



# Southern Lepidopterists' NEWS

EST. 1978

Official Newsletter of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society

Vol. 33 NO. 1

March 31, 2011

---

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/](http://www.southernlepsoc.org/))

---

J. BARRY LOMBARDINI: EDITOR

---

## LIFE HISTORY NOTES ON THE FROSTED FLASHER SKIPPER (*ASTRAPTES ALARDUS*) IN TEXAS BY MIKE RICKARD AND RONDA SPINK

In October 2010, Spink was photographing butterfly adults and immatures in various South Texas parks and refuges. A mature skipper larva found and photographed feeding on Coral Bean (*Erythrina herbacea*) was later identified from Internet resources as *Astraptes alardus* (Stoll, 1790), and further confirmation was received from individuals to whom photos were sent. The larva was not collected due to permit restrictions.



Last instar larva of *Astraptes alardus*  
(Photo by Nan Wilson).

With this information, Rickard began searching Coral Bean plants in numerous Lower Rio Grande Valley locations during November. At the original site and several other locations small larval shelters were found but no larvae. Ultimately two early instar larvae were found on Coral Bean south of Mission, on 11/16. One larva died from unknown causes, the other was reared to maturity, pupating 11/27 and emerging 12/14. The specimen was retained and deposited in the Texas Lepidoptera Survey collection.

*Astraptes alardus* was first recorded in the US from three specimens collected by Rickard in 1973, and there are photographic records from 1995 and 2004. The authors do not know of additional records. This is a rather large, easily noticed insect, so the lack of additional records is puzzling. Coral Bean is native to coastal South Texas, and is also widely planted in local butterfly gardens as an ornamental and hummingbird nectar source.

Photos show a typical early instar shelter, mature larva, pupa, adult, and host plant.

---





Early Instar larval shelters of *Astraptes alardus* on Coral Bean  
(Photo by Mike Rickard).



Pupa of *Astraptes alardus*  
(Photo by Mike Rickard).



Adult *Astraptes alardus*, freshly emerged  
(Photo by Mike Rickard).



Host plant (*Erythrina herbacea*): Coral Bean  
(Photo by Mike Rickard).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rickard thanks the Texas Lepidoptera Survey for their continued support, Ronda Spink and Nan Wilson for communicating news of Ronda's discovery, and Nan Wilson for the use of her photograph.

(Mike Rickard, 411 Virgo St., Mission, TX 78572; Ronda Spink, 511 E. Country Club Drive, Williston, FL 32696)

\*\*\*\*\*

#### DISCOVERY OF SILK:

Many legends prevail as to the origin of silk in China although India also makes a claim. The Chinese emperor Huang Di (also known as Huang Ti or Wu-di) or his wife, Lei-tzu (also known as Si Ling-chi) have been credited with the discovery, and the subsequent processes: *i.e.*, the cultivation of silkworms, then the process of unraveling the silk thread from the silk worm cocoons, and finally weaving the thread into fabric. In any event the, weaving of silk began at least around ~2700 BC and was kept a national secret until ~552 AD when some of the silkworms were smuggled out of China by two monks and brought to Constantinople. In the West, before ~552 AD it was commonly believed that the silk fabric from China was produced from trees or shrubs from their bark. Some other conjectures were a bit closer to the truth when it was thought that spiders or beetles produced the silk.

#### Sources

[http://womenshistory.about.com/od/inventors/a/discovery\\_silk.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/od/inventors/a/discovery_silk.htm)

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/explorations/bug/libraryarticle.asp?ItemID=110&SubjectID=173&categoryID=4&SubjectName=Asia>

# The Southern Lepidopterists' Society

## OFFICERS

Brian Scholtens  
College of Charleston  
Charleston, SC 29424  
E-Mail: [scholtensb@cofc.edu](mailto:scholtensb@cofc.edu)

Jeffrey R. Slotten: Treasurer  
5421 NW 69th Lane  
Gainesville, FL 32653  
E-Mail: [jslotten@bellsouth.net](mailto:jslotten@bellsouth.net)

Donald M. Stillwaugh: Secretary  
604 Summerhill Ct Apt. D  
Safety Harbor, FL 34695-4387  
E-Mail: [don.stillwaugh7@verizon.net](mailto:don.stillwaugh7@verizon.net)

Marc Minno: Membership Coordinator  
600 NW 34 Terrace  
Gainesville, FL 32607  
E-Mail: [mminno@bellsouth.net](mailto:mminno@bellsouth.net)

Tom Neal: Member-at-Large  
1705 NW 23rd Street  
Gainesville, FL 32605  
E-Mail: [Chouwah@aol.com](mailto:Chouwah@aol.com)

Dave Morgan: Website Manager  
4355 Cobb Parkway  
Suite J461  
Atlanta, GA 30339  
E-Mail: [mrdavemorgan@hotmail.com](mailto:mrdavemorgan@hotmail.com)

J. Barry Lombardini: Editor  
3507 41st Street  
Lubbock, Texas 79413  
E-Mail: [jbarry.lombardini@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:jbarry.lombardini@ttuhsc.edu)

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

Regular	\$20.00
Student	\$15.00
Sustaining	\$30.00
Contributor	\$50.00
Benefactor	\$70.00

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/](http://www.southernlepsoc.org/)

## INDEX

## Page

1. Life History Notes on the Frosted Flasher Skipper ( <i>Astrartes alardus</i> ) in Texas By Mike Rickard and Ronda Spink.....	1
2. Discovery of Silk.....	2
3. Observations on the Cecropia moth ( <i>Hylaphora ceropia</i> ) in Northern Florida by Marc C. Minno.....	4
4. Inland Colonies of the Eastern Pygmy Blue ( <i>Brephidium pseudofea insularus</i> ) Along the St. Johns River, Florida by Marc C. Minno and Jeffrey R. Slotten.....	6
5. Texas and Florida Tax Exemptions Granted by Joe Riddlebarger.....	8
6. Great Purple Hairstreak ( <i>Atlides halesus</i> ) Life History by Berry Nall.....	9
7. Donations - Many Thanks to the Following Members Who Have Contributed Thus Far to the SL Society Newsletter in 2011.....	10
8. Golden-Headed Scallopwing ( <i>Staphylus ceos</i> ) Life History by Berry Nall.....	11
9. Welcome to Our Newest Member.....	12
10. <i>Allotria elonympha</i> (Hübner, 1818)(Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in Louisiana by Vernon A. Brou Jr.....	13
11. <i>Chaetagnalea tremula</i> (Harvey, 1875)(Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in Louisiana by Vernon A. Brou Jr.....	15
12. Comments: Harry LeGrand on Craig W. Marks Article - "Into the Den at Harmon Den, No Lions, But You Will Find Tigers and Much More".....	17
13. Doing Something Para La Tierra by Paul Smith.....	18
14. Introducing Dr. James E. Hayden, New Curator of Lepidoptera for the Florida State Collection of Arthropods.....	20
15. Walt Whitman - American Poet, Journalist, Essayist "And a Fake Butterfly" by J. Barry Lombardini.....	21
16. More dangers of Lepping - From the Great West By Kelly Richers.....	23
17. <i>Nemoria lixaria</i> (Guenée, [1858])(Lepidoptera: Geometridae) in Louisiana by Vernon A. Brou Jr.....	25
18. The Occurrence of <i>Parrhasius m-album</i> (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) in Western Arkansas by David Rupe.....	27
19. Southern Lepidopterists at ButterflyFest 2010 by Jacqueline Y. Miller, Deborah L. Matthews, and Julieta Brambila.....	28
20. Chairman's Spring Field Meeting (A Note from Brian Scholtens).....	31
21. <i>Sphinx kalmiae</i> J.E. Smith 1797. A New Texas State Record by Ed Knudson & Charles Bordelon.....	32
22. A Butterfly of a Different Color by Craig W. Marks.....	33
23. Reports of State Coordinators.....	36

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*



## OBSERVATIONS ON THE CECROPIA MOTH (*HYLAPHORA CECROPIA*) IN NORTHERN FLORIDA

BY  
MARC C. MINNO

The Cecropia moth is one of the least common giant silkmoths (Saturniidae) in Florida. Kimball (1965) said it was "apparently rare" and listed locations in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Gadsden, Baker, and Alachua counties. Since moving to Gainesville in 1984, I have found only a few cocoons of the Cecropia moth in the wild in Florida and have never found a caterpillar. On 14 December 1985 I located a Cecropia cocoon attached to the lower trunk of a wild cherry (*Prunus serotina*: Rosaceae) about 6 inches in diameter in Levy County along County Road 337 just north of State Road 121. The adult specimen is now in the McGuire Center collection. The habitat at this site was

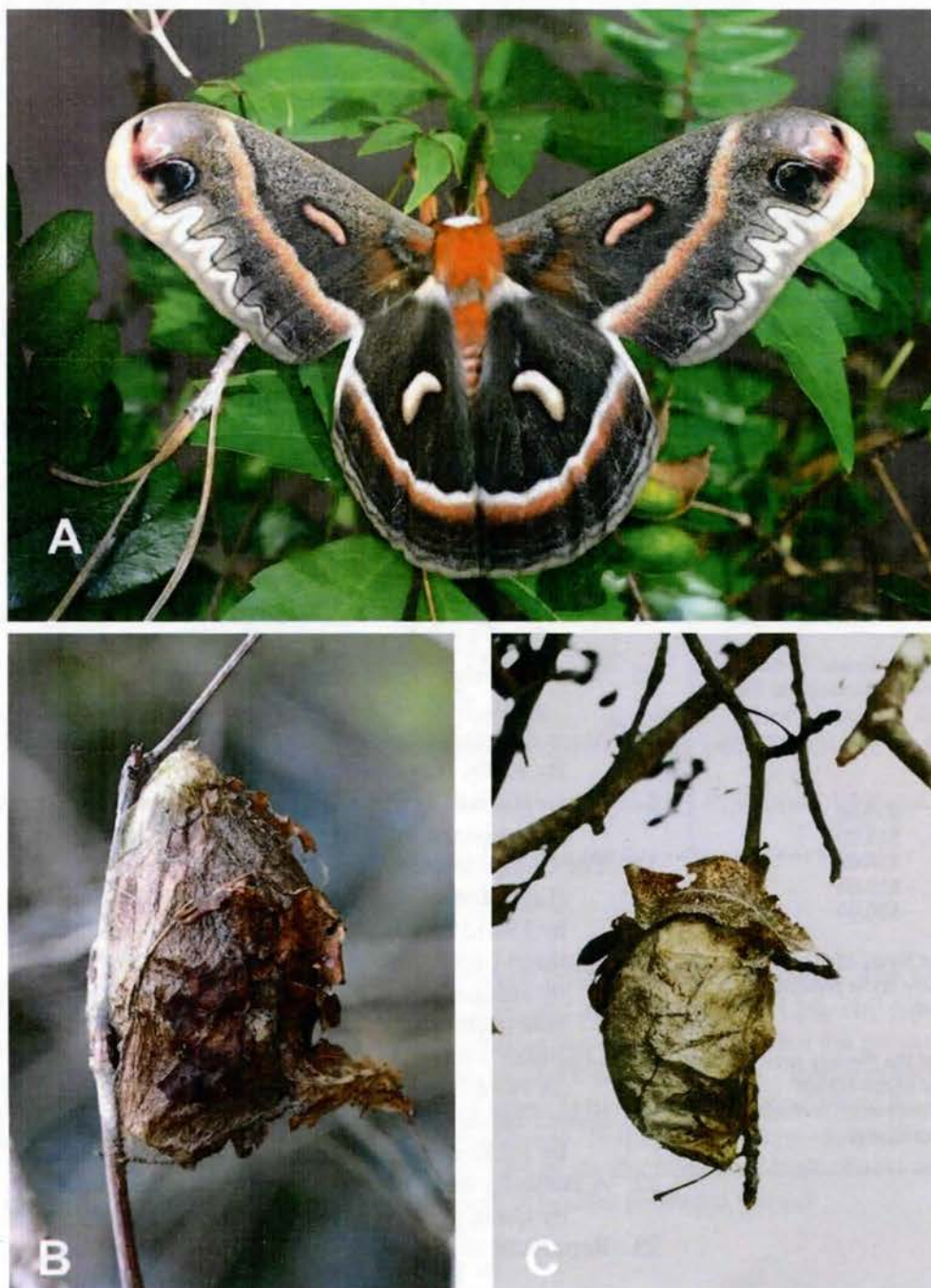


Fig. 1. Cecropia moth and cocoons from Putnam County, Florida: male found at a gas station in Melrose, Putnam Co., March 25, 2007 (A), cocoon on buttonbush (B) and cocoon on swamp tupelo (C) at Georges Lake boat ramp, March 18, 2010.



longleaf pine-turkey oak sandhills. Wild cherry is a common tree that grows in upland forests, along fencelines, hedges, roadsides, and old fields in Florida.

I have also found *Cecropia* moths at several sites in Putnam County. In the late 1990s I found a cocoon at the Katharine Ordway Preserve on an undetermined shrub in marshy habitat along the southern shore of Lake Enslow. On February 20, 2005, I found two hatched cocoons on red chokeberry (*Photinia pyrifolia* formerly *Aronia pyrifolia*: Rosaceae) growing at the edge of a bay swamp on Murphy Island in the St. Johns River south of Palatka. Red chokeberry grows on seepage slopes in northern Florida. In March 2007 I found an adult male on the side of the Kangaroo convenience store in Melrose while filling my car with gas (Fig. 1). On March 18, 2010, I found several cocoons at the boat ramp at the northern end of Georges Lake (not to be confused with Lake George) in north-central Putnam County (Fig. 1). One was located about 7-feet above the water at the tip of a branch of a mature swamp tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica* var. *biflora*: Cornaceae) at the edge of the lake. Nearby I located two more in a buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*: Rubiaceae) at the edge of the boat channel leading to the lake. All of these plants are widely distributed and common in northern Florida.

I do not know if the larvae actually ate these plants, or if they were merely places where the caterpillars decided to spin cocoons. Kimball (1965) cited observations of larvae on plum, pecan, and hickory. Collins and Weast (1961) listed buttonbush, elderberry, willow, alder, boxelder, wild cherry, wild plum, and pecan as host plants. Tietz (1972) compiled an extensive list of host plants for the *Cecropia* moth, but Ferguson (1972) indicated that *Acer negundo*, wild cherries and wild Plums (*Prunus* species), apple (*Pyrus* species), willow (*Salix* species), lilac (*Syringa* species), green ash (*Fraxinus pensylvanica* var. *subintegerrima*), wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) and American elm (*Ulmus americana*) were favorites. Ferguson also noted that food preferences may vary locally, and that although pecan and plum have been mentioned as common hosts in the south, in the vicinity of McClellanville, South Carolina, the cocoons are nearly always in *Myrica cerifera*. Tuskes et al. (1996) state "Throughout its range *cecropia* shows a preference for maples (especially box elder, *Acer negundo*, and sugar maple, *A. saccharinum*); *Prunus*, especially wild cherries and plums; apples (*Malus*); birch and alder (*Betulaceae*); dogwoods (*Cornus*: *Cornaceae*); and willows (*Salix*). ... Overall, *cecropia* does not seem to be a regional specialist, although in coastal South Carolina it prefers wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) (Ferguson, 1972)."

