Southern Lepidopterists' NEWS

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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**

## HOOKED ON GEOS

**BY**

**BOB BELMONT - CHAIRMAN FOR 2005**

I was born in San Francisco and lived in the Sunset District for my first five years. We moved to Sacramento where I lived until I graduated from high school. Each year at my high school, the biology classes had to make an insect collection. The year prior to making my collection I got really interested in insects when some of the students came over to collect in the field behind our yard. They were buying specimens they needed from others who collected duplicates. I immediately sought out the rarer insects that they needed and in 2 weeks I had sold $14 worth of specimens. In 1966 this was a lot of money for bugs!

I continued collecting and bought some books to learn more about insects. It wasn't until the next year that I had accumulated hundreds of insects and learned the names of all of them. The teacher was so impressed with my collection that he took me to visit the Bureau of Entomology in Sacramento. Dwarfed by cabinets housing hundreds of thousands of specimens, I immediately wanted to learn more from the experts there. They looked at my specimens and saw some really rare things. Dr. Wasbauer got me interested in collecting spider wasps and I contributed some interesting records for his collection.

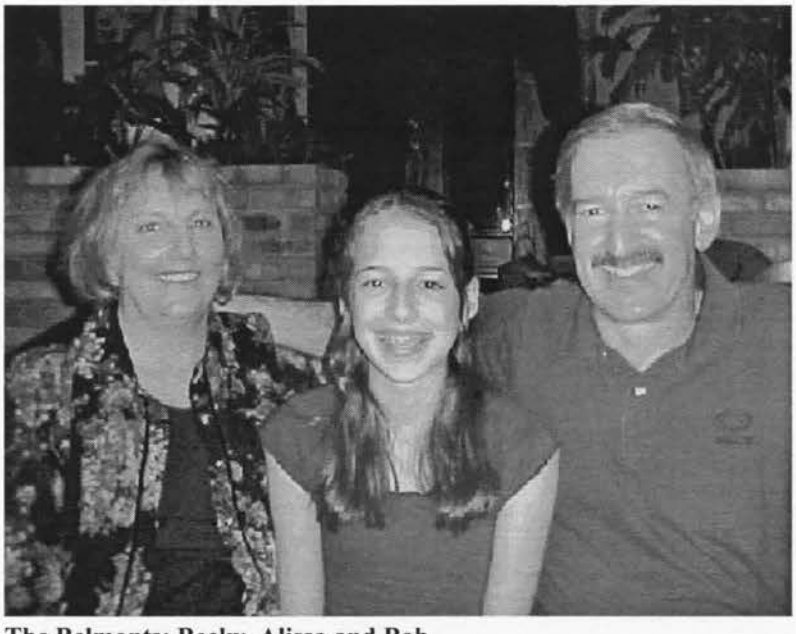
In 1967 I wanted to work at the Bureau, but the State couldn't pay me because I was under 18. So George Okamura who headed the Bureau obtained workers comp so I could work there, but I was not paid. I had to pay a 50¢ round trip bus fare to work there every day the entire summer. I was assigned to work with John S. (Steve) Buckett and Bill Bauer, entomologists in the lepidoptera section. I worked as hard or harder than the other paid assistants at the Bureau. I sorted through light trap samples from border and agricultural areas, learning to identify pests and making trap counts. Steve taught me how to professionally prepare and label leps, including making genitalia mounts. The more I worked with moths the more I collected them at my own light trap at home. They were testing fluorescent spray paint on trap baffles to attract more moths. I, of course helped with this research in 1967 and verified that blue-green fluorescent baffles did in fact increase overall moth catches by 10-20% over plain metal baffles using an F15T8BL without integral filter.

One day that summer, Steve Buckett invited me to his home in Davis, CA, to see his collection. I was stunned to see such a huge accumulation of cabinets full of moth specimens, mostly from western US, in fact the largest private moth collection west of the Mississippi! He showed me the rare ones to search for. At this point I was overwhelmed with envy. How could I contribute? The western moths were practically all collected and represented in this collection. But then he got into more detail, showing me a new species he discovered and how I could help him locate new specimens and compile data for his research papers.

As a mentor, Steve introduced me to a number of other lepidopterists and even paid for my first year of Lepidopterists' Society dues. After graduating from high school, I entered the University of California, Davis, to major in entomology. Steve, of course, wrote a great letter of recommendation for me. As I studied and worked each year, I would visit Steve, and occasionally collected with him. The more I collected the more he kept mentioning that there was a lot of work to be done in the geometridae. As I collected more, I started trading off my other insects and moths with other collectors or donating them to the University collection, but I held on to most of my geometrids. Like many of you, when I look at a specimen I collected and its data, I can recall vividly the smell of the trees or the weather, the size of the catch, the hardships of the trip, chasing specimens, the friends I was with and the entire collecting experience. I love to study nature close up and such study can easily become an addiction.

In my junior year at Davis I asked Steve and some other lepidopterists which genera of geos needed work. Most lepidopterists agreed that the Semiothisini was in need of revision. Dr. Ferguson, who I met the next year at the Smithsonian, told me that he would eventually work on the group for MONA and encouraged me to start studying them. I decided to center on the genus *Itame*, a genus large enough for a major systematic study. I started by gathering all literature on the genus, all the original descriptions, and of course, visited most major collections and took data from hundreds of specimens. As I gathered data I would occasionally show Dr. Ferguson some specimens or discuss synonomy within geometridae. I showed and discussed with him the original description of *Macaria* that seemed to predate *Itame* and *Semiothisa*. He said that he thought I was correct and that he was working with all of the generic descriptions that applied to the Semiothisini. I dissected many species of *Itame* and created a list of genitalic differences that I shared with Dr. Ferguson. He pointed out species in my collection that were new and those that he was working on describing for MONA. Some he borrowed for the photos in one of the plates because they were the freshest and best he had seen. I had collected these new geos in my own back yard in 1967! Since he has passed away I have not yet determined if he ever photographed them or if I will ever get them back.

When I received my BS degree in entomology at Davis in 1973, I now had to make a living and I could not see a future doing museum work to support my studies in geometridae. So I worked for Del Monte Foods as a research entomologist until 1977 when I had enough money to support further education at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Dr. Dale Habeck, now retired, was my major professor, and I studied the parasitoids of *Dioryctria* coneworm moths in slash pine. I made major donations of arthropods to the Division of Plant Industry in Gainesville as a Research Associate, and was a charter member of the Southern Lepidopterists. I'm a life member of the Lepidopterists' Society, the California Academy of Sciences and the National Wildlife Federation. I also belong to numerous other scientific societies.



**The Belmonts: Becky, Alissa and Bob.**

I received my MS in entomology in 1979 and I was out of money again. I had to find work so I decided to start a pest control company. After all, housing in SW Florida was booming and pests were everywhere. What a great way to use my expertise and make money at the same time. By 2000 I had 12 full-time employees, had married (Becky), had a daughter (Alissa), and had actually found a little time to organize my collection and decide how I might still

contribute to science. Since Dr. Ferguson was finishing up the Semiothisini and his MONA draft neared publication, I decided to continue collecting geos for the goal of contributing to the Florida geometrid collection, now to be housed in the new McGuire Center of Lepidoptera in Gainesville. My work was increasingly taking up more of my time. I constantly got offers to buy my company, but the buyers were not of the quality I was looking for.

In early 2000, the location for a Florida pest management advisory board meeting I was to attend was moved to the headquarters office of Massey Services, a large competing pest management firm. The team members there were really professional and their mission statement and operation were truly impressive. I was so impressed that I began privately to discuss with Mr. Massey the possibility of selling my company and joining their firm as a technical director. Within 3 months it was a done deal! I moved from Naples to Sanford, FL (Seminole County), where we found a nice home on 4 acres backing up to a state preserve on the Wekiva River.

Today, over 4 years later, I remain their pest prevention training and technical director, but I'm working just as hard as I was with my own company. At home I built a 20 x 20 lab (behind our guest suite) that houses my collection, library and computer. I have a 4x4x8' walk-in cage with Leroy Koehn's light system on top that still continues to bring in something new each week. I'm just beginning to take digital pictures to add to those needed online. I'm heavy in western US material so you may soon see some of my photos online.

I also have been an avid collector of lepidoptera on stamps since 1966. I, Dr. Habeck, and Dr. Covell have extensive philatelic lepidoptera collections and we've all had fun trading over the years. My collection of lepidoptera on postage and non-postage stamps is pretty complete up until Alissa's birth in 1990. My wife is glad that I stopped...maybe someday I'll find someone who will purchase the collection to help pay part of my daughter's college tuition.

While collecting and trading moths I've met many of you over the years. My North American geometrid collection (including many specimens from Rick Gillmore who lives across town in Winter Springs, FL, and from Ron Leuschner in California), now numbers well over 10,000 specimens in small series representing over 800 different authoritatively identified species. My goal is to work with Charlie Covell and other lepidopterists to make the McGuire geo collection the best for scientific study in the nation. When I retire I plan to continue studying American geometridae. I especially enjoy working on computerized data compilation, documentation, life history and photography of geos.

I'm honored and proud to serve as the 2005 chairman of the Southern Lepidopterists.

