner Blue as he revised the quoted as saying "I am an American taxonomy of a number of different Writer, born in Russia and educated American "blues" and did extensive in England where I studied French reclassification on Latin American literature, before spending fifteen "blues". One of his research years in Germany". Vladimir publications in 1945 "Notes on Vladimirovich Nabokov, at the age of Neotropical Plebejinae" resulted in a 78. Montreux from an unknown lung described in this subfamily. pathology. His wife's correspondence with a library in the United States requested that her husband's works be shelved under American literature "since his best work was done in English".

Véra Nabokov, the always devoted wife, died in 1991 at the age of 89 in Montreux, fourteen years after her of Americans and the American lifestyle, however, while residing in Switzerland she defended many of with a wingspan of approximately 2.5 the American political positions of cm that feeds as a larva only on the the day that were not in favor in the leaves of the wild lupine (lupinus

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son Dmitri was studying opera. He blue butterflies, the "blues", that and genus Lycaeides which was confusing when he assumed his curatorial duties with the collections at Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology. Nabokov noted that the Karner Blue named after Karner. New York, where this small blue butterfly was first caught by William Saunders more than a 140 years ago and described by William Henry Edwards as Lycaena scuderii (Scudder's blue), was not scuderii Throughout his many travels and but a subspecies of Lycaeides designation of this butterfly. died on July 2, 1977, in number of new genera being



Three views of a pupa of the Karner Blue: Photograph by Paul Labus, The Nature **Conservancy Indiana Chapter.** 

The Karner is a small blue butterfly family (Please See Color Insert B).



Karner Blue (?): Photograph by Paul Labus, The Nature Conservancy Indiana Chapter.

white fringe on the outer edges of the wings. On the ventral side the coloration is silvery gray with a row of orange spots or crescents near the margins of the wings being more pronounced on the hindwings than on the forewings. In contrast, the dorsal surface of the wings of the female Karner Blue are dark blue near the body and progressively become brown-gray toward the margins. The dorsal surface of the wings of the female also have a white fringe on the outer margin. The dorsal hindwings have a row of orange spots



Wild Lupine: Photograph by Jim DeVries, Credit: Laurentian Environmental Center, Britt, MN, http://www.laurentiancenter. com/plantkey/plants/lupine.html.

which the male does not. The ventral surface of the wings of the female is silvery gray with a row of orange spots near the margins. This butterfly has two broods, the first of which usually appears in late May and the second in the middle to late July. The larvae are usually associated with ants which are attracted to a sweet substance that the larvae

secrete. It is assumed that the ants offer some protection to the larvae from other predators while not attacking the larvae themselves. The larval stage of the Karner Blue is approximately 3 weeks long while the pupal stage is approximately 8-11 days.

Not too many years ago the Karner Blue was prevalent in the pine barrens and oak savannas of New Hampshire, New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana and Minnesota ranging from New England, the Great Lakes region, down to Minnesota. Unfortunately, this abundance was not to be in perpetuity as the Karner Blue was placed on the endangered species list by the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1992. Today, the Karner Blue does not range freely and is present in only a few specific locals such as the Albany Pine Bush of New York and the Concord Pine Barrens of New Hampshire. Most colonies have less than 1000 individuals; however, at the Saratoga County Airport in New York State there is a population of approximately 14,000 adults. It has been reported that this is "...half the world's population of Karner Blue Butterflies ... "

The Karner Blue is totally dependent on wild lupine, an herbaceous perennial, as its food plant and it has been the destruction of the habitat of the lupine which is responsible for the relatively rapid demise of this butterfly. Habitat destruction, the nemesis of many a butterfly species, has been caused by many human endeavors such as community and agricultural development. In addition, suppression of fires, and the cultivation of forests have been detrimental to the growth of L. perennis. These environmental changes have resulted in fragmentation of the habitat of the Karner Blue with isolated pockets of lupine growth scattered in the region. Because of this scattered habitat the butterfly cannot spread freely as it

secrete. It is assumed that the ants usually stays close to its food plant offer some protection to the larvae traveling only a few hundred meters.

The characteristic biology of the lupine plant is important as it is an early successional plant moving into



Wild Lupine: Photograph by Don R. Tveter taken from <u>http://www.dontveter.</u> com/howtogrow/lupipere.html with permission.

an area after a dramatic change has occurred in a forest such as a wild or anthropogenic fire or other disturbances. The lupine has peashaped flowers which grow in racemes that are 10-25 cm long. The leaflets are palmate with 7-11 speartip-shaped hairy segments. Members of the lupine family contain a poisonous alkaloid, present especially in the seed pod, which can cause serious illness in cattle, sheep, and Minor ingestion produces goats. central nervous system effects such as twitching, depression, breathing and motor problems, and loss of muscular control. Consumption of large quantities of lupines may cause convulsions, coma, and subsequent death. Pregnant cows feeding on lupines will produce calves with skeletal defects known as "crooked calf' disease.

soils which do not harbor dense undergrowth but only stunted vegetation. Thus the pine barrens with sandy glacial soils are ideal areas for the growth of lupine and the maintenance of the Karner Blue colonies.



Vladimir Nabokov: Credit - "Courtesy The Estate of Vladimir Nabokov".

While Nabokov is mostly known for his work on the blues and especially the Karner Blue he did considerable research on other groups of even an incomplete work. butterflies such as the Nymphalidae. Nabokov is also credited with researching the two subspecies of the Pertepida satyr Cyllopsis pertepida dorothea and C. p. avicula and has a satyr named after him (among many other butterflies and one moth) -Cyllopsis pyracmon nabokovi (Please See Color Insert B).