A number of years ago, Dave Baggett gave me some *Cecropia* eggs and told me that wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) would be a good host. Sure enough they thrived on wax myrtle leaves. Jeff Slotten has operated a walk-in light trap in the woods behind his house in northwestern Gainesville (Blues Creek development) nearly every night for more than ten years. He has found one or two adult *Cecropia* moths (usually males) in the trap nearly every year, but has never found larvae or cocoons in the area. 2010 was an exceptional year in that he found nine adults including a female in the light trap. The female laid eggs and he reared the larvae first on wax myrtle, but they did poorly so he switched them to Carolina willow (*Salix caroliniana*), which they ate readily.

#### Literature Cited

- Collins, M. M. and R. D. Weast., 1961. *Wild silk moths of the United States: Saturniinae. Experimental studies and observations of natural living habits and relationships.* Collins Radio Company, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. 138 pp.
- Ferguson, D. C., 1972. *Bombycoidea, Saturniidae, comprising subfamilies Hemileucinae (conclusion), Saturniinae.* In: R. B. D. Dominick et al. eds., *The Moths of America North of Mexico, Fascicle 20.2B.* E. W. Classey Limited and R. B. D. Publications, Inc., London, United Kingdom. 155-275 pp., 22 plates, xxi pp.
- Kimball, C. P., Jr., 1965. *The Lepidoptera of Florida: An annotated checklist.* Florida Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, Gainesville. 363 pp. 26 plates.
- Tietz, H. M., 1972. *An index to the described life histories, early stages and hosts of the Macrolepidoptera of the continental United States and Canada.* Allyn Museum of Entomology, Sarasota, Florida. Volume 1. 536 pp.
- Tuskes, P. M., J. P. Tuttle, M. M. Collins, and drawings by M. A. Tuttle, 1996. *The wild silk moths of North America: A natural history of the Saturniidae of the United States and Canada.* Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. ix and 250 pp., 30 plates.

(Marc Minno, E-Mail: [mminno@bellsouth.net](mailto:mminno@bellsouth.net))

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*



INLAND COLONIES OF THE EASTERN PYGMY BLUE  
(*BREPHIDIUM PSEUDOFEA INSULARUS*)  
ALONG THE ST. JOHNS RIVER, FLORIDA

BY

MARC C. MINNO AND JEFFREY R. SLOTTEN

The Eastern Pygmy Blue butterfly is a salt marsh species typically found in coastal areas of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina (Brock and Kaufman, 2003). This butterfly does not occur in just any type of salt marsh, but in hyper-saline areas called salt flats. These places are so salty that only a few kinds of plants with special physiology can survive. Salt flats tend to be dominated by succulent plants, several of which are eaten by Eastern Pygmy Blue caterpillars (Rawson, 1961; Minno *et al.*, 2005). In addition, the caterpillars are tended by certain ants (Harvey and Longino, 1989), and the distribution of these ants may limit that of the butterfly.



Fig. 1. Inland salt marsh habitats along the St. Johns River, Florida, A) salt flat at Willow Cove on the southeastern side of Lake George, Volusia County, March 25, 2008 (photo by M. C. Minno), B) zonation along a salt water gradient from salt flat with Perennial Glasswort, to salt marsh with Sand Cordgrass, and swamp with dwarf Red Maples at Hitchens Island, southern Lake George, Volusia County, March 26, 2008 (photo by M. C. Minno), and C) Mullett Lake, Seminole County, June 15, 2008 (photo by J. R. Slotten).

Pygmy blues are also found in coastal areas of Cuba, Isle of Pines, Jamaica, the Bahamas, and Hispaniola (Riley, 1975; Hernández, 2004). The Cayman Islands have an endemic subspecies (Riley, 1975; Askew and Stafford, 2008), and Clench (1943) described an endemic subspecies from Great Inagua island in the southern Bahamas. The Western Pygmy Blue occurs in salt marshes as well as dry weedy places in the southwestern US, southward into South America.

There is great confusion regarding whether one species of *Brephidium*, or two, are present in North America and the West Indies (Opler and Warren, 2003). The Western Pygmy Blue was first described in 1852 by Boisduval as *Lycaena exilis*. Herrich-Schäffer (1862) used the name *isophthalma* for the Cuban population. Morrison (1873) described *Lycaena pseudofea* from Key West, Florida. In 1876 Scudder renamed the genus *Brephidium*. Various combinations of these names have been used by authors over the years to refer to the Eastern Pygmy Blue. In 1999 Pavulaan and Gatrell described a new subspecies of the Eastern Pygmy Blue from coastal South Carolina and northwestern Florida (Levy County) which they named *Brephidium isophthalma insularus*. In this article, we follow Pelham (2008) in calling this butterfly *Brephidium pseudofea insularus*.

The southern limits of *Brephidium pseudofea insularus* in Florida have not been determined. This would be a great project for someone to investigate. Most surprising, however, is that this tiny butterfly occurs in small, isolated salt marsh habitats inland from the coast along the St. Johns River. Little has been written on these inland salt marshes and few people are



aware that they exist. In this article we discuss observations of *Brephidium pseudofea insularus* from salt flats along the St. Johns River.

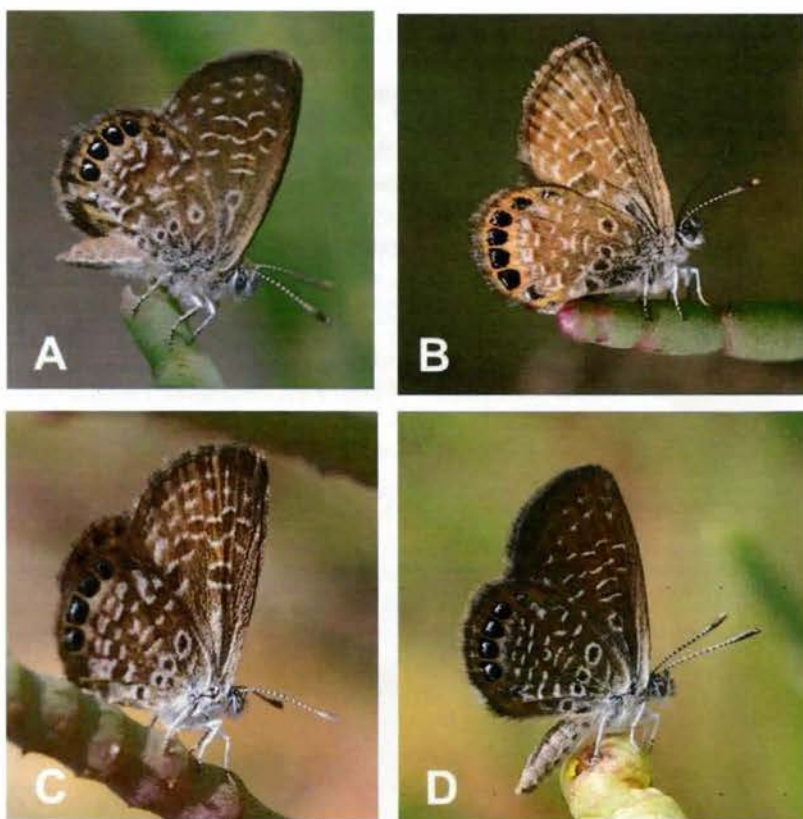


Fig. 2. Eastern Pygmy Blue butterflies from inland salt flats along the St. Johns River A) *Brephidium pseudofea insularus* at Hitchens Island, March 26, 2008 (photo by M. C. Minno), B) another adult at Hitchens Island (photo by M. C. Minno), C) an adult at Mullett Lake Park, June 15, 2008 (photo by J. R. Sloten), and D) another adult at Mullett Lake Park (photo by J. R. Sloten).

succulent plants such as Perennial Glasswort (*Sarcocornia ambigua*, formerly called *Salicornia perennis*) and Seapurslane (*Sesuvium portulacastrum*) grow in the salt flats. Perennial Glasswort is the larval host plant for the Eastern Pygmy Blue along the St. Johns River, and adults often perch on this plant.

Rick Gillmore previously reported in Southern Lepidopterists' News that Terry Moore had visited Mullett Lake Park, Seminole County, in May of 2008 and found a sizeable colony of *Brephidium pseudofea* (Covell, 2008). Rick Gillmore and Jeff Sloten visited this site on June 15, 2008, and found a number of adults of the Eastern Pygmy Blue and Perennial Glasswort (Fig. 1 and 2).

Water levels in the St. Johns River vary several feet seasonally. During the wettest times, the river overflows its banks and many of the salt marshes become shallowly flooded. Rick Gillmore mentioned to us that the St. Johns River flooded about a year after Terry's initial find at Mullet Lake Park. When Terry revisited the site after the flooding had subsided, he still found adults in good numbers. Eastern Pygmy Blue larvae have adaptations to escape drowning (McManus, 2009) since many of the coastal salt marshes are flooded by high tides.

Marc Minno found colonies of *Brephidium pseudofea insularus* on the eastern and southern sides of Lake George in Volusia County at Willow Cove, Lake George Conservation Area (March 25, 2008) and Hitchens Island (March 19 and 26, 2008) (Fig. 1 and 2). Salt marshes with Perennial Glasswort occur on public conservation lands at Buck Lake Conservation Area (Volusia and Brevard counties), Seminole Ranch Conservation Area (Seminole County), Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area (Brevard County), St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge (Brevard County), and Canaveral Marshes Conservation Area (Brevard County). These areas need to be checked for the Eastern Pygmy Blue. As with all public lands in Florida, permits need to be acquired from the proper authorities before any collections can be made.

The St. Johns River begins in the freshwater marshes around Blue Cypress Lake in Indian River County and flows northward through a series of shallow lakes. The river empties into the ocean at Jacksonville Beach in Duval County. The St. Johns River experiences slight tidal fluctuations from its mouth southward to about Deland in central Florida. During drought years and after storms which blow ocean water upstream, this part of the river may flow backwards!

In central areas of the St. Johns River, upwelling of salty groundwater creates local patches of salt marsh habitat. Salt Springs on the northwestern side of Lake George in Ocala National Forest is a famous site with salty water. However, most of the inland salt marshes do not have springs. Salt marshes and salt flats occur in a few places at Lake George, but are most extensive and well-developed along parts of the river and associated tributaries from Lake Jesup southward to Lake Poinsett.

The vegetation of the inland salt marshes often consists of Sand Cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*) with dwarf Red Maples (*Acer rubrum*) at the edges. Saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), Seashore Dropseed (*Sporobolus virginicus*), and

## Literature Cited

- Askew, R. R. and P. A. van B. Stafford, 2008. *Butterflies of the Cayman Islands*. Apollo Books, Stenstrup, Denmark. 169 pp, 6 color plates.
- Boisduval, J. B. A. D. de., 1852. Lépidoptères de la Californie. *Annales de la Société entomologique de France* (2) 10 (2):275-324.
- Brock, J. P. and K. Kaufman, 2003. *Butterflies of North America*. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York. 384 pp.
- Clench, H. K., 1943. The Lycaenidae of the Bahama Islands (Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera). *Psyche* 49(3/4):52-60.
- Covell, C. V., Jr., 2008. Reports of state coordinators: Florida. *Southern Lepidopterists' News* 30(3):112.
- Harvey, D. J. and J. Longino, 1989. Myrmecophily and larval food plants of *Brephidium isophthalma pseudofea* (Lycaenidae) in the Florida Keys. *Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society* 43:332-333.
- Hernández, L. R., 2004. *Field Guide of Cuban – West Indian Butterflies*. Published by the author, Maracaibo, Venezuela. 269 pp. + 31 color plates + 10 pp.
- Herrich-Schäffer, G. A. W., 1862. *Schmetterlinge aus Cuba*. Correspondenz-Blatt des zoologisch-minerologischen Vereines in Regensburg.
- McManus, V. C., 2009. *The biology of the Eastern Pygmy Blue butterfly, Brephidium pseudofea* (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae): Physiological adaptations to an intertidal environment. Master of Science Thesis, Department of Entomology, University of Florida, Gainesville.
- Minno, M. C., J. F. Butler, and D. W. Hall, 2005. *Florida Butterfly Caterpillars and Their Host Plants*. University Press of Florida, Gainesville. 341 pp.
- Morrison, H. K., 1873. XVII. Notes on North American Lepidoptera. *Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural History* 1:186-189.
- Opler, P. A. and A. D. Warren, 2003. *Butterflies of North America. 2. Scientific names list for butterfly species of North America, north of Mexico*. Available at [http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/old\\_site/uasm//Opler&Warren.pdf](http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/old_site/uasm//Opler&Warren.pdf)
- Pavulaan, H. and R. R. Gatrell, 1999. A new subspecies of *Brephidium isophthalma* (Lycaenidae:Polyommatainae) from coastal South Carolina. *Taxonomic Report of the International Lepidoptera Survey* 1(7):1-4.
- Pelham, J., 2008. A catalogue of the butterflies of the United States and Canada with a complete bibliography of the descriptive and systematic literature. *Journal of Research on the Lepidoptera* 40:xiv + 658 pp.
- Rawson, G. W., 1961. The early stages of *Brephidium pseudofea* (Morrison) (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae). *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 69:88-91.
- Riley, N. D., 1975. *A Field Guide to the Butterflies of the West Indies*. Demeter Press, Boston, Massachusetts. 224 pp. and 24 plates.
- Scudder, S. H., 1876. Synonymic list of the butterflies of North America, north of Mexico. Part 2, Rurales. *Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences* 3:98-104.

(Marc C. Minno, E-Mail: [mmino@bellsouth.net](mailto:mmino@bellsouth.net); Jeffrey R. Slotten, E-Mail: [jslotten@bellsouth.net](mailto:jslotten@bellsouth.net))

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

## TEXAS AND FLORIDA TAX EXEMPTIONS GRANTED

Joe Riddlebarger

The State of Texas has granted The Southern Lepidopterists' Society exemption from the collection or payment of sales taxes. Since the newsletter is printed in Texas this exemption will save the organization money on the cost of printing the newsletter. The exemption was granted on June 25, 2010, retroactive to March 2 but due to a mix up on the email address I did not receive the notification until December 27. Copies of the tax exemption forms have been sent to the Editor for his use beginning with the next issue.