(Bob Belmont, 2433 River Tree Circle, Sanford, Florida 32771; E-mail: bbelmont@masseyservices.com)

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Kent Rylander
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Jeffrey P. Crolla
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Sandy Koi
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Apartment 12
Hollywood, FL 33020

Kelly Richers
9417 Carvalho Court
Bakersfield, CA 93311-1846

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**PLATE 1:** Winter scenes from my backyard in Lubbock, Texas; a spring time scene from Palo Duro Canyon State Park; and a butterfly, *Poladryas minuta,* commonly found in the West Texas region. Glad that Winter is finally over!!! [However, by the time September arrives when the average temperature for the previous 5 months has been 90-105 degrees I will be wishing for some snow.]

# INDEX



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## DEFINITIONS

**Fell-field (or fellfield)** - an arctic or arctic-alpine environment consisting of plants (lichens, mosses, grasses, sedges, and dwarf wildflowers) found in **scree interstices**. The freeze-thaw cycles due to the high altitude in a fellfield and the high porous nature of the ground make plant growth in such a habitat problematic.

**Interstices** - small or narrow space between entities; a crevice, chink, or crack.

**Scree** - the rock debris which is loose and covering a slope or that which is at the base of a sharp rise such as a steep incline or cliff. [The word "scree" is probably of Old Norse origin.]

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## REQUEST TO THE SLS MEMBERSHIP!!!

There are approximately 800 butterflies and 12,000 moths in the United States. Members, how about sending me some pictures of these critters and pictures of you and your colleagues in the field for our Newsletter!!!! [Slides, prints, or digital images are all acceptable ---The Editor.]

# *CALYCOPIS CECROPS* (F.) IN LOUISIANA

BY
VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

The common lycaenid butterfly ***Calycopis cecrops*** (Fabricius) (Fig. 1) occurs over much of the state of Louisiana. This species was previously reported in recent years for Louisiana by Ross & Lambremont (1963) and by Brou (1974). I have records for one-third of the parishes in the state (Fig. 2). This author (Brou, 1974) reported 13 specimens of ***cecrops*** among 607 butterflies taken in light traps during one year of light trapping. This article is also reporting 689 specimens of ***cecrops*** collected using ultraviolet light traps over the past 22 years at the Abita Springs study site (Fig. 3).

Heitzman & Heitzman (1987) report three broods of ***cecrops*** in Missouri. The reported food plants in some publications include several sumac (***Rhus***) species and ***Croton***. T.C. Emmel (in Howe, 1975) reported ***cecrops*** to be common in the southeast United States and multiple brooded.

In Louisiana, ***cecrops*** has four broods, with adults recorded in all months except December (Fig. 3).

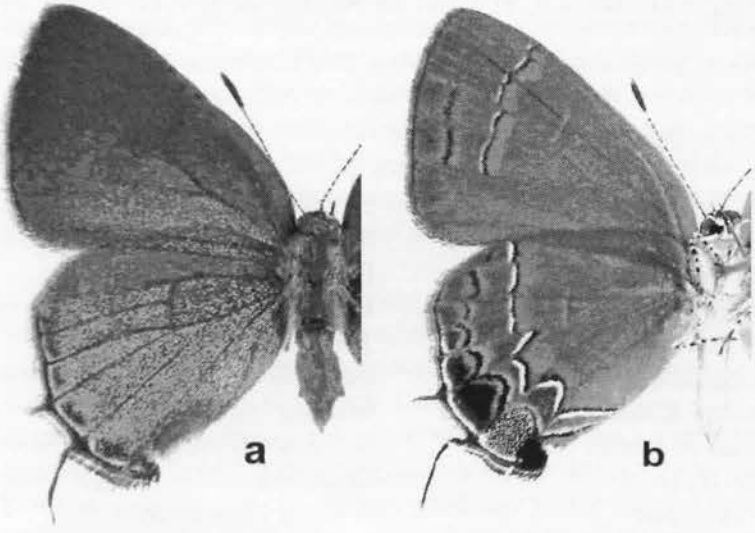


**Fig. 1.** ***Calycopis cecrops*** female: a. dorsal view, b. ventral view.

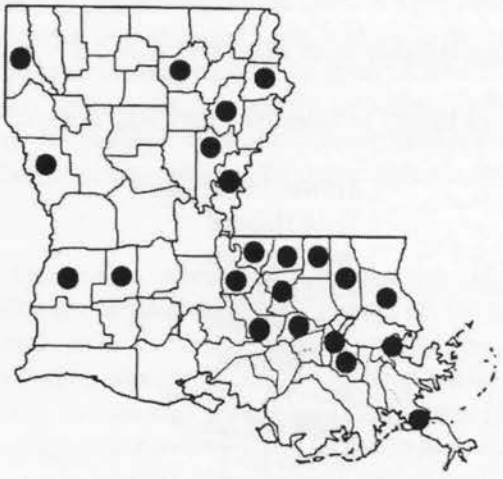

**Fig. 2.** Parish records by this author.

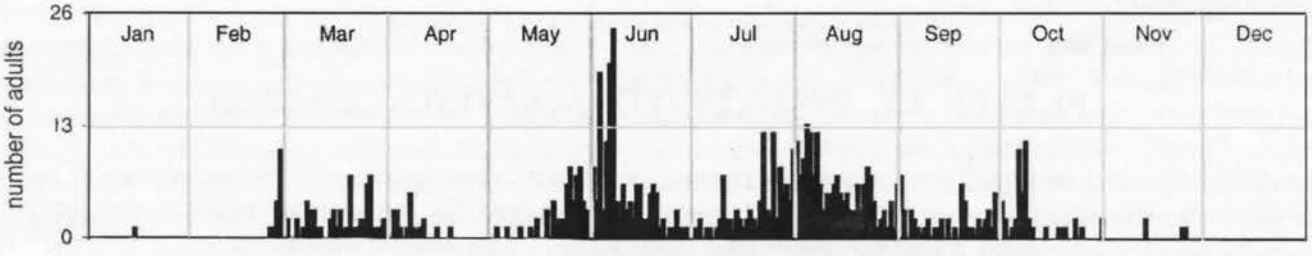


**Fig. 3.** ***C. Cecrops*** captured using uv light as sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 689.

## Literature Cited

**Brou, Vernon A.** 1974. Butterflies taken in light traps. *Jour. Lepid. Soc.* 28:331.

**Heitzman, J. R. & J. E. Heitzman** 1987. *Butterflies and Moths of Missouri.* Missouri Dept. of Conservation, 385 pp.

**Howe, W.H.** 1975. *The Butterflies of North America.* New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc. 633 pp. 97 plates.

**Ross, G.N. & E.L. Lambremont** 1963. An Annotated Supplement to the State List of Louisiana Butterflies and Skippers. *Jour. Lepid. Soc.* 17:148-158.

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

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2004

Beginning Balance as of 1/01/2004: $1928.66

Deposits and Credits: $2103.00

Membership dues and donations

Withdrawals and Debits: $2336.09

a) Bank Fees (Monthly Maintenance): $60.00

b) Newsletter Expenses: Vol. 25: No. 4 Postage and Supplies: $199.53, Printing: $309.93
Vol. 26: No. 1 Postage and Supplies: $266.59, Printing: $295.34
Vol. 26: No. 2 Postage and Supplies: $393.27, Printing: $383.40
Vol. 26: No. 3 Postage and Supplies: $195.69, Printing: $356.58

c) Meeting Expenses for joint annual meeting ATL and SLS: $171.51, but reimbursed by ATL for $31.20

Ending Balance as of 12/31/04: $1695.57

Special thanks to those members who donated extra dollars to the Society:

Howard Grisham
Dale Habeck
Joel Johnson
Paul Milner
Scott Wehrly
Al Manassa
James K. Adams
Thomas Emmel
Robert Biro
Ed Knudson
David Fine
Frances Welden,
Lawrence Gall
Jan Dauphin
John Heppner
R.G. Petree
Charlie Covell
Leroy Koehn
John Peacock
Bo Sullivan
Paul Opler
Jeffrey Belth
David Guzo
Nell Ahl
Dick Anderson,
Howard Weems
Tom Neal
Ben Williams
Michael Quinn
W. Blaine Early
Mack Shotts
William Lindemann
Irving Finkelstein
Joann Kargas

Jeff Slotten
2004 Treasurer of the SLS

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## PLATES *VS.* INSERTS (FORMATTING CHANGE)

Recently I received an e-mail from a member of our Society with considerable editorial experience in journal publications who suggested that the word that was previously used for the separate pages containing color photographs should be called "PLATES" rather than "INSERTS". This member's reasoning was as follows: *"The standard method is to call these color 'Plate A' etc., whether inserted loose like you do or not. Bibliographers do not know what you have: an 'insert' can be a correction sheet added, or some kind of special sheet, but if you say 'plate' then everyone knows what it is."* I tend to agree with this argument and thus from this issue forward I will use the term "PLATE" for the color pages.

This member also suggested that another item to consider was whether the PLATES should be numbered consecutively in an entire volume (entire year), *e.g.*, 1 to 100 (or A to Z), or should each issue (4 issues per year) start over with the number "1". Since the heading on the color page contains the necessary information pertinent to that particular issue *(VOLUME, NUMBER, YEAR)*, I will number the color PLATES starting with "1" in each of the 4 issues of any year [The Editor].