Starting with Nabokov's first paper on lepidoptera in 1920 he continued to publish on butterflies and the "Blues" and notes of a collector in scientific papers for the next 50 years Nabokov either named or were in journals such as The Entomologist, named for him (please note that some The Bulletin of the Museum of of these names are currently not in of the Polyommatines - Nabokovia Comparative Zoology, and The use). Lepidopterists' News.

takes advantage of the reduced Fire (1962), Glory (serialization of pertepida dorothea (Nabokov)], vegetation due to some natural Podvig [Glory] began in 1931; Neonympha dorothea dorothea disturbance such as a fire. When the translation of Glory into English Nabokov (now considered a race of forest eventually grows and shades 1971), Pnin (1957), and then Ada or Cyllopsis pertepida), Neonympha the ground the lupine dies out. Ardor: A Family Chronicle (1969). dorothea edwardsi Nabokov (now Lupine flourishes in nutrient-poor His literary repertoire consists of 17 considered a form "edwardsi" of novels and 65 short stories, numerous Cyllopsis pertepida dorothea, poems, translations, and even chess Neonympha dorothea avicula problems. He is considered one of Nabokov [now Cyllopsis pertepida the greatest writers of the twentieth avicula (Nabokov)], Neonympha century - the spotlight was his. And maniola Nabokov [now Cyllopsis yet he shunned publicity even with pertepida maniola (Nabokov)], this famous reputation, considering a Lycaeides melissa samuelis Nabokov, life more valuable dedicated to Cyclargus erembis Nabokov, writing and, of course, the study of Lycaeides argyrognomon sublivens his beloved butterflies then to the Nabokov (now Lycaeides idas international limelight. To emphasize sublivens Nabokov), Lycaeides this reclusiveness, when the National argyrognomon longinus Nabokov Institute of Arts and Letters proposed (now Lycaeides idas longinus his election to their society he Nabokov), Lycaeides melissa declined the honor.

> described by Dmitri, his son, Lycaeides melissa paradoxa (F. H. "...would have been Father's most Chermock)]. brilliant novel, the most concentrated distillation of his creativity, but The following genera were named by

> So the story has come full circle. Echinargus, Pseudolucia, Born in Imperial Russia, traversed Paralycaeides. through Europe, England and America and then back to Europe literary scholar and genius, lepidopterist extraordinary. Truly Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov was a Fabergé masterpiece residing freija nabokovi Stallings and Turner, in two worlds.

Addendum: The following area lists of the scientific names of the butterflies and moths that Vladimir

Nabokov, from 1916 to 1976 - a 60- the following species: Lysandra his name. year period of literary genius, wrote cormion Nabokov, Caterocephalus numerous novels but the most famous canopunctatus Nabokov, Neonympha A number of lepidoptera have

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The lupine requires sunlight and thus is Lolita (1955), followed by Pale dorothea Nabokov [now Cyllopsis pseudosamuelis Nabokov [now Lycaeides melissa melissa (W. H. One unfinished novel The Original of Edwards)], and Lycaeides melissa Laura will never be published and as inyoensis (Nabokov) now listed as

> whose release in incomplete form he Nabokov (1944-1945): Icaricia, expressly forbade". A pity to lose Plebulina, Pseudothecla (now Nabokovia), Parachilades, (now Itylos), Pseudochrysops, Cyclargus, and

> > The following butterflies and one moth were named in honor of Nabokov: Eupithecia nabokovi McDunnough, Clossiana (=Boloria) Hesperia nabokovi Bell and Comstock, Lycaeides idas nabokovi Masters, and Cyllopsis pyracmon nabokovi Miller.

Nabokov also had a genus Nabokovia Hemming named after him and a part Bálint and Johnson. Finally, the infratribe Nabokovina Bálint and From 1941 to 1949 Nabokov named Johnson also employs a derivative of

"Nabokov" designation: Nabokov's (Nabokov)], Nabokov's Blue (used for both Lycaeides idas [Cyllopsis pyracmon (Butler)], and sublivens (Nabokov) and Lycaeides idas nabokovi Masters], Nabokov's Fritillary (Boloria freija nabokovi Stallings and Turner), Nabokov's Brown (Cyllopsis pyracmon nabokovi Miller), Nabokov's Wood Nymph

common names that bear the [Cyllopsis pertepida dorothea Satyr the one moth, Nabokov's Pug (Eupithecia nabokovi McDunnough).

> [Note: photographs were reprinted with permission from the following sources: U.S Fish and Wildlife Service; Geoffrey Niswander, Marty Lucas, Jim DeVries

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(Laurentian Environmental Center), Don R. Tveter, Paul Labus (The Nature Conservancy Indiana Chapter), Wilma R. Slaight (Wellesley College Archives), The Estate of Vladimir Nabokov [Nikki Smith (Smith/Skolnik, Literary Management)], and Bruce Walsh. My thanks to the generosity of these organizations and individuals - The Author.]

## EUAGROTIS LUBRICANS (GUENÉE) IN LOUISIANA BY VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

The noctuid moth *Euagrotis lubricans* (Gn.) (Fig. 1) is fairly common in piney woodlands in Louisiana, though usually encountered only as singletons at ultraviolet light. E. lubricans was previously reported at Baton Rouge, Louisiana by Chapin & Callahan (1967). This species is reported by Covell (1984) and Forbes (1954), to occur over most all of the southeastern United States. Both, Covell and Forbes reported the species has presumably two broods, January to April -May and July to August - September.

In Louisiana, there are three periods which exhibit populations peaking throughout the year: end of March, end of June and early October (Fig. 2), indicating at least three larger broods, though more likely there may be three additional lesser populated broods. The parish record locations for Louisiana are illustrated in Fig. 3.

The maculation of the forewing of *lubricans* can be very pronounced with the antimedian, median and postmedian lines well marked, but in colder months can also appear unmarked, nearly uniform red-brown.





Fig. 1. Euagrotis lubricans: a. male, b. female

Fig. 3. parishes in which E. lubricans has been captured.



Fig. 2. Euagrotis lubricans adults taken at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 1421.

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## COMMENTS ON A PREVIOUS SLN ARTICLE

JOHN B. HEPPNER writes the following comments concerning "Subspecies" as a follow up on the article by JAMES K. ADAMS which appeared in Vol. 24 No. 1 (2002) pp. 12-15 of the *Southern Lepidopterists' News*.

For my part, I only use subspecies for geographic isolates and would do so whether they show any different markings or not (usually they do and the genetics would be different to some extent anyway due to isolation). Thus, if we have a species in the East and a population in CA, then one could make that a different subspecies, but not one from MO that merges with other eastern populations. Clinal forms that are named as subspecies I treat as synonyms. The many papers I see where subspecies are described in great detail, with genitalic descriptions, *etc.*, are really not needed for a subspecies: if it is geographically isolated, then one can put a name on the population and just give some notes of what variation there is from the main species appearance. For example, most Lepidoptera described from India and also having populations on such distant islands as Borneo or Java can easily have subspecies names applied there, whether they are very different or not. This is the subspecies concept I use.