The State of Florida granted a Consumer's Certificate of Exemption effective on March 2, 2010, for a period of five years. This certificate can be used for the purchase of mailing envelopes, supplies and refreshments provided at meetings or for any other taxable purchases or leases when carrying on customary nonprofit activities. Contact Jeff Slotten to obtain a copy of the certificate for tax exempt purchases.

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



## GREAT PURPLE HAIRSTREAK (*ATLIDES HALESUS*) LIFE HISTORY

BY  
BERRY NALL

I collected a female Great Purple Hairstreak on February 27, 2010. I put her in a screened cage with mistletoe (*Phoradendron tomentosum*), and by the next afternoon she had laid two eggs. I wanted a few more eggs, but it was very windy and cool (60-70°F). I put her under a lamp in a jar with food and mistletoe. Two hours later she had deposited another dozen eggs.

The first two eggs eclosed on March 9<sup>th</sup>; the rest on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The caterpillars blended well with the mistletoe leaves, but the airy structure of the plant made the caterpillars relatively easy to find and care for.



Eggs, 1-III-2010



Recently emerged caterpillar, 9-III-2010



Communal pupation



11-III-2010



14-III-2010

The caterpillars took what seemed a long time to pupate: the chrysalis was formed fully 2 days after the larva entered the prepupal stage. Interestingly, several caterpillars in the same container grouped together for pupation. (Unfortunately for the quality of the picture, they did this on the paper towel used to catch frass....)

Since the hairstreak's chrysalis is dark brown, one would expect that in nature the caterpillar moves from parasitic mistletoe to that plant's host tree before pupating. The dark color of the chrysalis also prevented me from determining when the adult was ready to emerge.

Egg-to-adult took approximately 6 weeks for this group of caterpillars.



18-III-2010



23-III-2010

[Our thanks to Berry Nall for allowing the Southern Lepidopterists' Society to publish the life history of the Great Purple Hairstreak in their Newsletter. Mr. Nall's website can be found at Berry's Butterfly Photos <<http://leps.thenalls.net/index.php>> – The Editor.]

(Photographs of the Great Purple hairstreak continue on the next page)





Mature caterpillar, 27-III-2010



Prepupal caterpillar, 29-III-2010



Chrysalis, 31-III-2010

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*



Fresh Great Purple Hairstreak, 13-IV-2010

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

**DONATIONS - MANY THANKS  
TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED  
THUS FAR (January - March) TO THE  
SL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER IN 2011**

Bob Belmont (Benefactor)

Nell Ahl

William Lindemann (Sustaining)

Charlie Covell (Sustaining)

Ed Knudson (Contributor)

Charles Bordelon (Contributor)

Pierre Howard

Dean and Sally Jue

Joe Riddlebarger (Sustaining)

John Snyder (Sustaining)

Bill Houtz (Sustaining)

Ferrell Marks (Contributor)

Kelly Richers (Sustaining)

Gary Anweiler

Jean Evoy (Contributor)

Mark DeGrove (Sustaining)

Ben Williams (Contributor)

John Vernon

Lawrence Hribar

Tom Neal (Contributor)

Robert Patterson (Contributor)

Buck &amp; Linda Cooper (Sustaining)

John Peacock (Sustaining)

Barbara Peterson (Sustaining)

Kilian Roeber (Sustaining)

Scott Wehrly (Contributor)

Dave Iftner (Contributor)

Bill Conner (Sustaining)

Hugh Wyatt (Sustaining)

Jon Turner (Benefactor)

Jeffrey Belth

Mack Shotts (Benefactor)

Maury Heiman (Sustaining level)



GOLDEN - HEADED SCALLOPWING (*STAPHYLUS CEOS*) LIFE HISTORY

BY

BERRY NALL

The first Golden-headed Scallopwing (*Staphylus ceos*) I raised was quite a surprise. In early April, 2010, I collected several caterpillars that I supposed to be Common Sootywings (*Pholisora catullus*), one from a Pigweed (*Amaranthus*). To my surprise, when the *Amaranthus* caterpillar emerged, it was a *ceos*! Unfortunately, since I had not looked closely enough to see differences in the larvae, I didn't realize I had a different species and I didn't get good pictures of this caterpillar.



Egg, 9-V-2009



Recently emerged caterpillar, 13-V-2010

Meanwhile, I had found a skipper caterpillar on a sunflower leaf. After a couple of days, that caterpillar had not eaten and looked bad. I offered it the *Amaranthus*, and it began to thrive. This skipper also proved to be a *ceos*, and I did get photos of it for comparison to *catullus* caterpillars. Differences I could see included a wider neck collar with flat bottoms, and black spots between the halves of the collar. Also, the hairs on the face seemed longer and appeared to have a golden tinge. The caterpillar is shown in the picture labeled Photo #6; the distinguishing features can be seen in the next two photos of the study caterpillar.



Note body is deep green, 18-V-2010

During April I raised several more *catullus* skippers in an effort to find more *ceos*, to no avail.

In early May, Cat Traylor and Jan and David Dauphin were on a ranch in another part of Starr County; they reported observing Golden-headed Scallopwings oviposit on Pitseed Goosefoot, *Chenopodium berlandieri*. Inspired by this report, I gathered 10 skipper eggs from Goosefoot. The Dauphins graciously sent me photos of eggs of both *catullus* and *ceos*, and noted that the latter were more reddish. However, the eggs I gathered were any number of shades of reddish tan, and I could not see significant structural differences. I did notice one potential identifier in the first instar: *catullus* collars are usually brownish; the *ceos*' was black. But this may not be consistent.



20-V-2010

From the 10 eggs, I ended up with 3 skippers. Some of the eggs never eclosed; two eggs apparently were parasitized (something emerged, but it wasn't a caterpillar); and one caterpillar died shortly after it emerged. Fortunately, one of those skippers was a Golden-headed Scallopwing, and it is featured in the photo essay to the right (and next page). The photos that were chosen were picked, in part, to highlight the variation in body color throughout the development of the caterpillar. At times it was deep green; at other times it had the mottled yellow-green coloration of a *catullus* caterpillar. As a result, I was not confident I had a *ceos* until the collar was fully developed in later instars.



Mature caterpillar, 24-V-2010



The caterpillar took 14 days to pupate; the adult emerged 7 days later.



Photo #6; a second caterpillar, 10-IV-2010



Mature face: hairs long,  
golden tinge



Collar: broad, flat bottom,  
freckles



Prepupal caterpillar, 26-V-2010



Fresh chrysalis, 27-V-2010



Chrysalis, 31-V-2010

[Our thanks to Berry Nall for allowing the Southern Lepidopterists' Society to publish the life history of the Golden-headed Scallopwing in their Newsletter. Mr. Nall's website can be found at Berry's Butterfly Photos <<http://leps.thenalls.net/index.php>> – The Editor.]



Fresh Golden-headed Scallopwing, 2-VI-2010

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

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

**Jon A. Lewis**  
308 Fieldcrest Road  
Bristol, TN 37620-4509



# *ALLOTRIA ELONYMPHA* (HÜBNER, 1818) (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE) IN LOUISIANA

BY  
VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.



Fig. 1. Louisiana phenotype variations of *Allotria elonympha*, males and females.

The well recognized, variably marked, and quite common noctuid moth *Allotria elonympha* (Hübner) (Fig. 1.) was previously recorded for the state of Louisiana by Chapin and Callahan (1967). At the Abita Springs study site (Fig. 2), adults have been captured nearly every day from the second week of February to the second week of October. There are six annual broods, the first peaking at the very end of March, and all subsequent broods at about 32-day intervals as displayed in a multi-year composite phenogram (Fig. 2).

This species is quite common at both fermenting fruit bait traps and ultraviolet light traps, though by far, the largest quantities of adults are attracted to bait traps containing combinations of any of the following: fermented fruit (apples, pears, peaches), bananas, beer, sugar, cane syrup, and molasses.

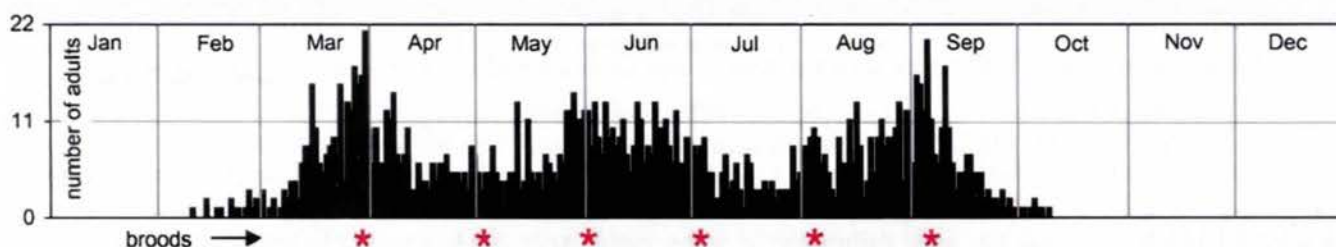


Fig. 2. Adult *A. elonympha* captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE of Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 1488.



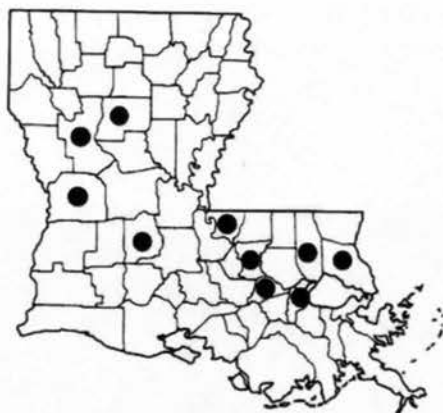


Fig. 3. Parish records for  
*A. elonympha*.

Barnes and McDunnough (1918) stated regarding *elonympha* the "species is quite variable in the amount of white suffusion on the primaries". This attribute is illustrated by the examples from Louisiana in Fig. 1. These same authors stated *elonympha* is double-brooded, and the range includes: southern Ontario, Wisconsin and Iowa, the southern New England States along the Atlantic Coast to North Carolina and westward to the Ohio Valley Region to the Mississippi River. These authors illustrated three phenotypes of *elonympha*, one of which they called "fairly typical" and two of which were labeled "variety". Such a statement would make one conjecture that they only had three specimens before them to base such a statement.

Covell (1984) stated *elonympha* is common to abundant and the range to include southern Maine to Florida, west to south Missouri and Texas, occurring (adults) March through September.

At the Abita Springs study site, *Nyssa sylvatica* Marsh. (common names for varieties: blackgum, sourgum, swampgum) is one of the host foodplants listed for *elonympha* and occurs throughout the area. *Nyssa aquatica* L. (aka Tupelo, Tupelogum, and Water Tupelo) is also abundant in Louisiana, especially in swampy areas and stream bottoms (Brown, 1945). Both Covell (1984) and Heppner (2003) also listed the host foodplants to include *Juglans* sp. and *Carya* sp.

Grote (1882) listed after the genus *Catocala* Shrank *elonympha* under the genus *Allotria* Hübner. Later, Smith (1891) placed *elonympha* at the beginning of his species listings under the genus *Catocala*, not under *Allotria*. Heitzman (1987) does not list or mention *elonympha* for Missouri.

Forbes (1954) refers to *Allotria* as "An odd genus, superficially much like *Catocala*...". Both Forbes and Covell mention the black orbicular dot on the forewing of *elonympha* as "unlike *Catocala*" or an attribute which distinguishes this species from true *Catocala*.

The parish records for *elonympha* are illustrated in Fig.3.

#### Literature Cited

- Barnes, WM and J. McDunnough, 1918. *Illustrations of the North American species of the genus Catocala*. Mem. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. New Series, Vol. III, part 1.
- Brown, C.A., 1945. *Louisiana Trees and Shrubs*. Louisiana Forestry Comm. Bulletin No.1, 262 pp. Baton Rouge.
- Chapin, J.B. and Philip S. Callahan, 1967. A list of the Noctuidae (Lepidoptera, Insecta) collected in the vicinity of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. *Proc. La. Acad. Sci.* 30: 39-48.
- Covell, Jr., C.V., 1984. *A Field Guide to the Moths of Eastern North America*. The Peterson Field Guide Series No. 30. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. xv + 496pp., 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.
- Grote, Aug. R., (1882). *New Check List of North American Moths*. New York Entomological Club. pp. 73.
- Heitzman, J. R. & J. E. Heitzman, 1987. *Butterflies and Moths of Missouri*. Missouri Dept. of Conservation, 385 pp.
- Heppner, J.B., 2003. *Arthropods of Florida and neighboring land areas*, vol. 17: Lepidoptera of Florida, Div. Plant Industry, Fla. Dept. Agr. & Consum. Serv., Gainesville. x + 670 pp., 55 plates.
- Smith, John B., 1858-1912. (1891). *List of the Lepidoptera of Boreal America*. American Entomological Soc., Philadelphia, pp. 124.

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

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

#### DEFINITION:

*Digoneutic* - having two broods in one year, bivoltine.