# *LYTROSIS HULST* OF LOUISIANA

BY
VERNON ANTOINE BROU Jr.

Rindge (1971) revised the geometrid moth genus ***Lytrosis*** Hulst which at that time contained two described species: ***Lytrosis unitaria*** Herrich-Schaffer and ***Lytrosis permagnaria*** (Packard). Rindge (1971) described two new species: ***Lytrosis sinuosa*** Rindge and ***Lytrosis heitzmanorum*** Rindge. Rindge listed the distribution of ***unitaria*** to be most all of the eastern half of the United States, though he had no records for many southeastern states. Rindge listed the distribution of ***sinuosa*** to be New Jersey to Florida and west to Mississippi. Heppner (2003) listed ***unitaria*** and ***sinuosa*** as occurring in Florida. Knudson & Bordelon (1999) listed ***unitaria, sinuosa*** and ***heitzmanorum*** as occurring in Texas.

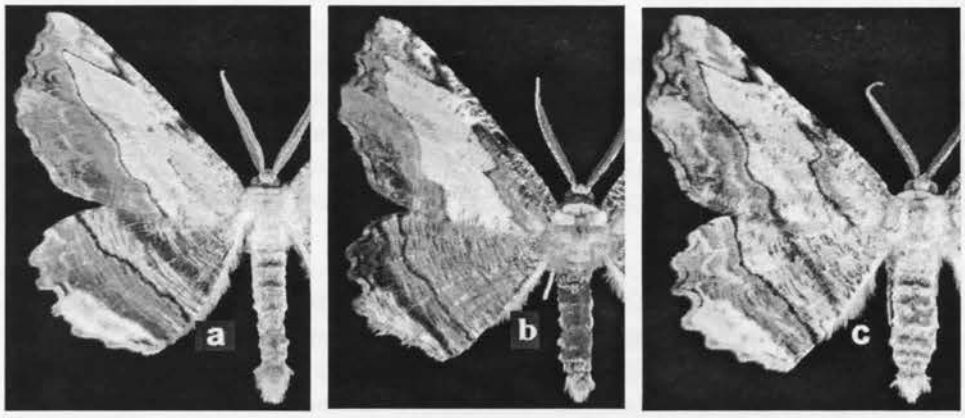


**Fig. 1.** ***Lytrosis*** **species: a.** ***unitaria,*** **b.** ***sinuosa*****, c.** ***heitzmanorum.***

In Louisiana, three species of ***Lytrosis*** occur (Fig. 1). All three species appear to have a single annual brood occurring about the same time of the year.

Covell (1984) pictures ***unitaria*** and lists only ***sinuosa*** in a discussion of similar species. Food plants for three of the four ***Lytrosis*** species are unknown according to the literature referenced in this article. Only ***unitaria*** has food plants listed as particular species of oak, maple and hawthorn.

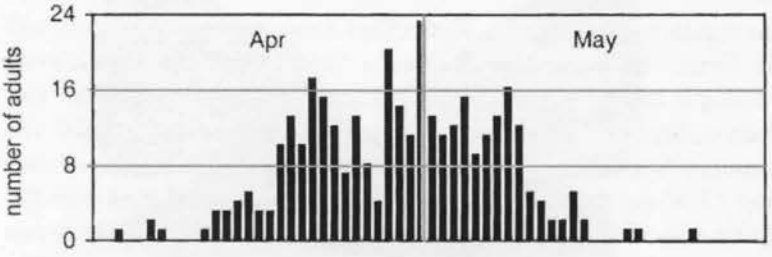


**Fig. 2.** ***Lytrosis sinuosa*** captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 338.

At the Abita Springs study area, ***sinuosa*** occurs commonly; dates of capture are shown in Fig. 2. Eight Louisiana specimens of ***unitaria*** have been captured May 8 - 22 in four parishes. Twenty - one specimens of ***heitzmanorum*** have been captured May 5-23 in Natchitoches Parish.

The locality records for the three Louisiana species of ***Lytrosis*** are shown in Fig. 3.

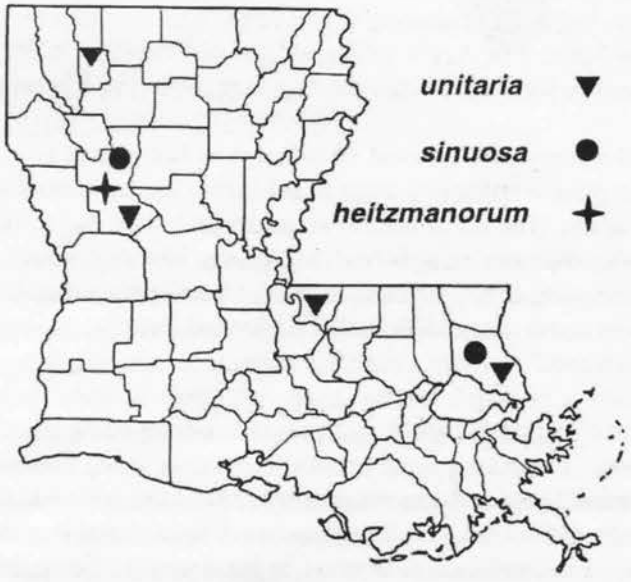


**Fig. 3.** Parish records for ***Lytrosis*** in Louisiana.

**Literature Cited**

**Heppner, J.B.** 2003. *Arthropods of Florida and neighboring land areas*, vol. 17: Lepidoptera of Florida, Div. Plant Industry, Fla. Dept. Agr. and Consum. Serv., Gainesville. x + 670pp., 55 plates.

**Knudson, E.** and **C. Bordelon** 1999. *Texas Lepidoptera Survey, Checklist of the Lepidoptera of Texas*, 2000 edit.

**Rindge, F.H.** 1971. *A Revision of the Moth Genus Lytrosis (Lepidoptera, Geometridae),* American Museum Novitates, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. No. 2474, 21 pp.

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# "TRAGICAL MIRTH" OR, PUT ANOTHER WAY, THE RATTLESNAKE AND *MEGATHYMUS URSUS* *VS.* THE GROUND SQUIRREL AND HOWARD

**BY**
**HOWARD GRISHAM**

In late July, 2001, I was lucky enough to be a part of one of Leroy Koehn's bug trips, this one my first collecting jaunt to Southeast Arizona, complete with visions of the legendary claim of over 240 butterfly species in just six counties, not to mention the mouth-watering sheet at Pena Blanca, with a few pounds of moths attached, showing on Bruce Walsh's Arizona Lep website. I became, and remain, addicted to the area, this being all-the-more irrevocable what with the dear friendships my wife and I have developed with fellow collectors and their spouses during our many forays to the area. My personal ideas on collecting bugs are in many ways analogous to the trips made to gentlemen's clubs with fraternity brothers during my college years (and since my wife will see this, I will interject, prior to my marriage!). The bottom line (no pun intended) remains that, to me, merely looking at God's gifts is ok, but nothing compared with "the real thing."

*Megathymus ursus* is as big a giant skipper as any in the USA. It is almost never seen flying in the wild. No nectaring, and none of that water-sipping that characterizes those hundreds-a-day *evansi* and other *Agathymus* that one comes across at the right times in Southeast Arizona. The few seen in collections are mostly of the ex-pupa variety. Many of my Arizona friends have never seen *ursus* in flight. Others have seen only a few in their lifetimes, with these sightings usually consisting of quick one-way fly-bys along trails. Prior to the morning of August 13, 2004, I had never seen one in flight myself.

The week or so of August 6 – 14, 2004, marked our eighth trip to the area. Butterflies were in between broods, and a bit hard to come by, but the moths were out in force. In addition to the flashy "can't miss" Saturnids, even *Rothschildia cincta* and *Eupackardia calleta* were flying in to the light sets. Thousands of the smaller "regulars," and dozens of what I consider to be better little guys, such as *Erythroecia suevis*, made their appearances each night. On August 7, our group also experienced, at Alamo Canyon, a few miles west of Pena Blanca, something I had never seen anywhere. Around 11:00 pm, and then again, around 12:30 am the next morning, apparently in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Sonoran Arthropod Society, two sets of downright beautiful female collectors drove up to our sheets and, with our readily-supplied permission, enthusiastically grabbed all the loose sphinxes and everything else they deemed of interest.

But, alas and forsooth, the trip had its downside, and despite the passage of six months since, I for some reason remain almost haunted by the catch I didn't make. I don't know why, but a recent reading of Shakespeare's *"A Midsummer Night's Dream,"* when I ran into a flurry of oxymorons in Scene I of Act V (Theseus and his "tragical mirth"), somehow has motivated me to share what happened. Well, maybe looking is better than nothing, or maybe it is better never to see at all.

It was Friday morning, August 13, 2004. I was making a last minute collecting attempt at Molino Basin, just off the Catalina Highway, in the Santa Catalina Mountains above Tucson. The forest fires of several months past had turned what had been a wonderful and plush campground area into an overwhelmingly barren eyesore. Ninety per cent of the trees were gone and, although annuals appeared to be attempting a comeback, there were virtually no butterflies, and even a ragged black witch hanging on to one of the culverts under the road looked like it longed for what had once been.