As to the mountain range subspecies being named in Emmel *et al.* (1998) and by others for western butterflies, these really are only local populations for the most part. To continue in this logic one would need at least 300-500 subspecies of each of the Speyeria and others, like Parnassius in Europe, with every mountain range having a different subspecies (think of all the endangered "species" that could be applied for). However, I do accept some such biological isolates if far enough apart or potentially sibling species, say from southeast AZ and another from the mountains in NV, but if the isolates are only on the next range of mountains then I would just call these all one population inasmuch as they are close enough that individuals probably can interbreed often enough from rare wind drift flights to keep the population close enough genetically to remain the same overall population.

If so many names are wanted for butterflies, a new "population" category below subspecies should be used, and not clutter the nomenclature with innumerable subspecies names. This is done very well in plants where different cultivars are given names in some cases but not as subspecies, and some cultivated plants have 100s of cultivar names.

I also think that some of this new subspecies naming is political, to get USFWS to give endangered species status for various populations, as is being tried for the eastern populations of the regal fritillary. I have told some of the prolific namers that they should not do so too much or USFWS will eventually tire of this game and then make it really hard to get new species listed. All listed butterflies are now subspecies anyway (except for the single full species on the list and that one is already extinct). It is kind of a joke that in CA, there is a *Speyeria callippe* on the endangered species list for one local population, yet it is the commonest Speyeria species in CA overall; something like having the monarchs from Miami given subspecies status, yet with the monarch being about the commonest butterfly in North America and it intermingles everywhere in the East (somewhat less for those west of the Rockies). The much vaunted Karner blue is really similar, since *Lycaeides melissa* is a common blue species in the United States and it just happens to have some different local forms in the Northeast that are called the Karner blue "subspecies". Some taxonomists would probably call *L. melissa* all one species in the East, without subspecies names, and only have subspecies for some of the western forms that could qualify as subspecies. DNA can show any local population as being slightly different from the rest of a species, but we have to draw the line somewhere to keep our taxonomy out of chaos.

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## ASCALAPHA ODORATA (L.) AND THYSANIA ZENOBIA (CRAM.) IN LOUISIANA BY VERNON A. BROU JR.

The Black Witch, *Ascalapha odorata* (L.) (Fig. 1), and the Owl Moth, *Thysania zenobia* (Cram.) (Fig. 2) are occasionally encountered in Louisiana, usually as singletons. This author has collected about 25 adult specimens of *odorata* and three specimens of *zenobia* in 34 years of continual light trapping. In certain locations *odorata* is much more common *e.g.* in the cities of New Orleans and Baton Rouge, in which *Cassia* sp., a reported foodplant, are commonly planted as ornamentals. There are 5 specimens of *odorata* in the Louisiana State Arthropod Museum.



Fig. 1. Ascalapha odorata: a. male, b. female



Fig. 3. Parishes in which (a) *Ascalapha odorata*, (b) *Thysania zenobia* have been recorded.



Fig. 2. Thysania zenobia: male.

Dates of capture for *odorata* are: February -March, and July - November, though most records are from September. The three records for *zenobia* are: July, September, and November.

A. odorata has been previously reported for Louisiana by Hine (1906), Jung (1950), and Chapin & Callahan (1967). Covell (1984) listed odorata as occurring from south Florida to South Texas in all months, and migrating north to Minnesota and New Foundland. Covell states zenobia occurs from Florida and Texas in all months, and straying rarely north to Ontario and Maine. Thanks to Victoria M. Bayless for records from the Louisiana State Arthropod Museum.

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## VARIABILITY OF CYCLARGUS AMMON AMMON BY DAVID FINE

In the past four years, I have become very familiar with butterflies in the Slash Pine habitats of Miami Dade County and the Lower Keys including the "Nickerbean Blue" (*Cyclargus ammon ammon*). I have spent countless hours observing these blues in the disturbed areas of Big Pine Key. Although collecting on the island has become somewhat impossible, I was lucky enough to befriend someone who owned about 2 acres of untouched Slash Pine habitat. Susan Wheless is a naturalist and believed in keeping as much of her property as natural as possible. She believed so strongly in this that she went to the extent of personally removing all of the Brazilian Pepper, an invasive exotic, from her yard. That was no small task! Especially for a woman in her fifties. She did ask me to help her build a small butterfly garden to attract some of the butterflies out of the woods and into her yard. Over the course of a year and



"Nickerbean Blue" (Cyclargus ammon ammon).

a half, I made about a dozen trips to her property to do some surveying and bringing some plants for her garden. I got her to become very familiar with some of the smaller gems of her back yard like Ministymon azia, Strymon acis bartrami, Strymon martialis, Anaea troglodyta, Ephyriades brunnea floridensis, Phoebis agarithe, Composia fidelissima, and all three blues that lived in her yard including Leptotes cassius, Hemiargus ceraunus antibubastus, and Cyclargus ammon ammon. Unfortunately she moved last year and I no longer have access to her property for collecting. I am now subject to wandering in vacant lots that are not posted Wild Life Refuges like the rest of you. I had nearly forgotten what it was like to be collecting in an area, while quite rich in specie diversity, is also a boat and car graveyard, a garbage can for the locals, a haven for countless

homeless folk, and sprayed heavily for mosquitos for 6 months out of the year. Not to mention encountering escaped emus (A long story)! It is amazing that so many species are able to hang on year after year in these conditions.

I had always wanted to see the Miami Blue (*Cyclargus thomasi bethunebakeri*) in the wild as well. For the last few years I have spent lots of time looking at lots of tiny blue butterflies throughout South Florida to hope to stumble upon a colony somewhere. Obviously now that they are protected, any such efforts would be strictly observational. But before the whole Miami Blue fiasco went down, I was swinging away at any small blue Lycaenid with hopes to find the one that everyone has been looking for. Mr. Leroy Koehn had been my instructor and mentor, and was subject to endless questioning about our unique fauna. I'd say he taught me pretty well! When he introduced me to the *C. ammon* of Big Pine Key, one of the things that I noticed immediately was how small they were. In many cases they were very close in size to the Pygmy Blues (*Brephidium isophthalma pseudofea*) which I have also found in the Pinelands. I compared the *C. ammon* to some specimens of *C. thomasi* that Leroy gave me from his days way back in the 70's and at that point made my mind up that size would be a fairly quick and safe guide to which blue I was looking at in the field. As you will see later, that was a poor assessment on my part.