*CHAETAGLAEA TREMULA* (HARVEY, 1875)  
(LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE) IN LOUISIANA

BY

VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

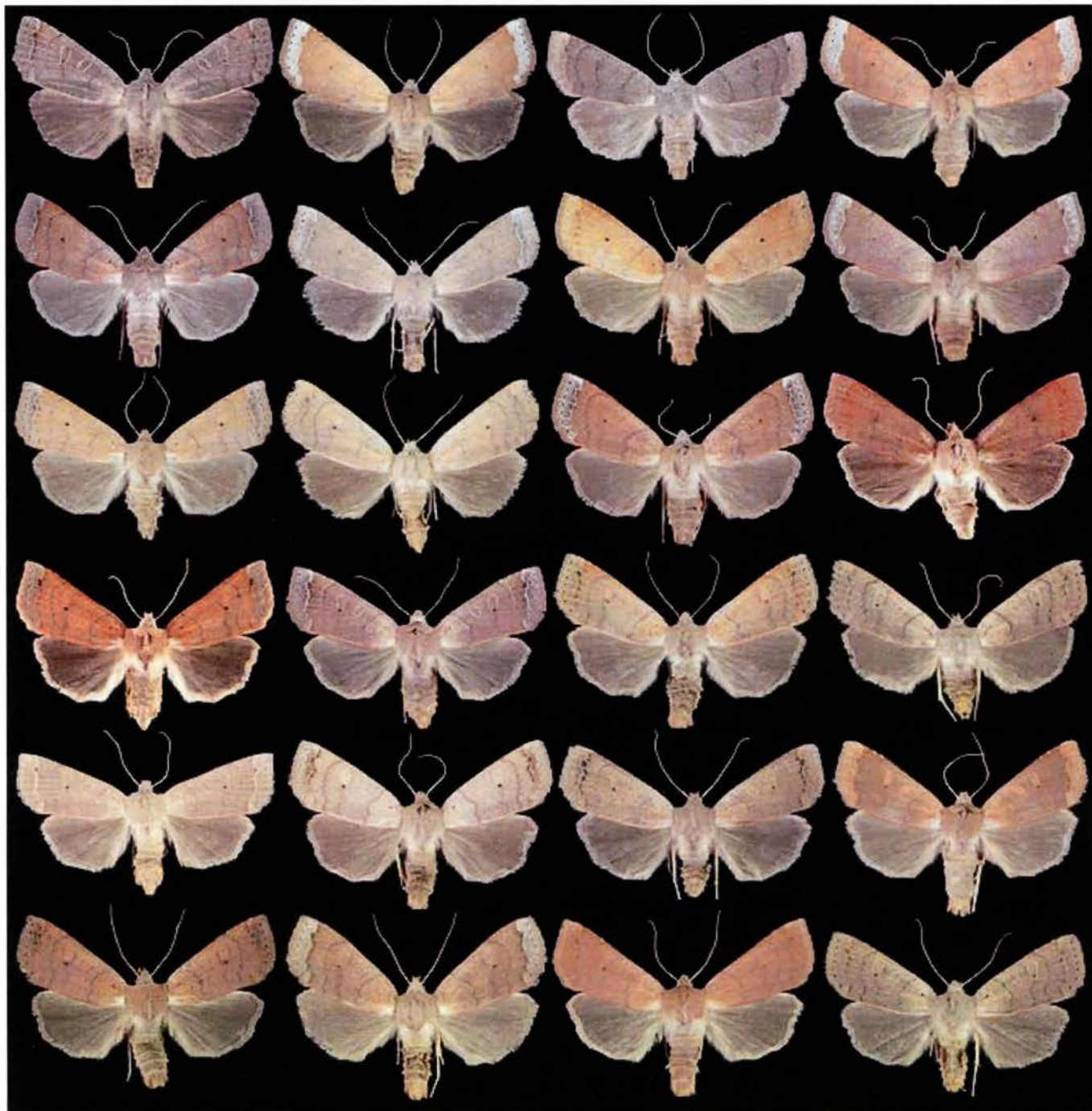


Fig. 1. *Chaetagnalea tremula* phenotypes.

Previously, I reported on the winter moth *Chaetagnalea tremula* (Harvey) (Fig.1) as newly recorded for Louisiana (Brou, 1997) in a paper describing the new species *Chaetagnalea fergusonii* Brou. The adults of the highly variable *tremula* from Louisiana have not been previously illustrated and I now present a selection of 44 adults (Figs. 1 and 2) captured at a single location, sec.24,T6,SR12E, 4.2mi. NE of Abita Springs, Louisiana. Both males and females display numerous shades of brown and tan wing colors, some with purplish hues and faint maculation. *C. tremula* exhibits much greater variations in color and maculation than the other two species of *Chaetagnalea* present in Louisiana.



Fig. 2. *Chaetagnalea tremula* phenotypes.Fig. 3. Adult *Chaetagnalea tremula* captured in Louisiana. n = 336.Fig. 4. Parish records for *C. tremula*

In Brou (1997), I presented the flight periods of adults for three of the *Chaetagnalea* species known to occur in Louisiana: *Chaetagnalea sericea*, *fergusoni*, and *tremula*. An enhanced and more populated phenogram of the adult flight period for *tremula* is illustrated in Fig. 3. The parish records for *tremula* are illustrated in Fig. 4.

I thank Dale Schweitzer for commenting on this article.

#### Literature Cited

Brou Jr., V.A., 1997. A new *Chaetagnalea* from the southeastern United States. (Noctuidae: Cuculliinae), *Jour. Lepid. Soc.* 51:135-138.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*



## COMMENTS --

## HARRY LEGRAND WRITES THE FOLLOWING ON THE ARTICLE:

(SLS NEWS VOL. 32 NO. 4, 2010, PGS. 172-175)

**"INTO THE DEN AT HARMON DEN, NO LIONS,  
BUT YOU WILL FIND TIGERS AND MUCH MORE"**

BY CRAIG W. MARKS

I enjoyed Craig Marks' report on "Into the Den at Harmon Den ...", as I have been there on numerous occasions for butterfly observations, though mainly in the spring (when he was there). I have several things to add to his paper that readers of Southern Lepidopterists' News might want to read.

On page 175, he lamented that he made no observations on skippers and wondered what might have been there during his May 1-2 visits. Many readers probably are wondering what skippers he might have seen/overlooked. I have reviewed butterfly data collected by the N.C. Natural Heritage Program and the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, by using the search link on the Butterflies of North Carolina website. By entering "Haywood" in the County field, and "Harmon" in the Comments field, I got a long listing of butterflies seen along this road, including Craig's less common butterflies. Dates are also recorded, so I could easily see what skippers have been seen in the first part of May there. So, here is basically what Craig would have seen, based on my averaging the results:

Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*), 100-125 Dreamy Duskywing (*Erynnis icelus*), 10-25 Sleepy Duskywing (*E. brizo*), 10-20 Juvenal's Duskywing (*E. juvenalis*), 100-200 Wild Indigo Duskywing (*E. baptisiae*), 2-4 Pepper and Salt Skipper (*Amblyscirtes hegon*), 2-4

Some of these records are mine, and I can assure you, Silver-spotted Skippers and Juvenal's Duskywings are impossible to miss and are trash bugs at that time of year, though usually it is not hard to find Dreamies and Sleepies. Later in May, the Dreamies get very common, whereas the Sleepies, which peak in late April and early May, are scarce later in May. It might take some searching to find the other two above, but Pepper and Salt can usually be found, especially on the damp spots in the pull-offs and campground sites, as opposed to being on the main dirt road. If you are lucky, usually a week or two later, you could find an Indian Skipper (*Hesperia sassacus*), and if you are exceedingly lucky, possibly a Golden Banded-Skipper (*Autochton cellus*).

My other comment is that, yes, the road is excellent for Appalachian Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio appalachiensis*), though it always helps beginners or non-experts to have them at the same puddle as Eastern Tigers (*P. glaucus*) for comparison, as the former is about 50-60% larger, in addition to other marks. The same can be said for Appalachian Azure (*Celastrina neglectamajor*); it really helps in identification if a male is at the same wet spot as a Spring (*C. ladon*) or Summer Azure (*C. neglecta*). Of course, Appalachian Azures are noticeably larger than either of the other two. So -- my recommendation would have been to have specimens of BOTH Appalachian Tiger and Eastern Tiger side by side, rather than just Appalachian by itself (as in the photos on Page 173 and 175), and Appalachian Azure with one or both of the other azures side by side. The Appalachian specimen on Page 174 is by itself, so the reader must take it mostly on faith that it is indeed an Appalachian.

Hopefully, there will be another article or articles in the future that have specimens (or live individuals) side by side with confusing congeners. There are quite a few photos on websites that show both swallowtail species together, taking moisture at puddles in the North Carolina mountains; check websites of Will Cook, Jeff Phippen, and Ted Wilcox.

(Harry LeGrand, NC Natural Heritage Program, DENR Office of Planning, Conservation, and Community Affairs,  
1601 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601; (919) 715-8697 (work); E-Mail: [harry.legrand@ncdenr.gov](mailto:harry.legrand@ncdenr.gov))

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*



## DOING SOMETHING PARA LA TIERRA

BY  
PAUL SMITH

There is no doubting the importance of the Reserva Natural Laguna Blanca in Paraguay. Smack in the middle of the cerrado belt, one of the most threatened habitats in South America, the reserve is small but in just under 9 months of field work has demonstrated its big importance. In the field of herpetology alone, the scientific staff at Para La Tierra (PLT, [www.paralatierra.org](http://www.paralatierra.org)) and the volunteers that help them can already count amongst their achievements one new snake for Paraguay, another new snake not recorded in the country for over 50 years, a new frog for science and, just for good measure, what may well prove to be a new toad for science. But we are here to talk about Leps, so let me take the opportunity to fill you in on some of the more interesting recent discoveries in Lepidopterology from the reserve, the ongoing inventory work and how you can help out, if you want! First though, let's set the scene with a bit more about the Reserva Natural Laguna Blanca.

Situated in Departamento San Pedro, north-eastern Paraguay, Reserva Laguna Blanca is somewhere near the centre of South America. Its fascinating mix of Atlantic Forest, transitional dry forest and cerrado (South American grassland) contribute towards a unique faunal diversity that have led to it being declared an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International (on account of 12 globally threatened species calling it home) and just last year made a "Reserva Natural" by the Paraguayan government. With a crystal clear lake and white sand beach (it's called Laguna Blanca because you can see the white sandy lake bed from the air) it is a natural paradise, and despite its small size (somewhere in the region of 800ha) it is clearly of great importance for conservation.



*Rothschildia* (photograph by John T. Smit)<sup>(1)</sup>

As part of the declaration as a reserve, the non-profit, non-governmental research organisation Para La Tierra was established. With a permanent staff of professional scientists and a constant stream of volunteers and academic interns to help them out, their remit is to study the flora and fauna of the reserve year round and to establish links with communities to generate local understanding and instill pride in this natural gem. In addition to behavioural studies on specific species, the early work of PLT is to thoroughly inventory all the major animal groups, establishing species lists and a small educational museum. Hardly any previous studies have been carried out at Laguna Blanca, and with its location at the intersection of some of the most biodiverse habitats on the continent, it should

come as no surprise that their early findings have been of such considerable importance.

Still in its early stages the Lepidoptera inventory is focusing initially on two groups of moths, the hawkmoths (Sphingidae) and the emperor moths (Saturniidae). These two groups have been chosen because they are "sexy" (in moth terms anyway) and their large size and eye-catching appearance makes them good candidates for educational and promotional work. In our experience showing somebody a *Rothschildia* is likely to get a "wow, that's cool! What is it?" type of response. Showing somebody a Pyralid is likely to get a "eugh! is that some kind of mosquito?; Pass me my fly swatter!" type of response. It also helps that these two families are amongst the more "well-known" of the South American moths, meaning that we have a decent shot at identifying them without the need for specialist assistance, dissected genitals and a massive comparative collection.

The beauty of being located permanently at the reserve is that PLT has a unique opportunity to perform long-term studies on the wildlife. For a variety of reasons (most related to money!) such studies are rare in South America, and in Paraguay no such long-term studies have ever been performed. Couple that with the fact that South American Lepidopterans are in general understudied, and there is a huge opportunity to contribute something worthwhile to the scientific databank of our fluttery friends. Note that in the previous paragraph I described Sphingids and Saturniids



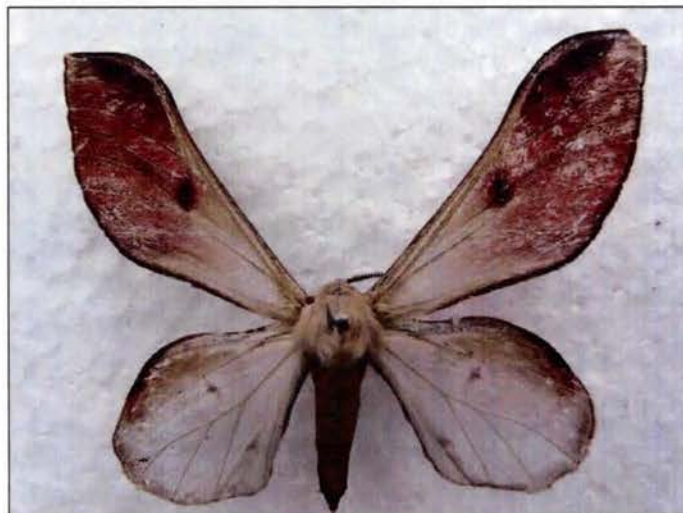
*Catharisa cerina* (photograph by Paul Smith)*Titaea orsinome* (photograph by Karina Atkinson)<sup>(2)</sup>

as "well-known" when compared to other South American moths. The speech marks were no accident, for much of what we know about many species is based only on short collecting trips, and consists of little more than a name, a place and a date. When it comes to proposing effective conservation measures for these handsome beasts, clearly we are well short of what we need to know!

So let's give an example of why long term studies are much more important than short collecting trips for these moth groups. In an earlier article for SLN (Finding Cath, SLN Volume 31 NO. 1 pp. 23-25, 2009) I talked about the rediscovery of the gorgeously yellow Saturniid moth *Catharisa cerina* at Laguna Blanca, a species that had been lost in the scientific wilderness for some 70 or more years. Since that article was published PLT workers have found it again, in the same place on almost exactly the same date. This time they have collected specimens and managed to get gravid females to lay eggs, though they were unsuccessful in finding the correct food plant on which to rear the larvae.

*Megaceresa pulchra* (photograph by Paul Smith)

The preliminary conclusion therefore is that Cath has a single flight per year, but that it is not as uncommon as records suggest. Like many other Saturniids it exhibits an explosive breeding system in which adults appear for a short time in order to reproduce. If it is a localised species with a short flight time, it is hardly surprising that so few specimens exist using the "short collecting trip" method. Finding it would be like finding a needle in a haystack - as my luck at stumbling across it essentially was. Now for the first time there exists the opportunity to study and document the life cycle of this species in full, and begin to understand a little more about its ecological requirements. In the not so distant future Cath's habits may no longer be such a mystery.

*Almeidaia aidae* (photograph by Karina Atkinson)<sup>(2)</sup>

Nor is Cath an isolated case. The same is true for a number of other rare Saturniid moths that have appeared at Laguna Blanca. Take for example the handsome *Titaea orsinome*, known from just 2 previous records in Paraguay but found to be common at Laguna Blanca, the frankly breathtaking *Megaceresa pulchra* only the second



record for Paraguay and the remarkable appearance of *Almeidaia aidae*, a species previously known from just 2 locations in Mato Grosso, Brazil, but now confirmed as present in Paraguay as well. All of these species have limited periods of activity and distributions tied to the rarely explored cerrado region that have contributed to a perhaps (or perhaps not!) undeserved reputation for rareness. How many other species are we just missing by not being in the right place at the right time? And how many other species are we failing to conserve effectively by just not knowing enough about them? It's shocking how little we know about even these large moths. Oh yes, and this is the point where I ask you to remember that we are talking about the "well-known" Saturniidae here.