I was about to throw up my arms in despair, and give things a try in rural Tucson, but decided as a departing gesture to walk along a wet creek bank on the east side of the highway. I heard a ground squirrel absolutely going bonkers, chirping with all it had, and decided to investigate. On approach, I noticed a medium sized rattlesnake easing in the general vicinity of the squirrel. I don't know whether the snake did not have the best interests of the squirrel in mind, or whether the squirrel was merely being paranoid but, in any event, suffice it to say that, to put it mildly, the squirrel (and no doubt some carrion beetles also) was most pleased with the outcome.

The trip up and down the creek bank yielded no butterflies or other insects of note and, as I found myself returning to the general area occupied by the snake and squirrel, there it was, a female *Megathymus ursus*, gently bouncing up and down in some light brush, in seemingly random fashion, acting very similar to the way female *Euptoieta claudias* behave here in Alabama when in egg-laying modes over patches of violets! Since I was still spooked somewhat by the rattlesnake (could there be another one or two nearby?), an aggressive chase through the brush was out of the question, so I proceeded cautiously for a good two minutes, but never able to close the distance any nearer than seven or eight feet. *Mrs. Ursus* continued with her random bounce, eventually heading out and over a precipice. What followed was a morose trip back to the car with my tail between my legs. Yep, parting was such sweet sorrow.

(Howard Grisham, 573 Ohatchee Road, Huntsville, Alabama 35811; E-mail: chgrisham@Comcast.net)

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# AN UNDESCRIBED *LITHOPHANE* FROM LOUISIANA

**BY**
**VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.**

**Fig. 1.** ***Lithophane*** new species.

No species of the genus ***Lithophane*** was previously reported for the state of Louisiana in the most recent list of the noctuidae of Louisiana (Chapin & Callahan, 1967). Since then, this author has captured numerous new for Louisiana ***Lithophane*** species and reported some of them in annual field summaries in the 1980's and 90's. Between the years 1982 and 2005, this undescribed species (Fig. 1) has been captured using ultraviolet light traps at the Abita Springs study site and is the most common ***Lithophane*** captured there.

Typical of numerous other winter active moths, this species is on the wing from late November to late March during an extended four month-long flight period at the Abita Springs study site (Fig. 2). This species has been captured in other southeastern states.

The male genitalia is illustrated in Fig. 3.

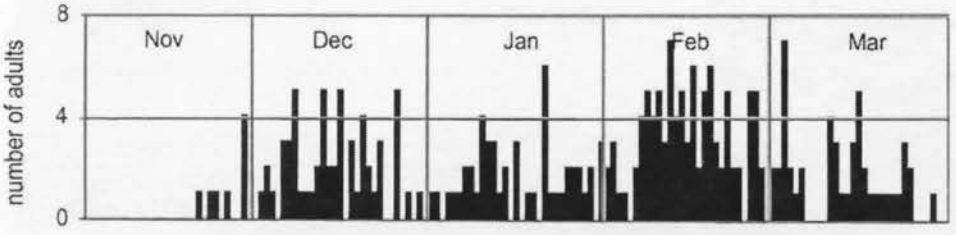


**Fig. 2.** ***Lithophane*** new species captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 253.

**Fig. 3. Male genitalia.**

**Literature Cited**

**Chapin, J.B.** and **Philip S. Callahan,** 1967. A list of the Noctuidae (Lepidoptera, Insecta) collected in the vicinity of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, *Proc. La. Acad. Sci.* 30: 39-48.

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

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# *PAPAIPEMA APPASSIONATA* HARVEY IN LOUISIANA

**BY**

**VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.**

**Fig. 1.** ***Papaipema appassionata***

The noctuid moth ***Papaipema appassionata*** Harvey (Fig. 1) is reported to occur from Quebec and Ontario to South Carolina according to Forbes (1954). Covell (1984) reports ***appassionata*** to occur in coastal areas from Nova Scotia to Florida and inland from the Great Lakes region to Wisconsin.

The very large white reniform and orbicular spots of the forewings are transcribed with fine reddish-brown lines. The outer third and basal area of the forewings are reddish-brown, as are the dorsal areas of the head and thorax. The caudal half of the forewing center is straw yellow, accented with reddish-brown fine lines. The hindwings are light-pale luteous, the outer-half with a light dusting of reddish-brown scales.

In Louisiana, ***appassionata*** has been captured only at the Abita Springs study site (Fig. 3) where the yellow pitcher plant ***Sarracenia alata*** Wood occurs. The single brood flight peaks in early November (Fig. 2).

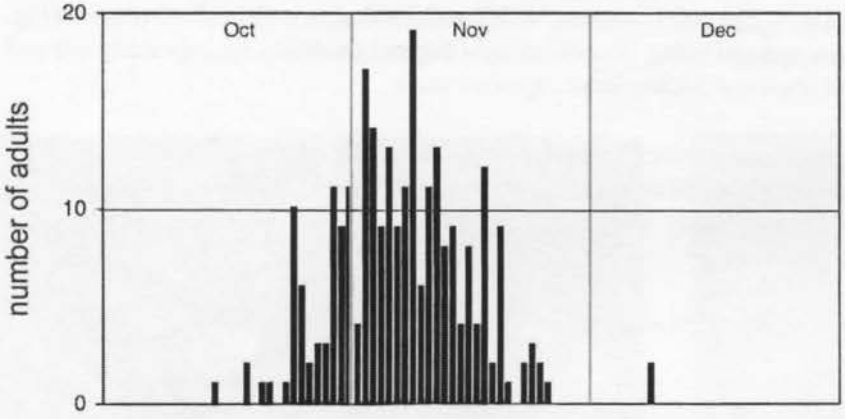


**Fig. 2.** ***Papaipema appassionata*** captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 254.

**Fig. 3.** Parish records by this author.

**Literature Cited**

**Covell, Jr., C.V.** 1984. *A Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern North America.* The Peterson Field Guide Series No. 30. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. xv + 469pp., 64 plates.

**Forbes, W.T.M.** 1954. *Lepidoptera of New York and neighboring states*, Noctuidae, Part III, Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. St. Mem. 329. Ithaca, New York, 433 pp.

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

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## JOINT ATL / SLS MEETING - 2005

There will be a joint ATL/SLS meeting September 29 to October 2, 2005, in Gainesville, Florida, at the McGuire Center. Special guest speaker will be Dr. Dan Janzen, Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and a long-time leader in the OTS Tropical Biology courses in Costa Rica. There may also be a post-meeting field trip to Guatemala if enough members are interested in going (October 3-9, 2005). More details of this meeting and possible field trip will be published in the June issue of the SLS NEWS.

## NOMINEES FOR THE JOHN ABBOT AWARD

**Dr. Richard Brown:** Dr. Richard Brown is curator of the Mississippi Entomological Museum collection at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi. His major interest is with the Torticidae.

**Dr. Jackie Miller and Dr. Lee Miller:** The Millers are researchers at the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera Research in Gainesville, Florida, and were the curators of the Allyn Museum Collection in Sarasota, Florida, for many years. The Millers have been interested and are currently studying the lepidoptera of the West Indies.

**Harry Pavulaan:** Harry Pavulaan has been doing research with butterflies in his area of the eastern United States, specifically with Celastrina and Papilios.

A ballot will be included in the June issue of the NEWS for the SLS membership to vote.

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## BUTTERFLY QUOTES

**"The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough."**

Rabindranath Tagore (b. 1861 - d. 1941) (Playwright, poet, and essayist from India. Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913.)

**"The caterpillar does all the work but the butterfly gets all the publicity"**

George Carlin (b. 1937 – XX )(Stand-up comedian, author and actor)

**"I do not know whether I was then a man dreaming I was a butterfly, or whether I am now a butterfly dreaming I am a man"**

Chuang Tzu (b. 389 -- d. 286 BC)(One of China's early interpreters of Taoism)

**"Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee."**

Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay)(b. 1942 – XX) (Prizefighter and activist)

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## PRINTING A NEWSLETTER - ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW

Here's one for the computer people out there. When an issue of the SLS newsletter is finished and ready to go to press, I save it on a disk in a "pdf format" which according to my understanding cannot be changed (unless one has special software). So the newsletter is imbedded in the pdf format. Well, when I brought the disk containing the December 2004 issue to the Texas Tech print shop, the galley proof that I received to check had a figure missing. Now, how can their high quality printer delete a figure from the pdf file? When the pdf file with the December issue was viewed on the computer screen the graph was present. The Tech staff could also print the December issue correctly on a number of other printers in their shop but not on the high quality printer (cost $50,000) which they use to print the newsletter. So somebody please help me with this mystery!

The solution was to delete the graph in question from the newsletter, and then re-scan the original figure and start over by re-importing the figure into the newsletter. This worked but still no explanation.