Throughout the past two years while the Miami Blue madness has attracted so much attention from countless organizations and societies, I made it my personal mission to find a new colony outside of Bahia Honda State Park. Although I had no success, I did have a chance to become a lot more personal with many of the butterflies of the Florida Keys. I found *C. ammon* on Big Pine Key during every month accept August. They start to show up in noticeable numbers in November and gradually become more common until about mid-April when they are absolutely abundant and dominate the other blue species in numbers. It is about that time when the salt marsh mosquitos begin

to emerge in great abundance as well. When Mosquito Control gets a certain amount of complaint calls, they begin to spray. By the first of May it is very difficult to find a single specimen of C. ammon, much less any butterfly. It amazes me that the spray doesn't wipe these things out totally. It does seem that Hemiargus ceraunus isn't effected as severely as C. ammon. They continue to fly commonly throughout the summer months.

During the winter I began to look for larvae of C. ammon to witness their wild behavior to compare it to that of the larvae I witnessed of C. thomasi on Bahia Honda. I found C. ammon larvae eating blooms and seedpods of Pineland Acacia (Acacia pinetorum) many times and began to wonder if the name "Nickerbean Blue" was rightfully given. I had about a dozen Gray Nickerbean (Caesalpinia bonduc) plants in pots at home with hopes of one day rearing C. thomasi, so I decided not to let them go to waste, and to try the C. ammon on the plant after which they were named.

In mid February, I collected 6 female C. ammon in a bank parking lot on US-1 where there are a lot of acacia growing. I placed them in a 4 inch diameter clear plastic tube with some cuttings of the acacia that had Larva of C. ammon ammon.

flower buds on it. By the time I got home, there were a



few dozen eggs already. By the eve of the next day, every flower bud was covered with tiny light blue eggs. (Please See Fig. 1. Color Insert C). In the flight aviary at Butterfly World (where I work), there is a large acacia tree that is covered with blooms for a better part of the winter. I thought it would be interesting to see which plant the larvae liked better. Three days later, I brushed about 100 tiny hatches on to cuttings of the Nickerbean and about 100 on to cuttings of buds of the acacia. The larvae on the acacia thrived for the first three instars while I had about an 80% loss of larvae that where being fed Nickerbean in the first instar. I lost an additional 10 larvae in the second instar. At this point in time, I was very skeptical as to wether or not C. ammon had any host compatibility with Nickerbean. The remaining 10 larvae then flourished on the Nickerbean and were pupae within 8 days. I was stunned at the sudden change in pattern.

Meanwhile, with the acacia feeding culture, I started running into a problem. After about three days, the tree suddenly fell out of bloom leaving me with the slimmest of pickings to feed the larvae. The larvae matured much slower on the Acacia than did on the Nickerbean and the few remaining buds left on the tree would not come close to feeding one hundred plus larvae. At this point, I was forced to switch a majority of the Acacia feeding larvae onto Nickerbean. The remainder of larvae left feeding on Acacia were subject to what I consider poor growth consisting of very few buds and mostly new leaves. I reared through 5 larvae strictly on buds to maintain a somewhat natural diet and kept another 20 on mostly new leaf growth. The larvae feeding on blooms pupated in 13 to 14 days while some of the larvae feeding on leaves fed for almost 2 months before pupating! Obviously, the food quality was not optimal for rearing C. ammon. I still have not gotten a positive identification on the species of Acacia that they were eating. Perhaps this species is not a suitable host. I got 4 pupae of five from the bud-feeding larvae and only 6 of 15 from the leaf feeding larvae. Of the 6 leaf feeding individuals, only 2 successful adults emerged. The rest of these pupae became sick and putrefied.

Unfortunately, a majority of the larvae that I switched from Acacia to Nickerbean didn't seem to appreciate it too much. I unfortunately lost a majority of these larvae as well. However, the larvae that fed through to the next instar did very well. Although I experienced a lot of carnage throughout this experiment, I did learn lots about this bug throughout its life cycle. I was absolutely amazed at the variability of the larvae and their ability to change color to blend in with their surrounding conditions. The larvae that fed on Nickerbean, started out green, and relatively lightly marked and that is the way they stayed all the way through to pupation (Fig. 2). At most, markings included a white band running laterally on both sides of the larvae. Larvae that fed on flowers of Acacia were highly variable in color. Most were a light pink with a maroon colored stripe down the dorsum and maroon stripes on both sides of the larva (Fig. 3 and 4). In the third instar, I switched the larvae from flowers to leaves of the Acacia. In the following instar, the larvae displayed a drastic color change. Larvae became much lighter in color and some actually became green by the final instar blending much better than they would have in the previous color form. They also displayed striations on the dorsum making an unbelievable mimic to that of the leaflets of the Acacia stem (Fig. 5)

Pupae emerged in 9 to 10 days. A majority of the pupae where green with relatively little markings. Sphericals on abdominal segments where white. I did have a few brown pupae which in all caseswere those that pupated in the paper towel at the bottom of the container. Perhaps the rougher surface was mistaken for tree bark which was the cause of the brown pupa coloration. All individuals that pupated on leaves and smoother surfaces turned out green (Fig. 6).

I was surprised to see the size difference in the emerged adults. All adults that emerged that had been feeding on the Acacia where in sync with the size of there parents and of the average wild adult collected on Big Pine Key. The adults that emerged that were feeding on Nickerbean however, were noticeably larger. In fact, adults that made it all the way through on Nickerbean where very similar in size to that if *C. thomasi*. This change in size is obviously directly related to host plant. The size of the individuals that I switched from Acacia to Nickerbean in third instar were somewhere in between that of the Nickerbean and Acacia feeding adults (Fig. 7, 8, and 9). I have heard reports of *C. ammon* existing on Bahia Honda Key along side *C. thomasi* but have never seen pictures and I have reviewed my own pictures of *C. thomasi* from Bahia Honda to see if any were actually *C. ammon* and none of them are *C. ammon*. I can see, however, how they could be easily overlooked, especially if they are using the Nickerbean on the island. There are no Acacia plants on Bahia Honda to my knowledge, so if *C. ammon* does live there, it is more than likely eating the Nickerbean.