Clearly there is a hell of a lot to be done just with moths and, with a whole more on their plate, PLT relies on volunteers both to help with the fieldwork and to keep financially viable. If you have an interest in butterflies and moths and are looking to contribute to something worthwhile in a country that few people even dream of visiting, then check the PLT website out for opportunities ([www.paralatierra.org](http://www.paralatierra.org)). You don't need to be a specialist to be useful, though of course if you are a specialist you can be useful too! And if you have an interest in other Lepidopteran groups and are willing to get inventories off the ground for them, then our door is always open. So why not take the opportunity to be the first person to raise Cath to maturity? Be the lucky netter who finds the next new species for Paraguay? Or simply marvel at the deafening sounds of a thousand beating Sphingid wings that fill the air on a humid summer evening? Our record is 21 different hawkmoth species at the moth light on a single night! Beat that!

Note: All the photographs were taken at Laguna Blanca.

#### Sources

- 1) John T. Smit, <http://science.naturalis.nl/smitj>
- 2) Karina Atkinson, [www.paralatierra.org](http://www.paralatierra.org)

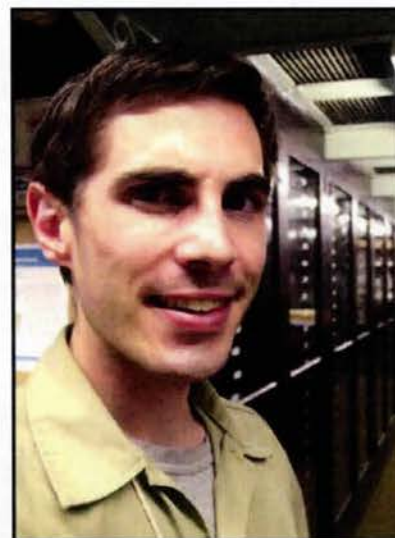
(Paul Smith, FAUNA Paraguay [www.faunaparaguay.com](http://www.faunaparaguay.com), [faunaparaguay@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:faunaparaguay@yahoo.com.ar),  
Para La Tierra [www.paralatierra.org](http://www.paralatierra.org), [paralatierra@ymail.com](mailto:paralatierra@ymail.com))

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

### INTRODUCING DR. JAMES E. HAYDEN, NEW CURATOR OF LEPIDOPTERA FOR THE FLORIDA STATE COLLECTION OF ARTHROPODS

Fellow members, please join me in welcoming the new FSCA Curator of Lepidoptera, Dr. James E. Hayden, to Florida and the McGuire Center. James received his Ph.D. in Entomology in 2010 from Cornell University, and he recently completed a Post Doc at the Carnegie Museum of Natural history with Dr. John Rawlins. James is originally from Maine, and he started to study Lepidoptera while finishing his B.S. at Columbia University in 2004. For his dissertation, he revised much of the crambid subfamily Odontiinae. James will begin his position on 4 March 2011 taking over for Dr. John B. Heppner, who retired last March but remains with us as a McGuire associate, continuing his field work and research and actively involved in the curation of our microlepidoptera collection. James will be busy learning our Florida fauna as he is responsible for providing Lepidoptera identifications statewide for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He will also be involved with curation, and handling loans and donations for FSCA and various other tasks. We look forward to working with James and trust he will follow in John's footsteps as an active member of Southern Lepidopterists' Society and friendly liaison to FSCA and the McGuire Center for both amateur and professional Lepidopterists alike. James' office phone is (352) 273-2003 and his new e-mail is [james.hayden@freshfromflorida.com](mailto:james.hayden@freshfromflorida.com).



Dr. James E. Hayden

-- Deborah L. Matthews, McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity



WALT WHITMAN ---

AMERICAN POET,

JOURNALIST,

ESSAYIST

**"AND A FAKE BUTTERFLY"**

BY

J. BARRY LOMBARDINI



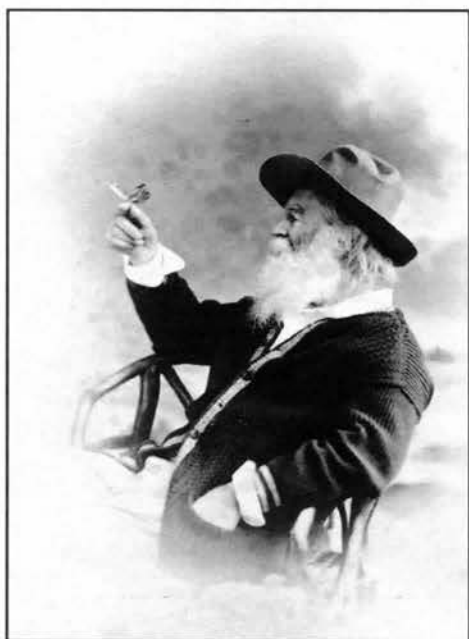
Walt Whitman, 1856 age 37;  
frontispiece to *Leaves of Grass*  
(photographer Samuel Hollyer of a  
daguerreotype by Gabriel Harrison) <sup>(9)</sup>

Walt Whitman, an American poet, journalist, and essayist was born in West Hills (Suffolk County, Long Island), New York, on May 31, 1819. He was considered a humanist which is a philosophy that centers on human values and concerns, but he also incorporated both transcendentalism and realism in his poetry. <sup>(1)</sup> Transcendentalism in philosophy and literature "...was the belief in an ideal spiritual state that 'transcends' the physical and empirical and is realized only through the individual's intuition, rather than through the doctrines of established religions." <sup>(2)</sup> Another definition could be stated as "refers to knowledge one has that 'transcends' the senses. We all know some things even though we didn't learn it through sight, sound, touch, taste, or smell. We merely 'sense' things and this knowledge 'transcends' our regular senses." <sup>(3)</sup> American transcendentalism started in the nineteenth century around 1836 as a reform movement in the Unitarian church and lasted until 1860. Other major figures besides Walt Whitman in the movement were Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Margaret Fuller. <sup>(2)</sup>

American realism in literature "...depicted a contemporary view of what was happening; an attempt at defining what was real." <sup>(3)</sup> "Realist authors opted for depictions of everyday and banal activities and experiences, instead of a romanticized or similarly stylized presentation." <sup>(4)</sup> Or put it another way "Tells things as they really are. Not much interpretation" <sup>(5)</sup>

In 1855, Whitman published with his own money the first edition of his major work *Leaves of Grass* which was a collection of poetry which many readers considered obscene. Emerson praised the book while John Peter Lesley (a geologist and friend of Emerson) wrote that *Leaves of Grass* was "trashy, profane & obscene" <sup>(1)</sup> This was his most notable work and during his lifetime it went through 9 editions. He was constantly editing and revising this American epic until his death in 1892.

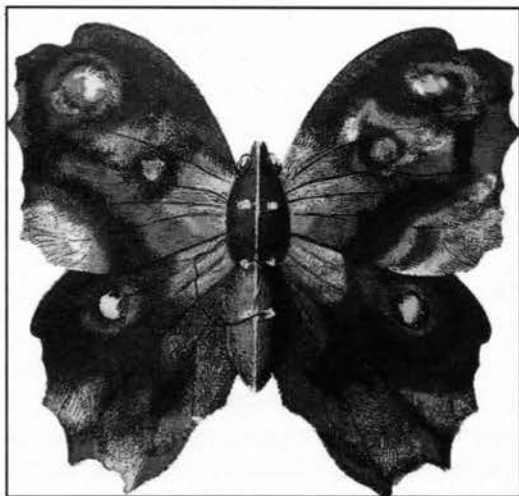
However, it was in the 7<sup>th</sup> edition (1881) of *Leaves of Grass* that Whitman choose a photo of himself that became quite a topic of conversation during his lifetime and throughout the subsequent 130 years. He was pictured as "...sitting in a twig chair with a cardigan, and a butterfly perched delicately on his finger." <sup>(6)</sup> Whitman implied that it was a real butterfly but investigation determined that it was a cardboard fake - a *tchotchke* (pronounced "CHACH-kee" <sup>(7)</sup>; you have to look this word up!). In Whitman's many biographers it has been stated that he "...lied and contradicted himself so many times..." <sup>(8)</sup> that the "butterfly lie" was just a ho-hum - nothing out of the ordinary for his character.



Walt Whitman, photograph in 1889  
edition of *Leaves of Grass*  
(photographer W. Curtis Taylor) <sup>(9)</sup>

Supposedly, the image that Whitman wanted to convey to his audience was that he was "...one with nature, in a way that's pure Victorian sentimentality." <sup>(8)</sup> On the back side of the "fake cardboard butterfly" a religious hymn by John Mason Neale, an Anglican priest, was printed on the





Cardboard Butterfly referred to as  
*Whitman's butterfly* (Bottom view) <sup>(10)</sup>



Cardboard Butterfly referred to as  
*Whitman's butterfly* (Top view) <sup>(10)</sup>

wings and separated by the word "Easter" on the body of the butterfly. <sup>(8)</sup> Question: "Was it the text, a stirring verse about triumph over death, that attracted Whitman or the whimsy of the coloured butterfly on the reverse?" <sup>(8)</sup>

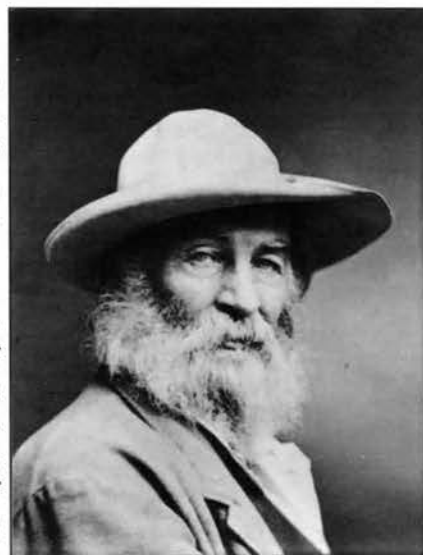
The story becomes more interesting when at the outbreak of World war II in 1941 with the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Library of Congress sent approximately 5,000 crates of historical documents to Virginia and Ohio for safe keeping. This was equivalent to 26 freight car loads. Then in 1944 when the outcome of the war appeared to be a bit brighter the crates were shipped back to Washington. However, when one crate was opened and supposed to contain 24 of Whitman's notebooks and also contain the "fake cardboard butterfly" there was a serious problem. Ten notebooks were missing including the "fake cardboard butterfly". A mystery for the next 10 years while the FBI and Library of Congress searched for the missing inventory. Then in 1954, circulars

describing the missing articles were sent to book and antique dealers to be on the lookout for the items. Finally in 1995 after 51 years, 4 of the notebooks plus the "fake cardboard butterfly" turned up at Sotheby's in New York when a lawyer brought the material in for appraisal. The story being that his father who had been given the articles had died and the lawyer son came into their possession. Unfortunately, the other 6 notebooks have never been recovered. <sup>(10)</sup>

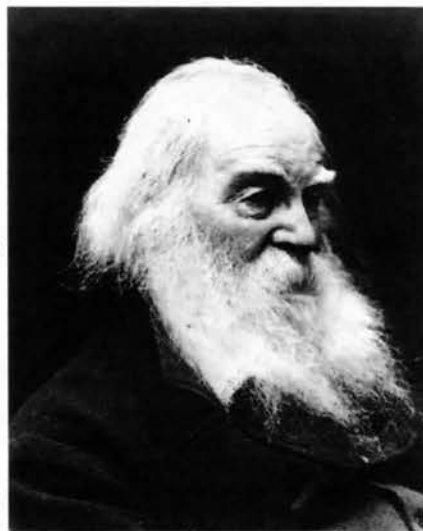
Walt Whitman died on March 26, 1892, in Camden, New Jersey.

#### Sources

- 1) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt\\_Whitman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt_Whitman)
- 2) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transcendentalism>
- 3) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_realism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_realism)
- 4) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literary\\_realism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literary_realism)
- 5) <http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=200081103165617AAQKHru>
- 6) <http://www.dinosaursandrobots.com/2010/10/walt-whitmans-butterfly.html>
- 7) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tchotchke>
- 8) <http://www.thinktag.com/thinktag/archives/amm/kitchen/whitman/waltwork.htm>
- 9) <http://www.whitmanarchive.org/multimedia/gallery.html>
- 10) <http://1heckofaguy.com/2008/08/15walt-whitman-gods-kisses-and-the-fraudulent-butterfly/>
- 11) <http://www.whitmanarchive.org/multimedia/gallery.html?sort=year&order=ascending&page=5 ; &page=11>



Walt Whitman, early 1870's <sup>(11)</sup>



Walt Whitman, 1887  
(photographer George C. Cox) <sup>(11)</sup>



## MORE DANGERS OF LEPPING -- FROM THE GREAT WEST

BY

KELLY RICHERS

Mount Pinos is a large mountain that rises west of the grapevine on Interstate 5 between Bakersfield to the north and Los Angeles to the south. Reached through the small town of Frazier Park, it is a familiar place to many butterfly and moth collectors. With convenient campsites and even a California Condor watching site at the top, it sees a great number of visitors during the day. At night, however, it can be very remote and quiet, reminding one of the "Lonely Mountain" of Tolkein's *"The Hobbit"*.

I have been collecting the area for many years, and this summer (2007) I was especially alert, or at least especially alert for me, which may not be saying much. The previous fall I had been collecting on another mountain, Frazier Mountain, which adjoins Mount Pinos, and several bowhunters, who saw my light at dusk, had stopped by. We struck up a conversation with my usual friendly opening, which seems to work well worldwide: "Hi, guys, want a beer?" and they told me in graphic detail that I was an idiot to be out here alone, as there were six mountain lions living in the range that could support one.

They told me of all the dead cats and dogs from the town below the mountain, making me feel like Dracula was lurking just around the corner, and then, of course, left me with nothing but the crickets. Naturally I spent the rest of that night looking over my shoulder, but with the resilience of the feeble minded I was out again by myself the next summer in the same general area looking for more moths.