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# WALLACE'S EXPLANATION OF BRILLIANT COLORS IN CATERPILLAR LARVAE

*Charles H. Smith's Note: An account of discussion Wallace provided at the 4 March 1867 meeting of the Entomological Society of London, and some comments others made in return, as reported in the Society's Journal of Proceedings series for 1866-1867. Wallace's comments represented the first public expression of his theory of "warning colors". To link directly to this page connect with: http://www.wku.edu/~smithch/wallace/S129.htm*

Mr. A.R. Wallace requested the assistance of Members in making observations to enable him to clear up a difficult point. Mr. Darwin had arrived at the conclusion that, as a rule in the animal kingdom, brilliant colouring was due to sexual selection: being struck, however, by the apparent exception to this rule presented by the bright hues of many larvae, principally of Lepidoptera, which, being sexless, could not owe their gaudy attire to sexual selection, Mr. Darwin had inquired whether Mr. Wallace could suggest any explanation of this seeming contradiction of the rule. A theoretical explanation occurred to him, and it was for the purpose of ascertaining whether this theory was well or ill founded that he asked the aid of others. Many caterpillars were mimetic, imitating the leaves or flowers on which they fed, and thus obtaining protection from attack; whilst others again possessed neither of these modes of protection, but were conspicuous by their lively coloration. Holding that nothing in nature was without its cause, nothing without its object, and believing in the principle of natural selection or the preservation of the fittest, he concluded that this conspicuous colouring must be in some way useful to those larvae which were endowed with or had acquired it; but in what way was it useful to them? Just as certain moths were agreeable and others distasteful to birds, so also he did not doubt that certain larvae were agreeable and others distasteful to birds; but distastefulness alone would be insufficient to protect a larva unless there were some outward sigh to indicate to its would-be destroyer that his contemplated prey would prove a disgusting morsel, and so deter him from attack. A very slight wound was sufficient to kill a growing caterpillar, and if seized by a bird, even though afterwards rejected as nauseous, its death would nevertheless ensue; the distasteful larvae therefore required some distinctive mark, something by which they may be contrasted with and separated from the agreeable larvae, in order that they might be freed from the attacks of birds. Brilliant colouration would be such a distinction as was required; the larvae which were attractive to birds, when not exterminated, were doubtless preserved from extinction by other protective qualities; whilst those larvae which were distasteful to birds, and were not protected either by mimicry, hairiness, offensive smell, or otherwise, might be distinguished by their colour from those upon which birds delighted to feed. Mr. Wallace's suggestion therefore was that, as a rule, the brilliantly coloured larvae were those which were distasteful to birds: it was on this point that he wished to collect observations and statistics, and he should be glad if any who kept birds, and particularly indigenous birds, would make experiments with different larvae, to ascertain which were eaten and which rejected.

Mr. Pascoe remarked that toads ate Carabidae, notwithstanding their offensive smell; and a larva which to one species of bird would be disgusting might to another be attractive.

Mr. J. J. Weir and Mr. M'Lachlan respectively referred to the larvae of Cucullia and Diloba, both of which were conspicuous, but apparently free from attack.

Mr. Bates suggested that information was also wanted as to what larvae were most liable to be infested by Ichneumonidae, and inquired whether amongst the British Lepidoptera there were many, or any, whose larvae were not subject to the attacks of Ichneumons; and if any, were they conspicuous larvae?

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# CATERPILLARS AND BIRDS
## BY
## ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE

*Charles H. Smith's Note: A letter to the Editor printed on page 206 of the 23 march 1867 issue of The Field. To link directly to this page, connect with: http://www.wku.edu/~smithch/wallaceS130.htm*

Sir, – May I be permitted to ask the co-operation of your readers in making some observations during the coming spring and summer, which are of great interest to Mr. Darwin and myself. I will first state what observations are wanted, and then explain briefly why they are wanted. A number of our smaller birds devour quantities of caterpillars, but there is reason to suspect that they do not eat all alike. Now we want direct evidence as to which species they eat and which they reject. This may be obtained in two ways. Those who keep insectivorous birds, such as thrushes, robins, or any of the warblers (or any other that will eat caterpillars), may offer them all the kinds they can obtain, and carefully note (1) which they eat, (2) which they refuse to touch, and (3) which they seize but reject. If the name of the caterpillar cannot be ascertained, a short description of its more prominent characters will do very well, such as whether it is hairy or smooth, and what are its chief colours, especially distinguishing such as are green or brown from such as are of bright and conspicuous colours, as yellow, red, or black. The food plant of the caterpillar should also be stated when known. Those who do not keep birds, but have a garden much frequented by birds, may put all the caterpillars they can find in a soup plate or other vessel, which must be placed in a larger vessel of water, so that the creatures cannot escape, and then after a few hours note which have been taken and which left. If the vessel could be placed where it might be watched from a window, so that the kind of birds which took them could also be noted, the experiment would be still more complete. A third set of observations might be made on young fowls, turkeys, guinea fowls, pheasants &c., in exactly the same manner.

Now the purport of these observations is to ascertain the law which has determined the colouration of caterpillars. The analogy of many other insects leads us to believe that all those which are green or brown, or of such speckled or mottled tints as to resemble closely the leaf or bark of the plant on which they feed, or the substance on which they usually repose, are thus to some degree protected from the attacks of birds and other enemies. We should expect, therefore, that all which are thus protected would be greedily eaten by birds whenever they can find them. But there are other caterpillars which seem coloured on purpose to be conspicuous, and it is very important to know whether they have another kind of protection, altogether independent of disguise, such as a disagreeable odor and taste. If they are thus protected, so that the majority of birds will never eat them, we can understand that to get the full benefit of this protection they should be easily recognized, should have some outward character by which birds would soon learn to know them and thus let them alone; because if birds could not tell the eatable from the uneatable till they had seized and tasted them, the protection would be of no avail, a growing caterpillar being so delicate that a wound is certain death. If, therefore, the eatable caterpillars derive a partial protection from their obscure and imitative colouring, then we can understand that it would be an advantage to the uneatable kinds to be well distinguished from them by bright and conspicuous colours.

I may add that this question has an important bearing on the whole theory of the origin of the colours of animals, and especially of insects. I hope many of your readers may be thereby induced to make such observations as I have indicated, and if they will kindly send me their notes at the end of the summer, or earlier, I will undertake to compare and tabulate the whole, and to make known the results, whether they confirm or refute theory here indicated.

– Alfred R.Wallace, 9, St. Mark's - crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.

[The Editor and Membership of the Southern Lepidopterists' News thank Dr. Charles H. Smith (University Libraries, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY 42101; E-mail: charles.smith@wku.edu) for allowing us to use his electronic reproduction of A.R. Wallace's writings which are on his website: http://www.wku.edu/~smithch/wallace/BIOG.htm]

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# MEMBERS' NOTICES

## LIGHT TRAP ADVERTISEMENT

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Visit our Website at: **www.leptraps.com**. Or for a free brochure and price list contact: Leroy C. Koehn, 202 Redding Road, Georgetown, KY 40324-2622; Tel: 502-570-9123; E-mail: lightrap@leptraps.com

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A 110 Volt AC - 24 inch 40 Watt Quantum Black Light unit designed with a preheat rapid start ballast for use in the tropics.

Visit our Website at: **www.leptraps.com**. Or for a free brochure and price list contact: Leroy C. Koehn, 202 Redding Road, Georgetown, KY 40324-2622; Tel: 502-570-9123; E-Mail: Lightrap@leptraps.com

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# RE - PUBLICATION OF "FIELD GUIDE TO EASTERN MOTHS"

Charlie Covell announces the re-publication of his "*A Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern America*", originally published as Peterson Field Guide #30 in 1984. The original publisher, Houghton-Mifflin Co., dropped it from its inventory in 1996, and the rights were returned to Charlie. He contracted with the Virginia Museum of Natural History for republication, with improved plates and a chapter revising classification and nomenclature. Charlie should have copies available at the retail price of $40.00 by the end of May or earlier. He will send it postpaid in the USA at that price. Or, it should be found at bookstores at some later time.

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WINTER SCENE, Lubbock, Texas, January 2005

WINTER SCENE, Lubbock, Texas, January 2005

SPRINGTIME in Palo Duro Canyon State Park near Canyon, Texas

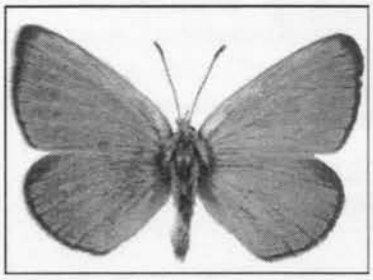
*Poladryas minuta*, dorsal

*Poladryas minuta*, ventral

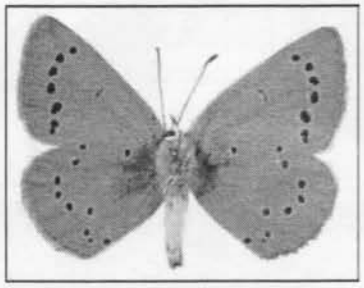
WINTER SCENE, Lubbock, Texas, January 2005