The last example of *C. ammon* variability that I experienced was also quite accidental. During third instar, I had 100 larvae that initially started on Nickerbean as well as the 20 or so that survived the switch from the Acacia. I was rearing them on cuttings in 16 ounce cups with five larvae per cup. The project was beginning to require more time than I was able to give while on the clock so I took 90 or so home and reared them on living potted plants in my garage. The lab is illuminated all day long with bright flourescent lighting from 8:00 in the mourning to 5:00 in the afternoon. My garage is literally dark all day long with only a small sodium light at the other end of the room. It is well known that most tropical blues display seasonal color forms. In the case of both *C. thomasi* and *C. ammon*, especially in the females, the winter form is typically the "light" form with less black markings on the dorsal side and less striking markings on the ventral side, while the summer form is typically darker with thicker black markings and less blue on the dorsal side and display more striking markings on the ventral side. The females that emerged from the lab where the bright lights would imitate a longer photo period emerged with thick black banding on the dorsal forewing costa (Fig. 10). Individuals that were reared in the garage with poor lighting displayed a very light form with little black markings on the forewings (Fig. 11). The color variations that I reached in only one generation far exceed the marking extremes that I have ever witnessed in wild specimens for both forms.

The last thing that I wanted to find out is how readily *C. ammon* females would oviposit on Nickerbean. I placed two males in a cup with sugar water on a sponge, and two females in a similar cup for 24 hours. The second mourning after their emergence, I combined both pairs into a small cage in the sunlight. Copulation occurred within a half an hour. The next day females were placed in a small cage with cuttings of Grey Nickerbean. In 24 hours the tips of the plant had scattered eggs on them. There were not nearly as many eggs laid on the Nickerbean as there were on the Acacia, but the blues were at least somewhat interested in the Nickerbean.

It became "crunch time" for exams at this time so I had little time do designate to the continuance of this project. However, I do wish to do further experiments in the future. I have both *Cardiospermum corindum* and *Cardiospermum halicacabum* (both South Floridian species of Balloon-vine) growing at a friends house. These are the typical host plants for *C. thomasi bethunebakeri* in the past. I would love to see whether or not *C. ammon* would take to it! That will have to be a project that will take place after this semester is over.

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ANYBODY INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION ON OR JUST CURIOUS ABOUT VLADIMIR NABOKOV consider the book published in 2000: *Nabokov's Butterflies* edited and annotated by Brian Boyd and Robert Michael Pyle and new translations from the Russian by Dmitri Nabokov.

## THE LIFE HISTORY, NOTES, AND LARVAL FOODPLANTS FOR CHLOSYNE DEFINITA (AARON, 1884) IN SOUTH TEXAS BY JOSEPH F. DOYLE

The type locality, near Corpus Christi, Texas and description of the nymphalid butterfly *Chlosyne definita* was given by E. M. Aaron (1884) in a collaborative article with his brother S. Frank Aaron as "Hab. - inland from Corpus Christi." It is a location described by his brother, S. Frank Aaron (1884). S. Frank stated "The Nueces River has at its mouth within a few miles of Corpus Christi, and by a ride of twenty-five miles in wagon we reached its heavy bottom land...Along its wild bayous, under its moss-hung trees, and through its acres of palmetto, in the early part of July, I had my best collecting. A short, creeping plant, bearing a small white flower was the principal attraction for the butterflies ... On the prairie, during the season of little wind, I found ...still different species of Melitaea". The "small white flower" referred to is doubtless VERBENACEAE, Phylla sp. This area compares to the south banks of the Nueces River northwest of Calallen, Nueces County, Texas.

The first record of *definita* was two males by Dr. James E. Gillaspy on 20 March, 1974, at Kingsville, Kleberg Co., Texas. They were determined by R.O. Kendall in December, 1976. The specimens were located by the author in the Archive Collection at Texas A & M University Kingsville, Kingsville, Texas.

A colony of *definita* was discovered by Cybil Deacon of Kingsville, Texas in September, 2002 (pers. comm.). The site is located at the southern limits of Kingsville in Dick Kleberg Park on the north bank of Escondido Creek (27° 56.45' N, 97° 39.02' W). The area is typical subtropical thorn forest, Fig.13. This location is *ca*. 35 miles SSW of the type locality.

The range for *definita* in Texas is split between west and south Texas. In the western area the larval foodplant is Stenandrium barbatum T. & G. (Acanthaceae). Stenandrium dulce (A. Cavanilles) C. Nees von Esenbeck (Acanthaceae) is the larval foodplant in south Texas, Fig. 2 (Please See Color Insert D). Hatch, Gandhi and Brown (July 1990) list it as occurring in Texas vegetational areas 2 and 6. C. definita has been recorded from Cameron, Duval, Frio, Hidalgo, Kleberg, Nueces, Refugio, Starr, Webb and Zapata counties in south Texas. The correlation of the spatial distributions of the butterfly and its larval foodplant are obvious. Deacon stated that definita is present at the Kingsville site all months of the year. Numbers are low in June, July and August. A visit to Kingsville on 22 June, 2003, found this to be the case. One specimen was seen and another was taken for the record. The foodplant had no new growth or inflorescence. On 30 April, 2003, ca. 12:30 DST, at Kleberg Park, the author observed a female searching a leaf of S. dulce. Open ground, no trees or shrubs, short, sparse grass and plants would best describe the area. The leaf chosen for oviposition was flat on the ground as the plant is small and low-growing. The female then curved her abdomen under the leaf and deposited six ova, Fig.1 (Please See Color Insert D). Conditions during oviposition were partly cloudy, light breeze and ca. 83° F. According to Scott (1986), social egg clustering is typical and highly developed in the Chlosyne genus. Climactic conditions were cloudy with a slight breeze, temperature of 83° F. The larvae hatched on 6 May, 2003, in the lab and were feeding together on the underside of a provided leaf of S. dulce. By 12 May, 2003, all the larvae had died. They appeared to be trying to enter diapause. Two last instar larvae were found at the site, Fig. 5, 6 & 7. They were resting on unidentified plants and grass in close proximity to the foodplant. They were provided S. dulce in the lab at the author's home. They pupated on 8 May, 2003, Fig. 3 & 4. On 14 May, 2003, a male and female emerged, ex larvae, Fig. 9,10,11 & 12. Records for adults collected by J.F. Doyle at Kingsville are 3 males, 5 females, 13 April, 2003; 1 female, 30 April 2003; 1 female, 22 June, 2003.

On 28 October, 2000, I was joined by Bill Jones of San Antonio on a Rio Grande valley collecting trip. One of our stops was the Perry Boy Scout Camp in northeast Cameron Co, Texas. At the camp, Jones collected an unknown pupa on a leaf tip of *Yucca treculeana* Carriere (Liliaceae). An adult parasitoid wasp emerged and was photographed *ex* host pupa on 12 November, 2000, Fig. 8. It was determined by Edward G. Riley of Texas A & M University as the chalcid wasp, *Comura debilis* (Say) 1836. Delvare (1992) lists *C. debilis* as occurring in Texas but does not record any arthropod hosts for the species. This report establishes a new host for the species. It is unknown at what stage the host was parasitized. Adults, pupal cases, parasitoid adult and host pupa are in the author's collection.