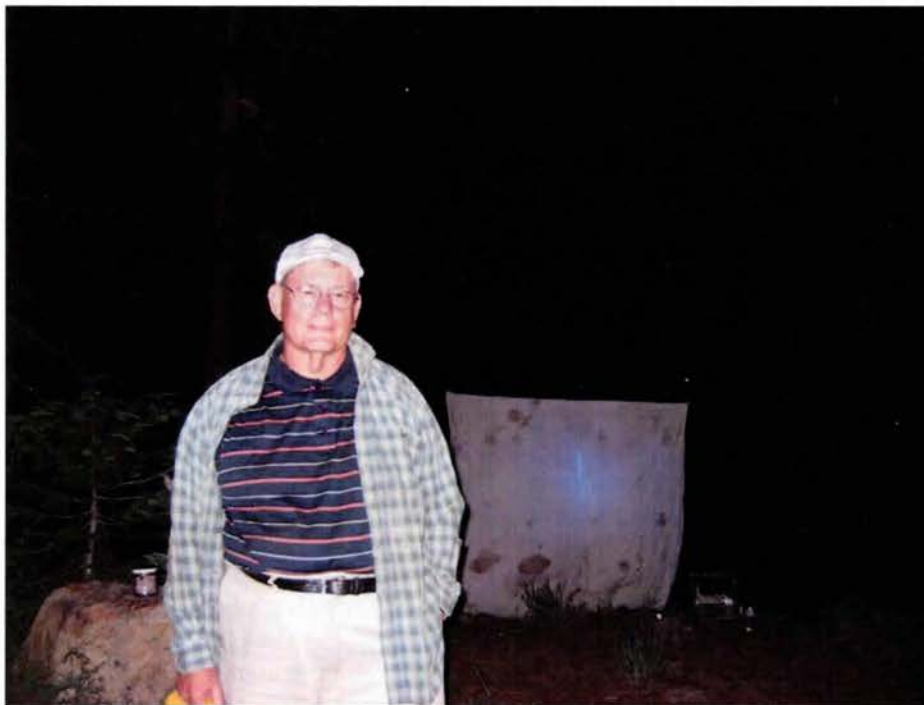
I found a forest road blocked off by several boulders, parked my truck and took my little red wagon loaded with batteries and two black light setups down the road, setting up each about 200 yards apart before darkness set in. By the way, Mount Pinos is pronounced to rhyme with "pine cone" or "pine tree", by the locals, not the Mexican Peenos, which makes it sound like a dirty word to the locals, somehow, for those of you phonetically wading your way through this discourse. If you visit and ask for the other one you might get arrested if you slur your pronunciation too much...

As it got darker, (and it really can get dark up there, at around 8000'), I determined that one of the lights was not doing much, and so instead of slogging back and forth as I usually do I closed it up and concentrated on the light

under the larger pine trees, some of which are relatively old growth forest pines. It grew very quiet, as the cars from the parking lot at the peak emptied of birdwatchers and hikers. After about two hours, it was very quiet and I was picking off moths every minute or so, when I heard a definite non-forest sound behind me.

Now, everyone who spends time in the outdoors gets to recognize "normal" forest sounds, so that an owl or other large bird will generally not cause fright, and scampering chipmunks or even ground squirrels become normal background noises. This, however, was a "thump", not a scampering.

In Pennsylvania, I have heard bears and deer thump, when they are either being extraordinarily clumsy



Charlie Covell on Mt. Pinos standing in just the kind of spot where my experiences happened (photo after 2007 National Meeting in Bakersfield).



or perhaps celebrating the end of hunting season or something, so I swung my flashlight around, made a little noise, and assumed that whatever it was would take the hint and leave. There are bears and deer and mountain lions on Mount Pinos, but they normally do not eat large fat old geezers who smell like they have been hauling moth gear around, and so I felt relatively safe. The conversation with the bow hunters did return to my consciousness, however, and I began to feel a little uneasy.

Silence settled in again, until about three minutes later, when another definite, discernible "whap" noise made me whip around with the light again. This one was close. I imagined grizzly bears eating me, mountain lions silently stalking, and other improbable attacking carnivorous beasts, but again, nothing was there.

So there I was, with a purple black light throwing out useless wavelengths of light to help me see anything, strange noises, and one little flashlight to protect me. The heebie-jeebies were starting, and once started, as you should know, they get worse, usually.

The third noise didn't help matters, at all, as I could swear it wasn't more than ten feet behind me. Always behind me. That must be significant. Hairs started standing up on my neck. That made three unnatural noises in ten minutes. I decided that whatever it was, it was time to pack up and leave, as I was no longer concentrating on anything but being eaten.

I debated taking the light down. I mean, it was only a black light, but when it went out, it would leave me with only the flashlight, which had demonstrated total uselessness so far in figuring out what was stalking me.

The fourth noise, another "thump", less than five feet behind me this time, decided me. I took off the battery cables, tore down the sheet, cut my twine off from the trees and prepared to leave, all the time looking around with the flashlight.

As my eyes grew accustomed to the dark, or different kind of light from the flashlight or whatever, I heard another noise and whipped the flashlight around just in time to see a movement in the leaves. No real undergrowth, which of course was part of what was concerning me, just leaves. I should be able to see something. Then I heard a noise overhead, and whipped the flashlight up just in time to see a humongous raccoon plunging out of the tree, who landed about three feet away from me.

Or, he landed three feet away from where I would have been if I had not leaped up into the air about ten feet straight up while my hair turned gray, my heart just about gave out, and a few other physical things that shall remain nameless happened.

He scampered merrily off while I gave myself resuscitation, and then I slunk off to my truck, still mightily disturbed. Raccoons should not be able to do that to grown men, but what your own imagination can do to you will supersede anything from an outside source. Nevertheless, the night was destroyed, and I finally determined that he had been dropping pine cones off the branch as he moved closer to the trunk, which is why the sounds kept coming closer, until he decided the time was perfect to give me a coronary.

I have been back, and in the daytime, the area looks suspiciously innocent, I might add...

(Kelly Richers, E-Mail: [KeRichers@wuesd.org](mailto:KeRichers@wuesd.org))

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

## DEFINITIONS:

**Torpor** - a state of being dormant or inactive; temporary loss of all or part of the power of sensation or motion; sluggishness; stupor, dullness; apathy. In biology, it has been likened to a temporary hibernation. Some of the characteristics of an animal in torpor are reduced body temperature and reduced metabolism. Many animals included butterflies/moths respond to cold temperatures by reducing their heartbeat and respiration thus potentially extending their survival.



# *NEMORIA LIXARIA* (GUENÉE, [1858]) (LEPIDOPTERA: GEOMETRIDAE) IN LOUISIANA

BY  
VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

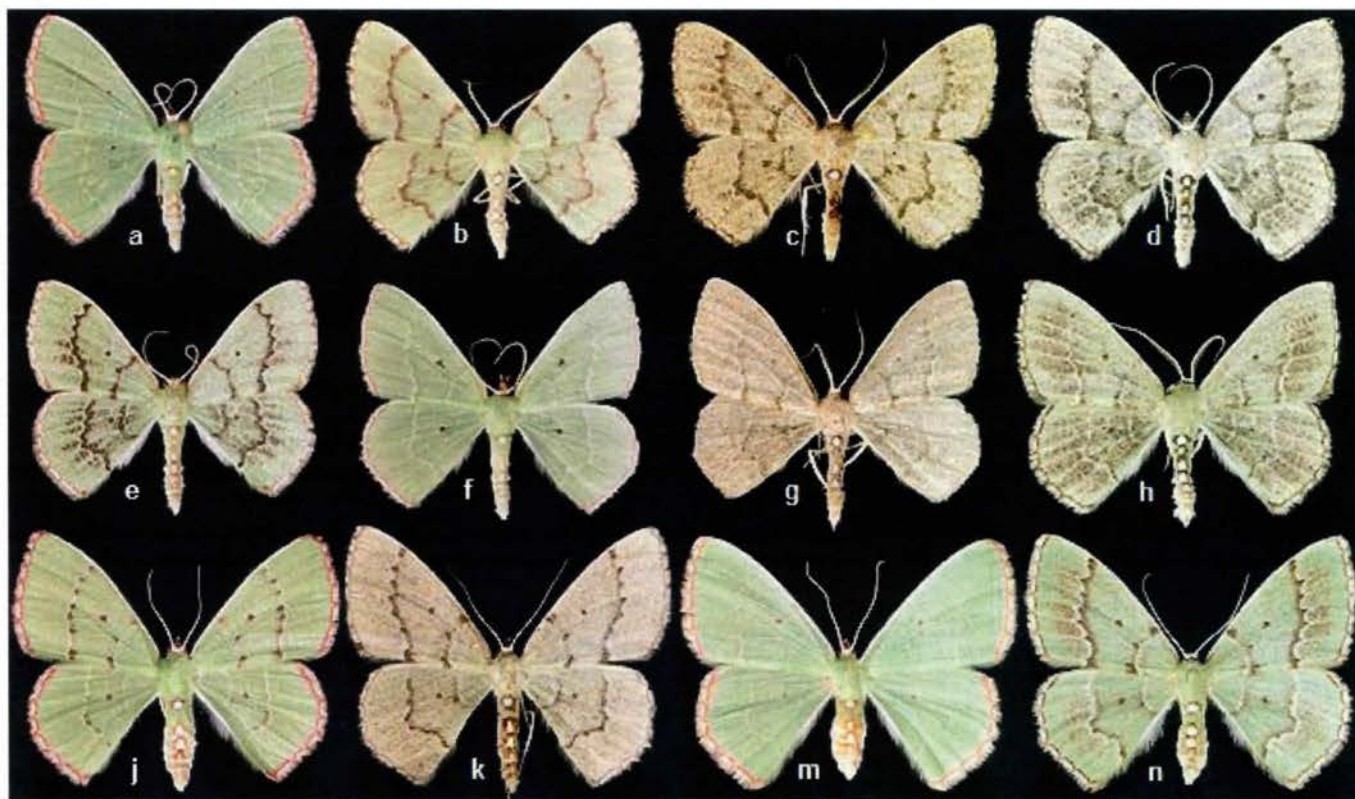


Fig. 1. *Nemoria lixaria* Guenée phenotypes: males (a - h), females (j - n).

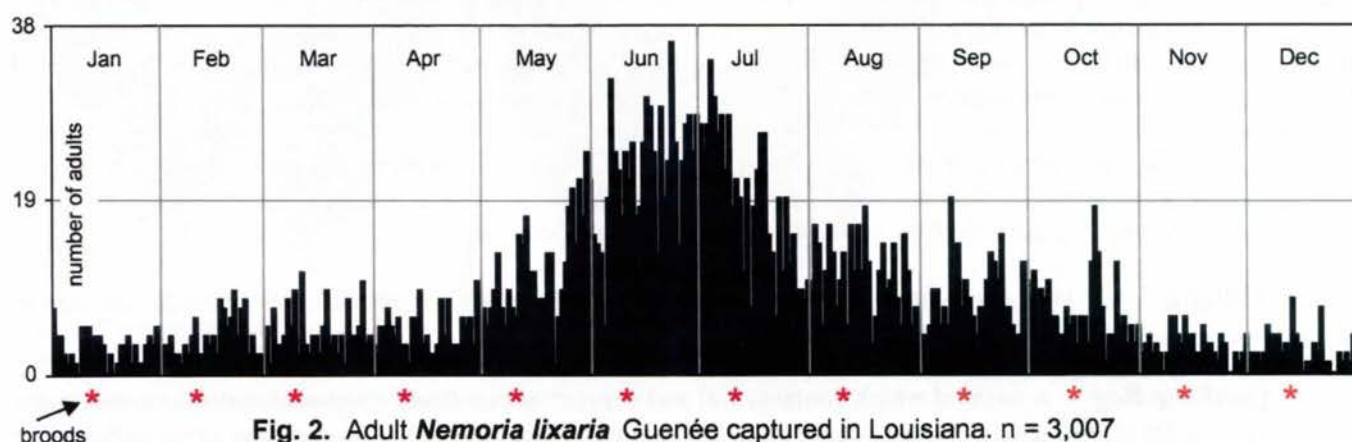


Fig. 2. Adult *Nemoria lixaria* Guenée captured in Louisiana. n = 3,007

The common geometrid moth *Nemoria lixaria* (Guenée) (Fig. 1) was previously recorded for Louisiana (Ferguson, 1985) who reported *lixaria* to occur from throughout the Gulf States from Florida to west Texas northward to Maryland, southern New Jersey, Tennessee and Arkansas.

Ferguson reported the larval food plant to include *Quercus* species. Covell (1984) reported the range of *lixaria* to include coastal New Jersey to Florida, west to Arkansas and east Texas. Covell stated *lixaria* to be a common species occurring all year in the deep south. Heppner (2003) reported similar range and flight information.

In Louisiana, I have collected *lixaria* every year in considerable numbers for the past 40+ years. Fig. 2 is a composite multiyear phenogram encompassing dates from about 40 years of captured adults throughout Louisiana. It appears



that *lixaria* has about 12 annual broods in Louisiana and the largest populated broods occur during the early summer months of June and July.

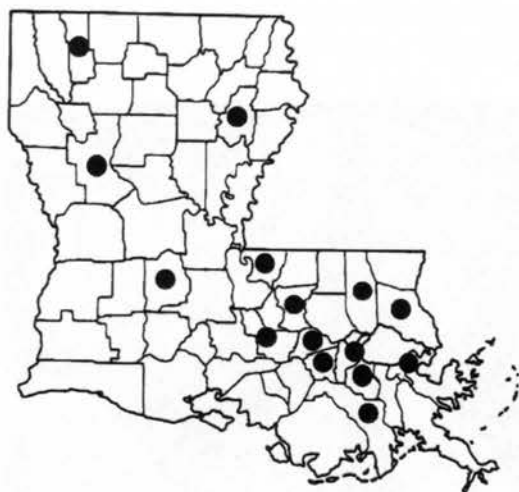


Fig. 3. Parish records for *N. lixaria*.

Ferguson (1885) discusses what he calls "*the melanic winter form*" in which includes the red and green wing and body coloring is replaced by brown coloring and often a dusting of black scales throughout. I have illustrated examples of these many variations of *lixaria* in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 illustrates the parish records based on my records.

I thank Frederick H. Rindge for determining my Louisiana captured *lixaria* over many years. The late Douglas C. Ferguson also determined considerable numbers of my Louisiana specimens in preparation for his 1985 Geometridae publication.

#### 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 + 496pp., 64 plates.
- Ferguson, D.C., in Dominick, R.B., et al., 1985. *The Moths of America North of Mexico*, Fasc. 18.1. Geometridae: Geometridae (in part).
- Heppner, J. B., 2003. *Arthropods of Florida and Neighboring land Areas*, Vol 17; Lepidoptera of Florida, Div. Plant Industry, Fla. Dept. Agr. & Consum. Serv., Gainesville. x + 670pp., 55 plates.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## DEFINITIONS:

**Bog** - wet, spongy ground; a small marsh or swamp. Often referred to as a quagmire or mire which is wet ground which yields under the feet. Usually a **bog** is composed of acidic **peat** (dead plant material) derived from plants such as mosses or lichens. The water in a **bog** is almost always acidic arising from ground water and from precipitation (**ombrotrophic** = rain-fed). The largest **bog** in the world is considered to be in Western Siberia covering ~600,000 square kilometers.

The **peat** located in the **bog** is often dried and used for fuel, primarily in heating homes. If enough time passes by the **peat** will turn into coal. **Peat** is also used as a mulch in soil for increasing the growing potential of the soil and also for retaining moisture.

**Muskeg** - a kind of **bog** or marsh containing thick layers of decaying vegetable matter found especially in Canada and Alaska and often overgrown with moss.

**Quaking Bog** - a wetland which contains soil and vegetation that floats on ground water. Another word for **quaking bog** is a **schwingmoor**. In this type of **bog** the vegetation can form a mat half a meter thick. When walking on a **quacking bog** the vegetation moves.