# SPRING HAS ARRIVED IN LUBBOCK, TEXAS

BY
J. BARRY LOMBARDINI



***Glaucopsyche lygdamus jacki*, male, dorsal**



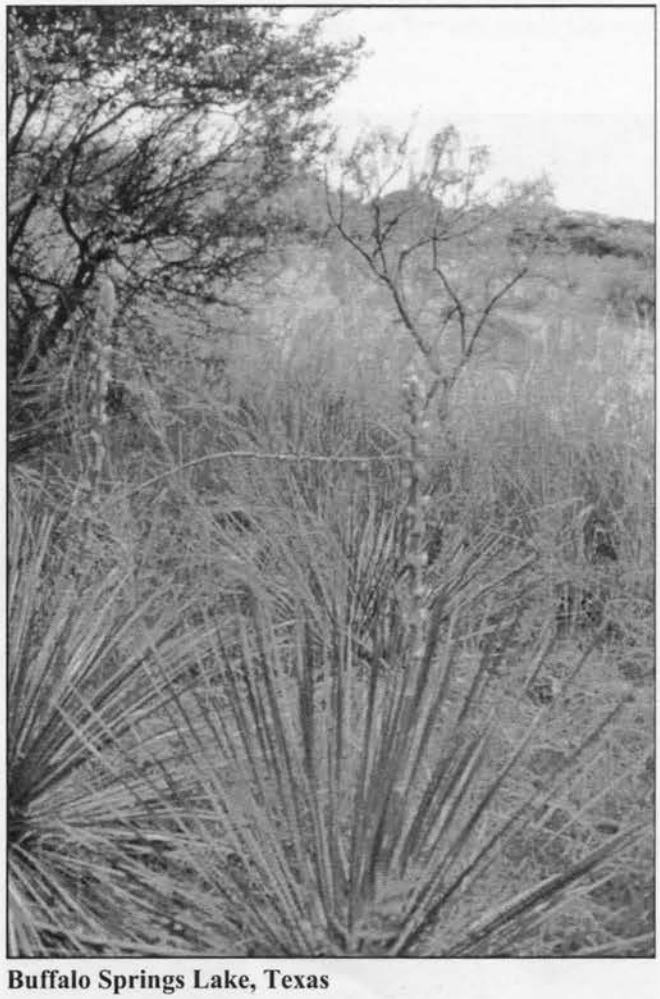
***Glaucopsyche lygdamus jacki*, male, ventral**

This year, March 20th at Buffalo Springs Lake (approximately 10 miles east of Lubbock) male Silvery Blues (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus jacki)* were flying. In this area in previous years at this same time *Megathymus yucca coloradensis* has also been flying, however, none were observed on this date this year. Forty miles to the south in Post, Texas, *Megathymus streckeri texanus* should also be flying at this time of the year.

Interestingly, in my experience *Megathymus yucca coloradensis* is fairly easy to catch in that it almost always returns to its original location when disturbed. On the contrary, *Megathymus streckeri texanus* is difficult to get close to and once disturbed it is gone. Because of this flighty characteristic, at this writing I have only 2 females of *M. streckeri texanus* in my collection after many years of searching and wildly swinging a net at them.

The food plant for the *Megathymus* species, yucca, is quite common in the area (photographs of yucca plants were

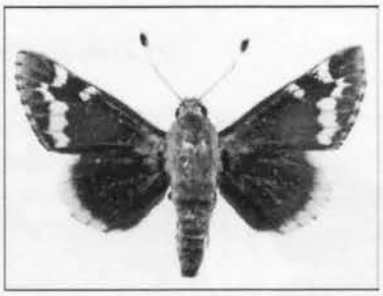
**Justiceburg, Texas**



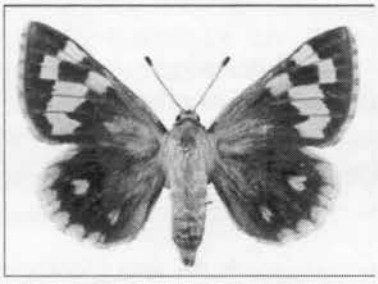
**Buffalo Springs Lake, Texas**

taken in late spring and early summer of previous years). Colleagues have advised me that looking for larva tents in the yucca plants would facilitate my acquiring more specimens. So this Spring I carefully looked at approximately 500 plants but to no avail. It appears that this particular species (*M.s.t.*) is going to remain elusive for me.

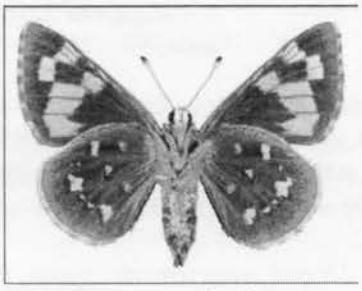
*Megathymus yucca coloradensis,* **female**



*Megathymus yucca coloradensis,* **male**



*Megathymus streckeri texanus,* **female, dorsal**



*Megathymus streckeri texanus,* **female, ventral**

**Buffalo Springs Lake, Texas**

**Buffalo Springs Lake, Texas**

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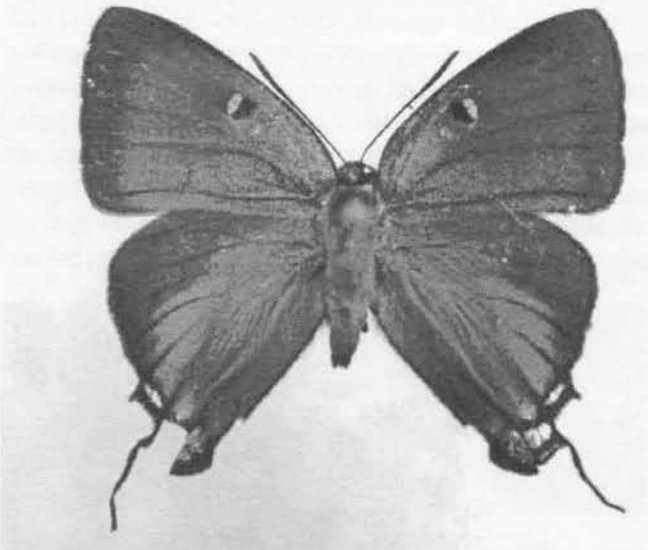
# NEVER FORGOTTEN FIRST ENCOUNTERS

**BY**
**JAMES K. ADAMS**

I was inspired by Harry Godwin's "Gems on the Wings of Time" (see SLS Newsletter 26:4, Dec. 2004), his story about his first Tiger Swallowtail he encountered as a boy. It was truly enjoyable to read about his "most exciting catch ever," and it reminded me that even some of the common species we often take for granted can still bring back special memories. For me, these types of stories are always a fun read, and I'd like to see more SLS members follow in Harry's footsteps, sharing "most memorable" or "first" encounter stories. And, of course, it could be any kind of first encounter, not just a collecting encounter.

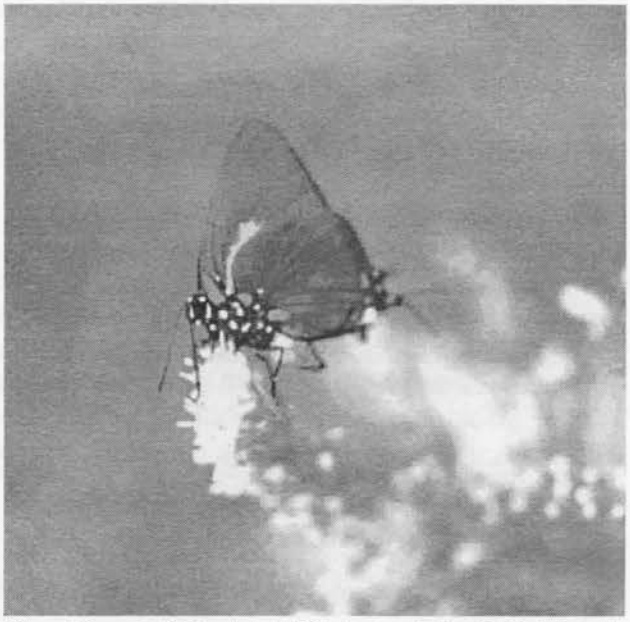
His story reminded me about many of my first encounters and memorable moments, something that all of us interested in Lepidoptera have experienced time and time again. I will admit that I cannot recall my first Cabbage White or Alfalfa Sulfur, but my first Pipevine Swallowtail, my first Sleepy Orange, my first Falcate Orange Tip, my first Henry's Elfin, and my first Olive Hairstreak all stand out clearly in my memories. And every trip we-who-are-a-bit-obsessed take almost invariably adds special Lepidoptera encounters.

For those of you who know me, you know that my Lepidoptera interests slant toward the moth side. That doesn't mean, however, that I don't appreciate butterflies. Those of you who REALLY know me are aware that among the butterflies I am particularly fond of the Hairstreaks, and here I would like to share a particularly memorable Hairstreak first encounter with you.



**Great Purple Hairstreak (*Atlides halesus*) (Photograph by J. K. Adams)**

Any Hairstreak lover in the U.S. will likely remember the precise circumstances of their first Great Purple (Blue?) Hairstreak. My first encounter was not only memorable but also particularly unusual and challenging. It was in the early 80's, and I had decided to take a middle March spring break trip to NE Texas. As fortune would have it, the weather turned out to be excellent, made all the more amazing by the years of quite cold weather the area experienced for many years following during mid-March. The last morning of the trip, my mom (whom many of you also know is an ardent lepidopterist) and I had already encountered some nice early spring species, such as the Elfins *Incisalia niphon* and *I. irus*. I happened to look up at the top of an early blooming tree with small white flowers (I don't recall the species of tree) and saw a silhouette that was unmistakable – and when it flew, the rapid, erratic flight of a Hairstreak confirmed that this was indeed *Atlides halesus*.