Color photos of the eggs on a leaf of *S. dulce*, last instar larva, pupa, adult male, adult female, larval foodplant, parasitoid on the host pupa and habitat are provided in this issue (Color Insert D).

Appreciation is expressed to R.O. Kendall of San Antonio, Texas, for loan of literature and notes and to Derek Muschalek of Yorktown, Texas, for information regarding the location of the colony of *C. definita* at Kingsville, Texas.

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## **REPORTS OF STATE COORDINATORS**

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY:** We encourage any and all members to report occurrences of species in your area. One time records of common species can be included for documentation purposes. Most of the records you send in will be included in the state reports, but records are open to editing by the respective state coordinators. Species that have been reported numerous times in a given location and are recorded in season are **not** likely to be included. Any unusual reports (uncommon species, state records, *etc.*) may require a good photograph or a specimen for confirmation.

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

*Lycaena phlaeas americana* appears to have been at least double brooded the spring/summer of 2003 at the Skyline Wildlife Management Area at Skyline, Jackson County, Alabama. A fresh male was taken there June 14, 2003 (a fresh female was taken April 30, 2003, as per my report in the previous newsletter), along with a fresh male *Speyeria diana*.

At Bingham Mountain, Hollytree, Jackson County, Alabama, *Polychrysia morigera* was taken at lights May 9, 2003. I gotta start paying more attention to those Plusiinae "at the sheet". Didn't figure this fellow was anything other than a common looper until I took him off the spreading board a month or so after collecting him. *Sphinx canadensis* and *Sphinx franckii* flew on June 13, 2003.

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: bostrichid@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

The following information was sent to me by John Calhoun and contains some rare records for Florida.

Amblyscirtes vialis, 16-18 April 2003, Kepner Pond, Eglin AFB, Okaloosa County (several photographed) (Mary Ann Freidman).

*Eunica tatila*, early-mid June 2003, Lignumvitae Key, Monroe County. Abundant, up to 60 observed in one day (Mark Salvato, Linda & Buck Cooper). These are the first valid reports of this species in Florida in about a decade.

Anthanassa frisia, 9 June 2003, Lignumvitae Key, Monroe County. 15 individuals. Linda & Buck Cooper. 9 June 2003, Lower Matacumbe Key (one)(Linda & Buck Cooper). 12 July 2003, Spanish Key, Monroe County, "hundreds"

(Mark Salvato). This species appears to be expanding again in the Keys.

Siproeta stelenes, 28-29 June 2003, Melbourne, Brevard County. Single worn adult photographed visiting garden flowers (Anne LiConti). This is the furthest north this species has been validly reported in Florida.

*Chlorostymon maesites*, 21 June 2003, Bahia Honda St. Pk, Bahia Honda Key, Monroe County. Single worn adult photographed resting on sea grape leaf near the Miami Blue population (David Fine). Another (or same individual) seen, but not photographed, 23 June 2003 at same location (Linda & Buck Cooper). This important record is the first for this very rare Florida resident which has not been seen since Leroy Koehn reported on it in 1999 in the *Southern Lepidopterists News*, Vol. 21 No.3. It remains very rare and localized.

*Cyclargus thomasi*, many dates, Bahia Honda St. Pk, Bahia Honda Key, Monroe County. This species remains locally abundant in it's lone surviving population in Florida.

Cyclargus ammon, still being reported as locally abundant on Big Pine Key. Still no reports from any other Key.

Robert Beiriger and Matt Hentz collected in Highlands County, Florida on September 5, and found Ascia monuste, Heraclides cresphontes, Papilio polyxenes, Pterourus glaucus, P. palamedes, P. troilus, Eurema diara, E. nicippe, Limenitis archippus floridensis, Erynnis horatius, and Copaeodes minimus occurring in numbers.

During the months of August and September there have been some very interesting butterflies flying around Palm Beach County. In my yard for example, *Phoebis agarithe*, *P. philea*, *Eurema diara*, *Phyciodes phaon*, *Asbolis capucinus*, and *Polygonus leo* have been appearing with frequency. *Polygonus leo*, which usually find there way to my yard late in the fall, came a little earlier this year. I have not seen any *Phoebus agarithe* in my yard for a couple of year and was a pleasantly surprised to see several individuals this summer.



Fig. 1. Hylolimnas misippus

David Fine reports of *Aphrissa statira* larvae feeding on his coin vine. This "bush" had been growing for over two years and these are the first larvae found on it. Dave lives a little closer to the beach and *Aphrissa statira* habitat. I am still waiting for some to feed on my coin vine.

The most interesting butterfly found this fall was a great shock to me. One of my fellow workers, Alvin Wilson, brought in a worn, male specimen of *Hylolimnas misippus* he had collected near Belle Glade, Palm Beach County, Florida, and wanted to know if I wanted it. I had to put this rare and seldom seen butterfly into my collection (Fig. 1). I am still trying to find when the last time this species was collected in Florida.

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

One butterfly (*Eurema mexicana*) was recorded as new for the state, obviously a migrant from the southwest. Several moth species seemed unusually common this late summer, probably in response to all the rain. The saturniid *Anisota* (virginiensis) pellucida was quite regular at lights, along with the sphinx moth *Manduca jasminearum*, the noctuids *Thioptera nigrofimbria*, *Paectes abrostoloides* and *Rivula propinqualis*, the lymantriid *Dasychira atrivenosa*, and the drepanid *Oreta rosea*. As I sit here compiling this report, the fall migrants (such as the sphingid *Xylophanes tersa*, and the noctuids *Anticarsia gemmatilis*, *Autographa precationis*, and *Pseudoplusia includens*) have already moved north in good numbers. It certainly seems plausible that there could be some good migrant records yet this fall. Records are from James Adams (no notation), Irving Finkelstein (IF), Lance Durden, and Jeff Slotten. 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. Known County and State records are

indicated. All dates listed below are 2003 unless otherwise specified.