**Tyrphobionts** - animals and plants that are associated with a **bog** habitat. If restricted to the **bog** these animals/plants are named **tyrphobionts**.

**Tyrphophiles** - animals and plants that inhabit **bogs** but are not limited to this environment, i.e., not confined to this area.

#### Source

Wikipedia; the Free Encyclopedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bog>



# THE OCCURRENCE OF *PARRHASIUS M-ALBUM* (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) IN WESTERN ARKANSAS

BY  
DAVID RUPE

*Parrhasius m-album* (Figs. 1 and 2) is a bright, iridescent blue hairstreak that ranges throughout much of the eastern US, but seems to be most common in the southern portion of that range. *P. m-album* is generally considered uncommon in Arkansas with a state ranking of S2S3 (NatureServe, 2010). The author has observed this butterfly within Arkansas beginning in the summer of 1997. These populations have been observed in Logan, Newton, and Scott counties in western Arkansas (Fig. 3). The following table (Table 1) provides location information of individuals observed between the years 1997 and 2009 (Jones Creek site consists of multiple observations).

Table 1. Location information for *P. m-album* in Arkansas.

County	Site ID	Quadrangle/Legal Description	Number of Individuals Observed per Location
Scott	Nola, near Jones Creek	Little Texas Quad, T3N, R26W, S34, SE 1/4	>20
Scott	Nola, near Garner Creek	Gravelly Quad, T3N, R26W, S24, NW1/4, SW1/4	1
Newton	Big Creek	Parthenon Quad, T14N, R21W, S12, SE 1/4	1
Logan	Corley	Blue Mountain Quad, T7N, R26W, S25	2



Fig. 1. *Parrhasius m-album*, ♂, Logan Co., AR (2008)



Fig. 2. *Parrhasius m-album*, ♂, Scott Co., AR (2009)

The flight period of *P. m-album* in western Arkansas appears to be approximately from February-late October. Adults have been observed in the months of February, April, July, September, and October. Based on the flight period, it appears there are three (3) broods in Arkansas. The late summer/fall brood, which apparently occurs from September-October, is the most common brood encountered by the author.

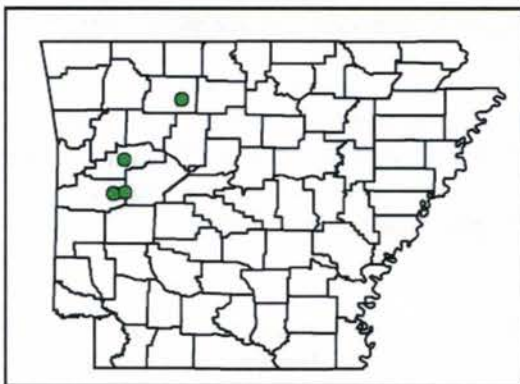


Fig. 3. Locations where the author has observed *Parrhasius m-album* in Arkansas.

This hairstreak most commonly occurs in forest edges and openings near stands of oak (*Quercus sp.*). Oak is reported as the host plant for this species, however, in Arkansas it is unclear as to which species are utilized. In areas where the author has observed this hairstreak, the following species of oaks were observed: *Quercus alba*, *Q. muehlenburgii*, *Q. shumardii*, *Q. stellata* and *Q. phellos*. In 1999 the author collected a larval *P. m-album* on the ground under a small stand of *Q. shumardii*, and it was assumed the larva was feeding on these trees. This species most likely utilizes several species of oaks in Arkansas as larval host plants.

The author has observed this species nectaring on plants such as



thoroughwort (*Eupatorium* sp.) and old man's beard (*Verbesina virginica*). While never common, this species is observed annually in the Scott County population. The author speculates that this butterfly resides in tree canopies and only occasionally alights near the ground to take nectar. Therefore, it may not be as rare as often reported.

#### Literature Cited

NatureServe, 2010. Comprehensive Report: *Parrhasius m-album*

[http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/servlet/NatureServe?sourceTemplate=tabular\\_report.wmt&loadTemplate=species\\_RptComprehensive.wmt&selectedReport=RptComprehensive.wmt&summaryView=tabular\\_report.wmt&elKey=114288&paging=home&save=true&startIndex=1&nextStartIndex=1&reset=false&offPageSelectedElKey=114288&offPageSelectedElType=species&offPageYesNo=true&post\\_processes=&radiobutton=radiobutton&selectedIndexes=114288](http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/servlet/NatureServe?sourceTemplate=tabular_report.wmt&loadTemplate=species_RptComprehensive.wmt&selectedReport=RptComprehensive.wmt&summaryView=tabular_report.wmt&elKey=114288&paging=home&save=true&startIndex=1&nextStartIndex=1&reset=false&offPageSelectedElKey=114288&offPageSelectedElType=species&offPageYesNo=true&post_processes=&radiobutton=radiobutton&selectedIndexes=114288)

Opler, P.A. and V. Malikul, 1992. *A Field Guide to Eastern Butterflies*. Peterson Field Guide # 4. Houghton-Mifflin Publishers, Boston. 396 pages, 48 color plates.

Scott, J.A., 1986. *The Butterflies of North America: Natural History and Field Guide*. Stanford University Press Stanford, CA.

Spencer, L.A., 2006. *Arkansas Butterflies and Moths*. Ozark Society Foundation, Little Rock, Arkansas.

(David Rupe, E-Mail: [dmrupe@att.net](mailto:dmrupe@att.net))

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS AT BUTTERFLYFEST 2010

BY

JACQUELINE Y. MILLER, DEBORAH L. MATTHEWS,  
AND JULIETA BRAMBILA

The Annual Butterflyfest at the McGuire Center, Florida Museum of Natural History is fast becoming one of the Museum's most celebrated events. Held in mid-October, this event is dedicated to increasing public awareness of Florida's butterflies and moths and creating an introduction for other essential pollinators, such as bees, birds, bats, and other mammals. This is still a time of peak flight for many Lepidoptera and abundant fall wildflowers. The festival is packed with many activities such as fieldtrips, garden walks, rainforest and behind the scenes tours led by staff, oral presentations by noted speakers, gardening and photographic workshops, and live demonstrations and entertainment. There are also numerous hands-on educational activities for children. A number of non-profit, conservation and environmental organizations from north central Florida are usually present to provide additional information on conservation and preservation of pollinators, backyard wildlife and habitats.

The Southern Lepidopterists' Society participated in this past year's event (October 23-24, 2010), following interest generated from our participation in 2009 (see Volume 31, Number 4). We covered two tables with a variety of display material (Figs. 1-2), including live caterpillars and pinned specimens which attracted adults and kids of all ages to take a closer look and even touch some of our featured critters. Tom Neal's "petting zoo" was again a big hit, this year including some very plump *Battus polydamas* larvae, which were especially tolerant of the attention, intent on mowing through *Aristolochia* leaves. Bolder individuals reached out to pet the prickly Giant Leopard moth caterpillar, *Hypercompe scribonia*, as it wandered across our arms, drawing in curious and excited young visitors (Fig. 1d, 2b).

Julieta collected *Diaphania hyalinata* caterpillars, also known as Melonworms, from luffa vines at the CALS Student Agricultural Gardens near the bat houses. She explained their life history and showed the audience examples of the different stages as well as caterpillars feeding or laying down silk. The Melonworm is native to Florida and is a common garden pest on squash and pumpkin plants, cucumbers, cantaloupes, watermelons, and luffas. They feed primarily on foliage but also feed on the flowers, stems and young fruits.

Visitors were especially impressed by the preserved Hickory Horned Devil larva, *Citheronia regalis*, and we had corresponding pinned adults for this species and most of the other larvae on display. Reuben Judd and Lary Reeves brought in a variety of specimens, including Io moth larvae as an example of stinging caterpillars, as well as a live



Polyphemus female plump with eggs, (Fig. 2a). Our new member, Madison Young, took several specimens home to finish rearing them and take them to school to show to her fellow classmates. She recently had a pair of Polyphemus moths emerge the first week of February, the progeny of our display female.



**Fig. 1. ButterflyFest 2010:** a) Madison examines some small Viceroy larvae while her friend looks on; b) a young visitor takes a close look at an Io moth larva; c) Tom Neal with visitors studying the life cycle of Melonworm moths; d) kids reaching out to pet the Giant Leopard moth caterpillar; e) a little Monarch butterfly girl from the pollinator parade. Photos by Julieta Brambila (a, b), Tom Neal (d, e), and Debbie Matthews (c).

Live material in this year's exhibit included the following species: Papilionidae - *Battus polydamus*, *Papilio palamedes*; Pieridae - *Phoebis sennae*, *Phoebis phileas*; Nymphalidae - *Junonia coenia*, *Agraulis vanillae*, *Limnitis archippus*; Hesperidae - *Urbanus proteus*; Saturniidae - *Antheraea polyphemus*, *Automeris io*; Sphingidae - *Hyles lineata*, *Paonias myops*, *Manduca sexta*; Geometridae - *Synchlora* spp.; Pterophoridae - *Sphenarches anisodactylus*; Arctiinae - *Syntomeida epilais*, *Hypercompe scribonia*; and Crambidae - *Diaphania hyalinata*.

Several members and friends assisted with collecting display material, setting up, manning the tables, picking up and



caring for specimens after the event. Participants/collectors included: Montana Atwater, Julieta Brambila, Reuben Judd, Katie Lane, Terry Lott, Debbie Matthews, Jackie Miller, Tom Neal, Lary Reeves, Roxanne Wagner, and Madison Young. We are especially grateful to Lary, Reuben, and Tom, whose special collecting efforts, despite a late season dry spell, made the display a success.

Please join us this fall for this enjoyable annual family event, tentatively set for 22-23 October 2011. Information on the upcoming ButterflyFest schedule and featured activities and speakers will be available on the Florida Museum of Natural History website (<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/>).

P.S. Don't forget to bring your favorite larvae (leps and humans)!



Fig. 2. ButterflyFest 2010: a) a girl notices an egg on the side of the container with the female *Polyphemus* moth; b) our wandering *Leopard* moth larva is carefully passed from hand to hand; c) Julieta holds out the *Battus* larvae for a little girl to pet; d) Debbie shows a Brownie troop the startle reflex and eyespots on the *Polyphemus* moth. Photos by Tom Neal (b, d) and Debbie Matthews (a, c).

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



## CHAIRMAN'S SPRING FIELD MEETING (A NOTE FROM BRIAN SCHOLTENS)

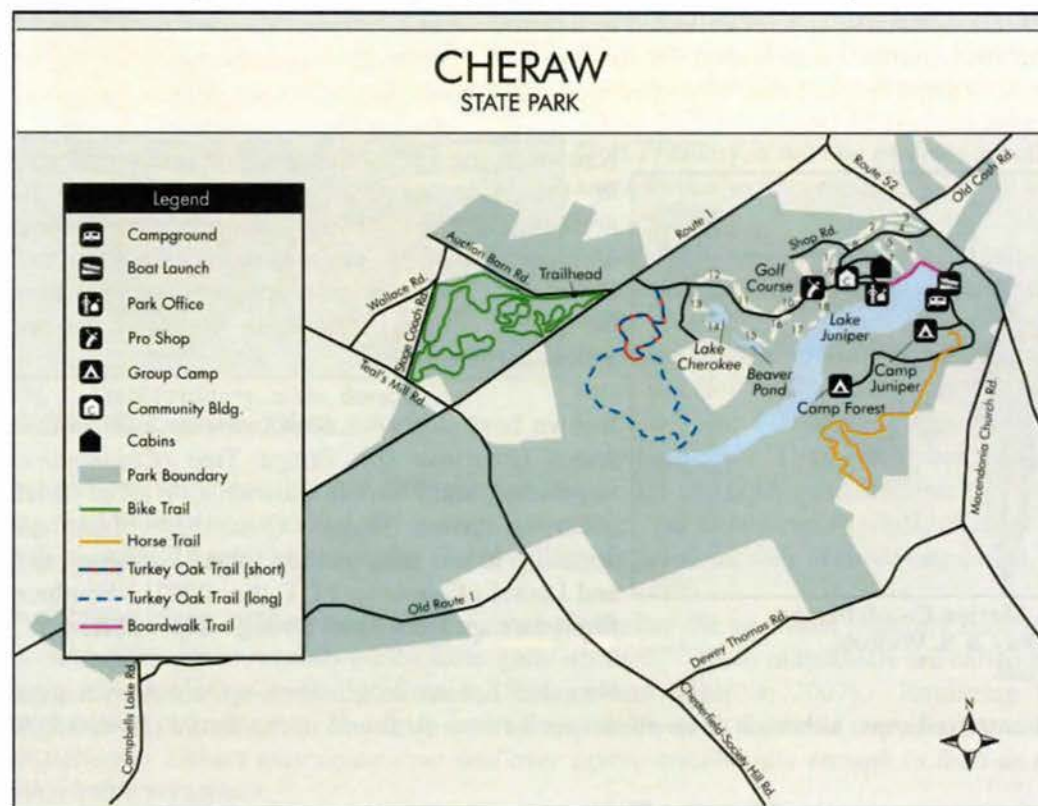
I am hosting a field meeting the weekend of 13-15 May at Cheraw State Park in Chesterfield Co., SC. The SC State Parks have started an effort (in a minor way right now) to do an All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory on their park properties. I have participated in a couple of collecting trips on these properties, including a trip to Cheraw State Park last October.

Our field meeting is designed to get us together for some interesting collecting and fellowship while also contributing to our ATBI effort. We will be staying in some rustic cabins in the park (Camp Juniper on the map). In this same campground is a large dining hall area, with power and tables available for sorting traps, working under microscopes, *etc.* This building also has freezer and cooler space for food. There are also motels and

restaurants available nearby in the town of Cheraw (hometown of Dizzy Gillespie), for those less inclined to rough it.

We will meet at the Campground on the afternoon of Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, have two nights of collecting, and leave by noon on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of May.

Cheraw State Park is a large park in the Sandhills Region of South Carolina. Most of the habitat was originally longleaf pine, and some of the area is now being returned to that ecosystem through active management. A small



river system runs through the park, and it is dammed in a couple of spots to create one small and one larger lake in the center of the park. On the north side of the lake, the park has a public golf course. The south side of the lake is where the campground is located, relatively near an area of longleaf pine being reconstructed. There is a very interesting open, sandy area in the west part of the park that should be an interesting area to collect. Access to most habitats is relatively easy, with state and county roads ringing the park and park roads and trails allowing internal access to many areas. I've included a simple map of the park for anyone interested, and you can also visit the park's website.