**Great Purple Hairstreak (Photograph by J. K.Adams)**

Before I continue, I need to share another bit of information with you. When I collect, I use a net that is a converted aluminum fish net with about a 20-inch diameter. I also use a wooden pole inserted into the aluminum handle that extends the length of the net to over seven feet (see Insert C, SLS

**Great Purple Hairstreak larvae (Photograph by J. K. Adams)**

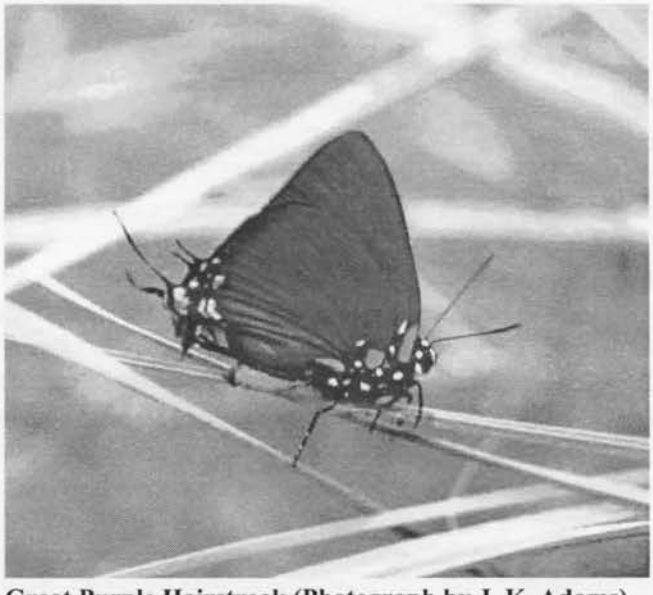
Newsletter 25:2, June, 2003; the described net is somewhat visible in one of the pictures). You will soon see why this information is important to the story!

As I said, the *halesus* was high up in the tree. Well, many of us have tried the "throw the small stone" trick, and this I did, time and time again. Several times the Great Purple Hairstreak would fly out only to return to blossoms in the upper branches. However, after about the 30th throw, the butterfly suddenly flew down much lower and landed on some blossoms on the only branch that was within reach.

Now we've all had those moments that we know are only moments, and yet what seems to be a tremendous amount of thought seems to fly through our heads. I had noticed that, even when not scared by my feeble rock throwing, that this individual did not remain perched on any particular blossom for long. As such, I figured I needed to swing quickly. One small problem. The lower branch with the blossoms upon which the butterfly had landed was around an inch thick, and the butterfly had landed on the other side from where I was standing. I had to quickly decide – try to swing through the branch, or run under the branch and try to sweep the individual off the side of the branch. Quicker just to try to swing through, and so I did. I reached upward, both hands on the wooden extension, and swung the net full length. The branch bent downward as my net hit it. I saw the butterfly fly upward into the net . . . and then the branch stopped giving way. The next moment there was a loud SNAP . . . not the branch but my wooden pole! The branch sprang upward, yanking the net off the end of the pole, leaving me with a bent and splintered wooden pole in my hands. I momentarily had visions of my aluminum net dangling from this branch, out of reach. To my relief, however, the net did not remain hanging from the small side branch that had hooked it and pulled it off the pole. Instead, as the main branch reached its highest point during its recoil, it flung my net into the air. My net proceeded in a high arc over the branch to land on the ground some thirty feet away. I was relieved simply to have my net retrievable, and so had no expectations about the Hairstreak still being in the net after the trip it had just taken. But, to my great surprise, the lovely male was still in the net, and I still look at that specimen with special fondness to this day. And, of course, the whole sequence of events was great entertainment for my mother.

**Great Purple Hairstreak chrysalis (Photograph by J. K. Adams)**

I have since encountered this beautiful butterfly many, many times, including once by the hundreds in October in south Georgia (photos of some living south Georgia individuals can be seen on my Georgia Lepidoptera website – http://www.daltonstate.edu/galeps/ ). As such, I haven't collected any in years, though I still enjoy pausing and looking (or photographing) just about every time I see one. Yet, needless to say, this particular collecting experience is one that I will never, ever forget!



**Great Purple Hairstreak (Photograph by J. K. Adams)**

(James K. Adams, 346 Sunset Drive SE, Calhoun, Georgia 30701; E-mail: jadams@em.daltonstate.edu)

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# BUTTERFLIES IN A GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA GARDEN

**BY**

**MARC C. MINNO AND MARIA MINNO**

We moved into our modest house in Gainesville in the fall of 1994 in an area known as Woodland Terrace. This neighborhood was carved out of a longleaf pine/turkey oak sandhill during the 1950's at what was then the edge of town. At the time, a number of professors with the University of Florida (only a few miles to the southeast) bought homes in this area. Now the neighborhood consists of families, older folks, and UF students.

Unlike today, the builder left some existing trees for shade and rather than sodding, planted grass from seed. We're amazed to find remnants of the original vegetation. We have two magnificent longleaf pines (*Pinus palustris*), a huge southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), and a large sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*) on the property. The lawn has patches of partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*) and a few individuals of Virginia snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*), a host plant for the pipevine swallowtail (*Battus philenor*). A few houses away there's a single individual of Florida milkvetch (*Astragalus obcordatus*), a low-growing herb that we've only seen at one other sandhill in Florida.

When we first moved into the house at 600 northwest 35th Terrace, the yard was a typical urban landscape with trees, shrubs, and mown lawn. Over the years we've added many kinds of native plants, as well as a few exotic species, especially ones attractive to butterflies. We now have about 300 species of plants in our small yard. It's hard to come up with a final number. There's always some plants dying or disappearing into the seed bank, and we keep finding or adding new ones. Plus we didn't count the orchids and other potted ornamental plants in the total. About 27% of the plants in our yard were not added by us, and so must have been here as natives, weeds, or were planted by previous owners. We've added quite a few new species over the years. Some 85% of the plants in our yard are native to the state of Florida, but not necessarily to the Gainesville area. Our flora consists of 13% trees, 25% shrubs, 9% vines, 41% herbs, 9% grasses and sedges, and 3% ferns.

Sixty-some species of plants in our yard are weeds or have weedy tendencies. About 15% are what we call "bad weeds", plants that we wish we could get rid of, but can't. We do not use chemical fertilizers, except for the potted plants, and never apply insecticides or herbicides. So getting rid of weeds means hand pulling or mulching. The birds constantly deposit seeds of both native and exotic species such as Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*), greenbrier (*Smilax* spp.), camphor tree (*Cinnamomea camphora*), chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*), Chinese tallowtree (*Sapium sebiferum*), Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), and Carolina laurelcherry (*Prunus caroliniana*). Somehow, seedlings of the horribly invasive catclawvine (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*) keep showing up in the yard, although we don't know of any other source in the neighborhood.

As for butterfly plants, there are at least 56 species that are nectar plants with flowers attractive to butterflies. Among the best nectar plants are snow squarestem (*Melanthera nivea*), tropical sage (*Salvia coccinea*), giant ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*), blue mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*), New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), trailing lantana (*Lantana* spp.), and pentas (*Pentas lanceolata*). Another 90 species may be host plants for butterfly caterpillars, but we've only seen about 30 species of plants actually being used in our garden. Some of the best host plants are the pipevines (*Aristolochia* spp.), sugarberry, pawpaws (*Asimina* spp.), rice button aster (*Aster dumosus*), ticktrefoil (*Desmodium* spp.), milkpeas (*Galactia* spp.), milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.), passionflower (*Passiflora* spp.), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), oaks (*Quercus* spp.), sennas (*Senna* spp.), St. Augustinegrass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*), and wild lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara*).

Now for the butterflies! Over the nearly 11 years that we have lived in our house, we have seen at least 56 species of butterflies in our yard (Table 1). About 170 species of butterflies occur in Florida, excluding strays. For an urban location, one-third of the butterflies present in the state is a pretty good number. The butterfly diversity probably is partly due to the plant diversity in our yard as well as the fact that north central Florida is a butterfly rich area. Also, at least for now, there are natural areas fairly close to where we live. Unlike many urban places in Florida, Gainesville has lots of native trees, nature parks, and some undeveloped parcels with natural vegetation. Natural areas such as the Hogtown Creek Greenway and undeveloped land, even weedlots, are reservoirs for butterflies that occasionally wander into our yard.

So how many butterflies are in your yard?