Calhoun, Gordon Co., GA (my house):

**PIERIDAE:** Eurema mexicana, Aug. 17 (STATE). <u>SPHINGIDAE:</u> Agrius cingulatus, Sept. 21. <u>NOCTUIDAE:</u> Dyspyralis puncticosta, May 29 and June 5; Dysgonia smithii, June 27; Catocala alabamae, June 27 (COUNTY); Acronicta dactylina, Sept. 2; A. interrupta, July 8 and 13; Baileya doubledayi, July 8; Eumicremma minima, June 26; Tripudia quadrifera, June 5; Eupsilia vinulenta, Sept. 18 (EARLY!!). <u>NOTODONTIDAE:</u> Hyparpax aurora, Aug. 16 and Sept. 8 (LATE!). <u>GEOMETRIDAE:</u> Erastria cruentaria, April 7, June 28, and July 2; Idaea celtima, several, last half of June (COUNTY); I. violacearia, a few last half of June, as well as Aug. 13; Cyclophora nanaria, June 29 (COUNTY). <u>LIMACODIDAE:</u> Phobetron pithecium, Aug. 29 (LATE). <u>PYRALIDAE:</u> Scirpophaga perstrialis, Sept. 23 (COUNTY). <u>SESIIDAE:</u> Sanina uroceriformis, July 8 (at lights).

Cane Area, End of Tate Bend Rd. Calhoun, Gordon Co. GA: August 9

NOCTUIDAE: Polypogon (formerly Zanclognatha) atrilineela, Aug. 16 and 22; Phalaenophana hanhami, Aug. 16 (COUNTY); Luperina trigona, Aug. 16; Plagiomimicus pitychromus, Aug. 22; Leucania callidior, Aug. 16. <u>GEOMETRIDAE:</u> Idaea scintullinaria, Aug. 22 (COUNTY). <u>LIMACODIDAE:</u> Adoneta bicaudata, Aug. 16. <u>LACTURIDAE:</u> Lactura pupula, Aug. 16. <u>TORTRICIDAE:</u> Sparganothis bistriata, Aug. 22 (COUNTY).

Carbondale, Exit 326 off of I-75, Whitfield Co., GA:

SPHINGIDAE: Manduca jasminearum, July 13 and several last half of Aug. - early Sep. <u>NOCTUIDAE</u>: Harrismemna trisignata, Aug. 19; Agriopodes fallax, Aug. 22. <u>LYMANTRIIDAE</u>: Dasychira atrivenosa, several, last half of Aug. - first half of Sept.

Rocky Face Ridgeline (near or at top of Dug Gap), just SW of Dalton, Whitfield Co.:

LYCAENIDAE: American Copper, Lycaena phlaes, Aug. 20 (COUNTY). <u>NOCTUIDAE</u>: Machrochilo orciferalis, Sept. 17 (COUNTY); Acronicta connecta, Sept. 17 (COUNTY); Papaipema polymniae, Sept 10; P. nebris, Sept 17; Anathix ralla, Sept 10 and 17; Loxagrotis grotei, Sept 17; Abagrotis magnicupida, Sept 10. <u>GELECHIDAE</u>: Dichomeris laetitia, July 13, 2002 (COUNTY).

Salacoa Road at Salacoa Creek, 5 miles SE of Fairmount, NE corner of Bartow Co.: July 8

**NOCTUIDAE:** Idia lubricalis, Phalaenophana eumelusalis, P. hanhami (COUNTY), Spargaloma sexpunctata, Acronicta connecta, Hyperstrotia flaviguttata, Argillophora furcilla, Athetis miranda, Condica confederata.

August 23

ARCTIIDAE: Cramibidia near cephalica. <u>NOCTUIDAE:</u> Basilodes pepita. <u>PYRALIDAE:</u> Omphalocera munroei. <u>TINEIDAE:</u> Fernaldia anatomella.

September 13

<u>ARCTIIDAE:</u> Grammia virgo. <u>NOCTUIDAE:</u> Macrochilo orciferalis, Papaipema polymniae, Meropleon titan (COUNTY).

### GA Hwy. 515, 6 miles S of Jasper, Pickens Co. (most probably represent COUNTY records), IF:

SATURNIIDAE: Citheronia sepulchralis, Aug. 21. SPHINGIDAE: Manduca jasminearum, Aug. 17 and 21; Sphinx kalmiae (many), Aug. 21; Sphinx franckii, July 6; Lapara, prob. bombycoides, Aug. 28; Eumorpha fasciata, Aug. 31. ARCTIIDAE: Estigmene acrea (actually not common as an adult in N. GA), Aug. 21. NOCTUIDAE: Quandara braunneata, Aug. 31; Acronicta radcliffei, Aug. 21 and 28; Acronicta oblinita, Sept 6; Harrismemna trisignata, Aug. 28; Papaipema furcata, Sept. 17; Stiria rugrifrons, Aug. 21 (>10 known from state);

Condica confederata, Aug. 28. <u>NOTODONTIDAE:</u> Dasylophia anguina, Sept. 6. <u>PYRALIDAE:</u> Diasemiopsis leodocusalis, Aug. 31.

Gates Chapel Rd., 8 mi. NW of Ellijay, Gilmer Co., IF:

July 3 - 5

**NYMPHALIDAE:** Speyeria diana (common, but females not so in August when typically easier to encounter). **PYRALIDAE:** Dioryctria disclusa, Glaphyria glaphyralis. **GELECHIDAE:** Trichotaphe flavocostella. **SESIDAE:** Synanthedon kathyae.

August 20 - 21

**<u>NOCTUIDAE</u>**: Catocala dejecta, C. neogama, C. amica (LATE), Panthea acronyctoides, Baileya doubledayi. <u>SESIIDAE</u>: Synanthedon decipiens (LATE).

1 mile N on Hwy. 60, Dahlonega, Lumpkin Co., July 25, IF:

**PYRALIDAE:** Aethiophysa consimilis (COUNTY).

Atlanta, Fulton Co. (IF's house and nearby):

**NOCTUIDAE:** Bomolocha abalienalis, Aug. 27; Schinia thoreaui, Aug. 29. **NOTODONTIDAE:** Heterocampa subrotata, July 19. **GEOMETRIDAE:** Plagodis alcoolaria, July 22; common during spring but this individual was only one seen of summer brood. **PYRALIDAE:** Evergestis rimosalis, July 9; Diaphania nitidalis, Aug. 18. **COSSIDAE:** Givera francesca, Aug. 22; Irving's second ever from Atlanta, taken at same light on same Kroger's as the first!

Ohoopee Dunes Natural Areas and Swainsboro, Emanuel Co., Sept. 7, 2002; Jeff Slotten:

NOCTUIDAE: Tarachidia parvula (COUNTY); this moth was recently identified. There are very few (if any confirmed records) known from the state, though it should occur in any appropriate coastal habitat.

Statesboro, Bulloch Co., Lance Durden (two more recent identifications, and likely COUNTY records):

GEOMETRIDAE: Idaea micropterata, I. scintullinaria.

Flint River at Pasley Shoals (750'), Upson Co., GA, June 18, IF: (most probably represent COUNTY records; uncommon species marked "\*")

**PIERIDAE**: Eurema daira. **SATURNIIDAE**: Actias luna. **SPHINGIDAE**: Paonias myops. **ARCTIIDAE**: Clemensia albata, Spilosoma congrua, Halysidota tessellaris, Holomelina opella, Leucanopsis longa. **NOCTUIDAE**: Idia aemula, I. rotundalis, Tetanolita floridana, Lascoria ambiguilis, Palthis angulalis, Phytometra rhodarialis, Pangrapta decoralis, Ptichodis herbarum, Panopoda carneicosta, P. rufimargo, Catocala louiseae\*, C. micronympha, C. similis, Acronicta betulae\* (FAR SOUTH), A. ovata, Paectes abrostoloides, Baileya opthalmica, Leucania multilinea, Galgula partita. **GEOMETRIDAE**: Macaria (formerly Itame) pustularia, M. (formerly Semiothisa) transitaria, Digrammia (formerly Semiothisa) eremiata\*, Anavitrinella pampinaria, Melanolophia signataria, Epimecis hortaria, Hypagyrtis unipunctata, Thysanopyga intractata, Euphyia unangulata\* (FAR SOUTH), Costaconvexa (formerly Orthonama) centrostrigaria. **PYRALIDAE**: Desmia funeralis, Dioryctria amatella, D. disclusa, Euzophera ostricolorella, Herculia imfimbrialis, H. olinalis, Palpita magniferalis, Petrophila bifascialis.

Thomaston, Upson Co., June 19, IF:

**NOCTUIDAE:** Idia aemula, Zale galbanata, Thioptera nigrofimbria, Spragueia leo, Acronicta lobeliae, Elaphria festivoides complex, E. versicolor, Orthodes crenulata. **NOTODONTIDAE:** Schizura unicornis. **GEOMETRIDAE:** Macaria pustularia, Anavitrinella pampinaria, Iridopsis larvaria, Erastria cruentaria\*, Patalene olyzonaria, Eutrapela clemataria, Nemoria rubrifontaria, Leptostales pannaria, Costaconvexa centrostrigaria. **LIMACODIDAE:** Natada nasoni. **PYRALIDAE:** Herculia infimbralis, H. olinalis, Ostrinia

nubilalis, Pyrausta subsequalis. **TORTRICIDAE**: Choristoneura parallela, C. rosaceana. **GELECHIIDAE**: Trichotaphe flavocostella. **SESIIDAE**: Synanthedon exitiosa, Vitacea scepsiformis.

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: rpatte42@aol.com

*Pyrgus oileus*: Collected by Ricky Patterson at Vicksburg, Warren County, 6 males and 2 females from 1 September. to 14 September 2003 (county record, and most northern records for the state).

Charidryas nycteis nycteis: Vicksburg 14 September 2003, late record for state.

Schinia bimatris: Several collected near Starkville, Oktibbeha county in early September 2003. Schinia bimatris was also collected approximately 6 miles southwest of McHenry, in Harrison County on 21 September 2003 by Jeff Slotten and Ricky Patterson.

Schinia petulans and Schinia bimatris were found 7 miles west of McHenry, Stone County, collected by Jeff Slotten and Ricky Patterson.

No other records reported.

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

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

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

Nothing but rain, rain up here - collecting hasn't been worth the effort. Amazingly few big Nymphalids around this summer - *S. cybele* and *diana* were both extremely rare, for instance. *P. glaucus* was about normal, and the last brood of Colias is making a good showing - but by and large it's the poorest year for butterflies in memory. Rainfall still 20 inches above average!

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

A new US record sphinx moth was collected on July 11 in western Hidalgo Co., TX, by Charlie Sassine. It has been identified (by Ian Kitching and others) as *Manduca lanuginosa* form *crocala*. A picture of this specimen will appear in the *Lep. Soc. News*.

An apparent second US record sphinx moth, *Ceratomia (Dolbogene ?) igualana* is from Bastrop Co., TX, collected in a malaise trap (J. Gillaspy and others) in July 2000. This also determined by Kitching, from a photo.

In Spring Valley, Harris Co., TX. several interesting species have been taken, including *Mouralia tinctiodes* on May 3, *Catocala innubens* on June 6, and *Hyalorista taeniolalis* (a small pyraustine pyralid) late Aug. to mid Sept. (7 collected). The last is previously known only from extreme S. TX. All by Bordelon & Knudson (B/K).

A trip to the Davis Mts. in mid August by B/K was disappointing, in that we found nothing new for Texas. *Zizula cyna* was fairly common in the Davis Mts, especially coming to mud. Several *Sphinx separata* were collected. The best moth found was *Acontia bilimeki* (one male). A female of this *sp.* was collected in 2001, at the same locality. While looking over the acontiines in the TLS collection, Ed found a pair of *Therasea huachuca* from Big Bend National Park (from Aug. 12, 1999). This is a state record for Texas.

Earlier on the same trip, in Del Rio, on Aug. 11, Bordelon collected one Zenodoxus maculipes, coming to pheromones on his net. We also found several Ancyloxypha arene at the park along the Devil's River, on the east side of town, where these can usually be found. In Sanderson, on Aug. 11,12, we got several Sphinx libocedrus, as well as many of the species shown in the color insert in this issue.

The long awaited description of the new *Schinia sp.* from Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, will be appearing in the on-line journal, *Zootaxa*, later this year.

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

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## AND YET SOME MORE NEW SLS MEMBERS:

A hearty welcome to:

Ron Boender Trade Winds Park 3600 W. Sample Road Coconut Creek, FL 33074 Craig Marks 106 Duncan Circle Lafayette, LA 70503-1367

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## **DOODLING SPACE**

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SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY c/o J. BARRY LOMBARDINI, THE EDITOR 3507 41<sup>st</sup> Street Lubbock, Texas 79413

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