Table 1. Butterflies seen at 600 NW 35th Terrace, Gainesville, Florida since August 1994.

| SPECIES | ABUNDANCE |
|---|---|
| *Agraulis vanillae* (gulf fritillary) | Frequent |
| *Amblyscirtes aesculapias* (lacewing roadside skipper) | Seen once |
| *Asterocampa celtis* (hackberry emperor) | Occasional |
| *Asterocampa clyton* (tawny emperor) | Occasional |
| *Atlides halesus* (great purple hairstreak) | Infrequent |
| *Basilarchia archippus* (viceroy) | Seen once |
| *Basilarchia arthemis astyanax* (red-spotted purple) | Occasional |
| *Battus philenor* (pipevine swallowtail) | Occasional |
| *Battus polydamas* (Polydamas swallowtail) | Frequent |
| *Calpodes ethlius* (Brazilian skipper) | Frequent |
| *Calycopis cecrops* (red-banded hairstreak) | Occasional |
| *Danaus gilippus* (queen) | Seen once |
| *Danaus plexippus* (monarch) | Frequent |
| *Epargyreus clarus* (silver-spotted skipper) | Occasional |
| *Erynnis horatius* (Horace's duskywing) | Occasional |
| *Erynnis juvenalis* (Juvenile's duskywing) | Seen once |
| *Erynnis zarucco* (zarucco duskywing) | Seen once |
| *Euphyes vestris* (dun skipper) | Seen once |
| *Eurema lisa* (little yellow) | Infrequent |
| *Eurema nicippe* (sleepy orange) | Occasional |
| *Eurytides marcellus* (zebra swallowtail) | Occasional |
| *Heliconius charitonius* (zebra heliconian) | Frequent |
| *Hemiargus ceraunus* (ceraunus blue) | Infrequent |
| *Heraclides cresphontes* (giant swallowtail) | Frequent |
| *Hermeuptychia sosybius* (Carolina satyr) | Frequent |
| *Hylephila phyleus* (fiery skipper) | Occasional |
| *Junonia coenia* (common buckeye) | Infrequent |
| *Leptotes cassius* (cassius blue) | Infrequent |
| *Lerema accius* (clouded skipper) | Occasional |
| *Libytheana carinenta* (snout butterfly) | Occasional |
| *Megathymus yuccae* (yucca giant-skipper) | Infrequent |
| *Nathalis iole* (dainty sulphur) | Seen once |
| *Nymphalis antiopa* (mourning cloak) | Seen once |
| *Panoquina ocola* (Ocola skipper) | Occasional |
| *Papilio polyxenes* (black swallowtail) | Occasional |
| *Parrhasius —album* (white-m album) | Infrequent |
| *Phoebis philea* (orange-barred sulphur) | Frequent |
| *Phoebis sennae* (cloudless sulphur) | Frequent |
| *Phyciodes phaon* (phaon crescent) | Infrequent |
| *Phyciodes tharos* (pearl crescent) | Occasional |
| *Pieris rapae* (cabbage white) | Seen once |
| *Poanes viator* (broad-winged skipper) | Seen once |
| *Polites vibex* (whirlabout) | Occasional |
| *Polygonia interrogationis* (questionmark) | Occasional |
| *Pontia protodice* (checkered white) | Seen once |
| *Problema byssus* (byssus skipper) | Seen once |
| *Pterourus glaucus* (eastern tiger swallowtail) | Infrequent |
| *Pterourus palamedes* (palamedes swallowtail) | Infrequent |
| *Pterourus troilus* (spicebush swallowtail) | Infrequent |
| *Pyrgus oileus* (tropical checkered skipper) | Seen once |

| | |
|---|---|
| *Strymon melinus* (gray hairstreak) | Occasional |
| *Urbanus dorantes* (dorantes skipper) | Occasional |
| *Urbanus proteus* (long-tailed skipper) | Frequent |
| *Vanessa atalanta* (red admiral) | Occasional |
| *Vanessa virginiensis* (American lady) | Infrequent |
| *Wallengrenia otho* (southern broken-dash) | Infrequent |

(Maria and Marc Minno, 600 NW 35th Terrace, Gainesville, Florida 32607; E-mail: minno@gator.net)

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## NOTHING TO DO ABOUT LEPIDOPTERA - AGAIN !!!

## NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT - 2005

## "ONLY THE IMPORTANT SCORES"

The Members of the SLS might remember that in the December issue [Volume 26 NO.4 (2004)] of the NEWS it was reported that the Texas Tech University Football Team was successful in their bowl game (Holiday Bowl) - this report is a continuation of the success of our TTU Athletic Teams, this time it being our Basketball Teams.

**Men's Basketball - Texas Tech University *Red Raiders*:**

1st Round - March 17th (Tucson, Arizona): Texas Tech University - **78**, UCLA - 66.
2nd Round - March 19th (Tucson, Arizona): Texas Tech University - **71**, Gonzaga - 69.

**Women's Basketball - Texas Tech University *Lady Red Raiders*:**

1st Round - March 19th (Dallas, Texas): Texas Tech University - **69**, Texas - Arlington - 49.
2nd Round - March 21st (Dallas, Texas): Texas Tech University - **80**, Middle Tennessee State - 69.

**Made it to the Sweet 16 ! And on to Albuquerque and Philadelphia!**

3rd Round - March 24th (Albuquerque): Texas Tech University (*Red Raiders*) - 60, West Virginia - **65**.

Oh well, maybe next year for Coach Bobby Knight and the TTU Mens' Basketball Team.

3rd Round - March 27th (Philadelphia): Texas Tech University (*Lady Red Raiders*) - 59, Tennessee - **75**.

Coach Marsha Sharp's women's team was a bit outmatched by the Tennessee (*Lady Volunteers*) Team.

No **Elite Eight** for either of the TTU Teams - However, it still was a pretty good season. Overall for the 2004-2005 season the Men's Team were 22-11 and the Lady Red Raiders were 24-8. This was the 3rd time in school history that the Men's Team made it to the Sweet 16 and for the Women's Team it was the 11th time.

[Next is baseball season.]

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## BLACK WITCH (*ASCALAPHA ODORATA*) - GYNANDROMORPH?

A member wondered if the Black Witch in the photograph which appeared in the December issue of the SLS (Vol. 26 NO.4, page 102) was a gynandromorph. The member states "*...the left half of the moth is darker and the markings less contrasty than the right side...has anybody else noticed this too*?"

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## REPORTS OF STATE COORDINATORS

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

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

The following record represents a report sent in by Jason Garrett: *Parrhasium —album* (male), Nola, Scott County, AR, February 26, 2005. This is an early emergence of this uncommon species in western Arkansas.

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

Robert reports the following: "Collecting in Florida has been a little slow this winter in Florida. We have been very dry and until the late week in February we had little rain. Since then we have had 8+ inches. I am hopeful that the recent rains will improve the spring collection season.

The only report I have for the last few months is David Fine and Robert Beiriger visited several sites in the Florida Keys on November 14, 2004. Species seen were the normal Key fauna including *Leptotes cassius, Cymaenes tripunctus, Phocides pigmalion, Phyciodes phaon, Strymon acis, S. columella,* and *S. martialis*. Several other species recently reported from the Keys like *Kricogonia lyside, Chlorostrymon simaethis,* and *Phyciodes frisia* were looked for but were not seen."

**Georgia:** 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/).

Records are from James Adams (JA or no notation), Irving Finkelstein, or Jim Vargo. Most records presented here represent new or interesting records (range extensions, unusual dates, uncommon species, county records, *etc.*) or records for newly investigated areas. Known County and State records are indicated. All dates listed below are 2004 unless other wise specified. The winter season was extremely poor for many of the winter moths. As such, the report for this winter is very sparse, as you can see.

One moth that did have a good flight this spring is the geometrid moth *Paleacrita merricata*, found numerous times in Gordon, Whitfield, and Bartow counties.

Atlanta, Fulton Co. (Irving Finkelstein's house; IF):
**PIERIDAE**: *Pieris rapae,* Feb. 22 (EARLY)*; Phoebis sennae eubule*, Jan. 7 -- this is a very late record for this species.

Calhoun, Gordon Co. (James Adams' house; JA):
**NOCTUIDAE**: *Lithophane viridipallens*, March 8 (LATE); *Lithophane disposita*, March 24 (**COUNTY**, third in STATE, and LATE).

Carbondale, Whitfield Co., Exit 326 off of I-75 (JA):
**NOCTUIDAE**: *Feralia major*, Feb. 11. This is the one and only specimen seen of this species – normally out from early January through March.

5 mi. ESE of Fairmount, Bartow Co., Mar. 17 (JA):
**NOCTUIDAE**: *Zale duplicata* (**COUNTY**); *Lithophane viridipallens* (**COUNTY**); *Eupsilia sidus* (**COUNTY**, few in state).

Ohoopee Dunes, 8 mi. WSW of Swainsboro, Emanuel Co.:
**TORTRICIDAE**: *Crytaspasma bipenicilla* Brown & Brown, Oct. 11, 2003, Jim Vargo.

**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

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

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

Ron Gatrelle reports: February 22, Sumter County, vicinity of Fulton Crossroads – *Megathymus yuccae*, 7 pupae.

**Tennessee:** John Hyatt, 5336 Foxfire Place, Kingsport, TN 37664, E-Mail: jkshyatt@aol.com

Johns writes that there is not much to report from Tennessee at this time. He saw the first butterflies of 2005 in Kingsport on Sunday the 20th of March - a hibernating *N. Antiopa* and a fresh *P. rapae*. Both were about 10 days behind schedule, as indicated by his long-term records. Spring has been cool and wet, with some retardation of the season.

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

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

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The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published four times annually. Membership dues are $15.00 annually. The organization is open to anyone with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the southern United States. Information about the Society may be obtained from Paul Milner, Membership Coordinator, 272 Skye Drive, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768, and dues may be sent to Jeffrey R. Slotten, Treasurer, 5421 NW 69th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32653.

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