Participants can keep specimens that they collect in their own collections, but will be required to send data on all specimens to me so they can be included in the ATBI effort. I'm taking care of the permit for the weekend. I know we are unlikely to have everything identified that weekend, and so I propose that we have an identification session/workshop at the annual meeting in the fall for all those who need help getting names on specimens (this could easily extend beyond just specimens from that weekend). For those who can come to the collecting weekend, but not the annual meeting, I'm sure several of us would be happy to help members get IDs on specimens. I know that the Park System will appreciate all the data we can generate on our trip, for both common and rare species. I know they have been very happy with what I have been able to provide them from my recent trips.



Consider joining us for all or part of the weekend. If you plan on attending, please let me know by the beginning of May, so I can let the park know the approximate number of folks who will be there ([scholtensb@cofc.edu](mailto:scholtensb@cofc.edu)). I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

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

**SPHINX KALMIAE J. E. SMITH 1797**  
**A NEW TEXAS STATE RECORD**  
**BY**  
**ED KNUDSON & CHARLES BORDELON**

A male specimen (Fig. 1) of this distinctive species collected by Jason Cole in Jefferson, Marion Co., TX, on 11 August 2010, represents the first known Texas record for this species. The moth was collected at an Exxon Station at East Broadway & S. Walcott St., in town. The specimen was donated to the Texas Lepidoptera Survey Research Collection in Houston.



*Sphinx kalmiae*, male, Texas, Marion Co., Jefferson, Exxon Station at East Broadway & S. Walcott, 11 August, 2010, Jason Cole coll.

Known as the Laurel Sphinx, it is rarely collected in the deep south, but is common in the northeastern USA. There are records from about 60 miles east of the Texas border in Arkansas and Louisiana. This species is apparently absent from the eastern portion of the south Atlantic states and peninsular Florida.

Known host plants for *S. kalmiae* include various Ashes (*Fraxinus* sp.), Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), and Privet (*Ligustrum* sp.); all of which occur in eastern Texas. Other host plants not normally in our area include Lilac (*Syringium* sp.) and Laurel (*Kalmia* sp.) (Tuttle, 2007). Southern flight data are from April through September.

No other *Sphinx* or *Lintneria* sp. are known from the "Piney Woods" area of eastern Texas, although three other species may be found in the future (*S. vashti*, *S. frankii* and *S. gordius*).

#### Literature Cited

Tuttle, J.P., 2007. *The Hawk Moths of North America*, The Wedge Entomological Research Foundation, Washington DC, pp. 73-105.

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

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Samuel H. Scudder used the term "*Monarch*" in 1874 to describe the insect that Linnaeus initially described in 1758 in his treatise *Systema Naturae*. It is speculated that the use of the work "*Monarch*" was to describe one of our "...largest ...butterflies, and rules a vast domain". However, other references suggest that the name may have been used in honor of King William III of England. Linnaeus placed this insect in the genus *Papilio* but Jan Krzysztof Kluk changed this to *Danaus* in 1780. *Plexippus* is the species name, and in Greek mythology was one of the 50 sons of Aegyptus, a king in Egypt. As Greek tragedies go, Danaus, Aegyptus' twin brother, ordered his 50 daughters who were married to the 50 sons of Aegyptus to kill all their husbands. Forty-nine succeeded and the story continues.....

#### Source

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch\\_\(butterfly\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch_(butterfly))



## A BUTTERFLY OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

BY

CRAIG W. MARKS

On June 27, 2009, in Lafayette, Louisiana, I saw an oddly colored Gulf Fritillary, *Agraulis vanilla nigrrior*, taking nectar at lantana. As the photo below reflects (Fig. 1), the bug was not an albino, but more of a "blonde". Gulf Fritillaries are a tropical species that ranges through most of South and Central America as well as the West Indies. It also inhabits much of the Southern United States, and sometimes stages northern migrations, reaching much further north than its normal range. Typically, males are bright red-orange with black markings. Females are slightly browner with heavier black markings.



Fig. 1. Gulf Fritillary, male, dorsal, 27-VI-2009, Lafayette Parish, LA.

So, why was this bug blonde? Specimens from different parts of a species' range can often look very different. A good example is the Common Wood Nymph, *Cercyonis pegala*, which, at one time, was thought to be several different species across its range. These differences may be recognized as subspecies. However, the Gulf Fritillary is not one of these species as it essentially looks the same throughout its range.

Many kinds of variations other than geographic subspecies may occur within a species. For example, males and females may differ (called sexual dimorphism), like the Diana Fritillary, *Speyeria diana*. Or, there may be dimorphic forms within the same sex (for example, the yellow and black forms of the female Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, *Papilio glaucus*). This is known as polymorphism. Then there are seasonal forms with different

generations being consistently different as between hot and cold weather forms (e.g., Question Marks, *Polygonia interrogationis*) and wet and dry season forms (e.g., the Goatweed Butterfly, *Anaea andria*). This is known as polyphenism. Again, however, the Gulf Fritillary falls into neither of these categories.

Per Klots (1969), "Often, however, we cannot correlate the variation with any known factors; individuals merely occur, seemingly at random which seem quite distinct." Such individuals are called forms or aberrations. These have no population-level significance (Shapiro and Manolis, 2007). Returning to Klots' (1969, pg. 298) explanation, "(s)ome may obviously result from accidents to the larva or pupa that caused abnormal wing shapes or patterns. Others may occur over and over again, consistently enough to lead us to suspect that they may be inheritable variations."

The term "aberration" has been applied indiscriminately to specimens that deviate radically from the average, and can be caused by genetics, environment or possible even pathology (Howe, 1975). Douglas (1986) has suggested most aberrations are genetically determined to some degree, either directly or indirectly. He hypothesized that developmental mistakes which occur at the genetic level in the epidermal cells might produce such odd wing patterns. He also acknowledges that environmental cues can affect the regulation of genes, hypothetically turning them on or off in accordance to the type of cue. In the end, what precisely causes such aberrations is for the most part unknown.

Temperature clearly can impact appearance. For example, spring flights are consistently smaller and darker, particularly in whites and sulphurs. Temperature can also produce aberrations. Scott (1986) noted that "freaks with abnormally blurred or fused wing patterns can be produced by refrigerating very young pupa for a few days." However, Scott also conceded, some aberrations are mutants controlled directly by genes.

The transformation process that takes place while in the pupa relies on chemical reactions. These reactions can be impacted by severe weather. Extreme temperatures (heat or cold) can disrupt normal pattern formation, thereby causing aberrations. While Cech and Tudor (2005) acknowledge that aberrations can be genetic mutations, they believe most probably occur when developmental processes are interrupted at a critical juncture by abnormal temperatures.





Fig. 2. Gulf Fritillary, female, 19-IX-2010, Vermillion Bayou Nature Trail, Lafayette Parish, LA.

Harris (1972) reported the capture of a "*partial albino*" with a light area in the middle of each forewing and included a picture of that specimen. The unusual light coloring of the bug I caught is much more extreme than Harris' bug. Obviously, with a capture date at the end of June, extreme cold does not explain this aberrant. The weather was hot, but not unusually so. Might this be one of the "*mutants*" to which Scott (1986) referred?

Douglas (1986) noted that, "*one common type of aberration*" involves heavy melanization with "*literally hundreds*" of such aberrations reported. In his section discussing this particular species, Harris (1972) spoke of melanic specimens, "*their wings with areas sufficed to varying degrees of black,*" taken occasionally. I have seen, on several occasions, what I considered to be very dark individuals, mostly females. While females are typically darker than males, these "*dark*" individuals

I've witnessed are noticeably darker than even the typical female (Fig. 2.) However, when I compare this bug with those shown in Harris, I am hesitant to consider this one an aberrant.



Fig. 3. *Danaus gilippus berenice*, male, 19-IX-2010, Vermillion Bayou Nature Trail, Lafayette Parish, LA.

So what is happening here to cause these darker specimens? This bug is the sole member of its genus. Not a true "*fritillary*", it was so named based upon its appearance rather than its ancestry. It relies on passion vines as its larval foodplant, primarily the common purple passion-vine, *Passiflora incarnate*, and, according to the Tvetens (1996), should be included in the subfamily Heliconiinae (Longwings). Cech and Tudor (2005) indicated it falls on the heliconian side of the line between fritillaries and heliconians (while the Variegated Fritillary, *Euptoieta claudia*, which also uses passion-vines as its larval foodplant, falls on the fritillary side of that line).

Cech and Tudor (2005) also report the larvae are aposematic, protected by plant toxins "*but adults are apparently palatable,*" citing Brower (1984). Conversely, the Tvetens (1996) suggest even adult members of this family are distasteful, "*possibly*" as a result of their host plants. Citing Williams (1990), they also

suggest some Viceroy in Southeast TX actually mimic this bug, supposedly receiving some protection by adopting "*the stereotypical orange-and-black pattern that advertises unpalatability in nature.*"

At the location in Lafayette Parish where I found the above pictured dark Gulf Fritillary (Fig. 2.), I also caught a



Fig. 4. *Limenitis archippus watsoni*, male, 19-IX-2010, Vermillion Bayou Nature Trail, Lafayette Parish, LA.

male Queen, *Danaus gilippus berenice*, and a dark Viceroy, *Limenitis archippus watsoni* (Figs. 3 and 4). When viewed together (and all three were within the same powerline cut, the Queen and Viceroy actually engaged in an aerial dogfight), I can't help but wonder if there is a mimicry relationship associated with darker Gulf Fritillaries and one or both of the other two butterflies. The mimicry relationship between Queens and Viceroy is well documented as Mullerian in nature. Do the occasional darker female Gulf Fritillaries gain protection through mimicry of one or both of the other two? If, as the Tvetens (1996) suggest, the Gulf Fritillary is also distasteful then might all three benefit from a triangular Mullerian relationship?

Gulf Fritillaries are common in southwestern LA. I've recorded them in every month of the year. They become more prevalent in numbers in the fall, beginning in August. I may see what I





Fig. 5. Top: Gulf Fritillary, *A.v. nigrior*, male, dorsal, 03-XI-2000, Hidalgo County, TX; Bottom: Gulf Fritillary, *A.v. nigrior*, male, ventral, 19-IX-1994, Lafayette Parish, LA.

consider to be a perceptively darker specimen a few times a year. If a mimicry relationship exists between these dark Gulf Fritillaries and Louisiana's dark Viceroy or the less common Queen, why would there be so few that fit the model? Returning to Klots' (1969) explanation of variations, since I see these darker specimens on a sporadic but regular basis, I wonder if they are "inheritable variations." Or, maybe the darker females are nothing more than examples from the dark end of the spectrum of color variation to be expected with this bug.

Finally, on November 3, 2000, while in Hidalgo County, TX, I noticed a very small orange butterfly that flew and acted like a longwing but certainly didn't look like one. Upon closer inspection, I realized it was a tiny Gulf Fritillary (see photo, along with a typically-sized specimen).

A specific species' size, as measured by wing-length, is an inherited quality. Occasionally, dwarf forms are found (I have also caught a dwarf male Cloudless Sulphur, *Phoebis sennae*). Such size aberrations, like aberrant wing patterns, can be environmentally induced. In other instances, it has been suggested dwarf forms may be genetic, reflective of a recessive gene. In this latter instance, the dwarf forms show up on an irregular but seemingly predictable basis (Ford, 1957).

Frankly, I have no clue what might have caused this dwarf Gulf Fritillary. I was visiting South TX over a long weekend in early November at the time I caught it, and while it was still very hot when I was there, I don't recall what the weather had been before my arrival. The area was very dry, but that is not an unusual condition for that region. As with my blonde specimen and/or the darker females I occasionally see, I can suggest several possible theories but a definitive explanation continues to evade me.

### References

- Brower, L.P., (1984) Chemical defense in butterflies. *The Biology of Butterflies* (ed. By R.I. Vane-Wright and P.R. Ackery), 99 109-132. Academic Press, New York.
- Cech, R., and G. Tudor, 2005. *Butterflies of the East Coast: An Observer's Guide*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 345pp.
- Douglas, Mathew M., 1986. *The Lives of Butterflies*. The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, MI. 241 pp.
- Erhlich, Paul R. and Ann H., 1961. *How to know the Butterflies*. Wm. Brown Company Publishers, Dubuque, IA, 262 pp.
- Ford, E.B., third edition 1957. *Butterflies*. Collins, London. 368 pp.
- Harris, L. Jr., 1972. *Butterflies of Georgia*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK. 326 pp.
- Howe, William H., 1975. *The Butterflies of North America*. Doubleday and Company, Inc., Garden City, NY, 631 pp.
- Klots, A. B., 1951, fifth printing 1969. *A Field Guide to the Butterflies*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, MA. 349 pp.
- Scott, J.A., 1986. *The Butterflies of North America, A Natural History and Field Guide*. Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA. 583 pp.
- Shapiro, Arthur M. and Timothy D. Manolis, 2007. *Field Guide to Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Valley Regions*. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA. 345 pp.
- Tveten, John and Gloria, 1996. *Butterflies of Houston and Southeast Texas*. University of Texas Press, Austin, TX. 292 pp.
- Williams, Stephen G. 1990. *The Butterflies and Skippers of Southeast Texas*, Houston, TX, USA.

(Craig W. Marks, E-Mail: [cmarks@landcoast.com](mailto:cmarks@landcoast.com))

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*



## REPORTS OF STATE COORDINATORS

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

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

**Florida:** Charles V. Covell Jr., w07 NE 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601, E-Mail: [covell@louisville.edu](mailto:covell@louisville.edu)

Charlie sends in the following Florida report, December 15, 2010 through March 7, 2011:

Last Alachua Co. records after December 15 (last report): *D. plexippus*, December 21, and *P. sennae*, December 31. December proved to have the most killing freezes of the winter of 2010 – 2011. January and much of February, 2011, was chilly and mostly dry.

As of this March 7, 2011, I have seen only one species of butterfly in our yard in Gainesville: *P. sennae* (February 19, 21, and March 5). Other Gainesville records during this time include the following:

*Erynnis horatius*, February 22  
*Hylephila phyleus*, March 4  
*Papilio polyxenes asterius*, February 22, 26, March 2  
*Phoebis sennae*, February 18, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, March 2  
*Eurema lisa*, February 26  
*Eurema nicippe*, March 5  
*Libytheana carinenta*, February 26  
*Phyciodes phaon*, March 4  
*Vanessa virginiensis*, January 19

At the J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Area, Sanibel Island, Lee County, on January 16, I recorded *Eurema nicippe*, *Leptotes ceraunus*, *Junonia evarete* and *Agraulis vanillae* on a sunny but chilly visit.

On March 5 Barbara Woodmansee and a friend visited a west Florida coastal road in Dixie County called the "Dixie Mainline" between Suwannee to near Shired Island, and had the thrill of having a female Sweetbay Silkmoth, *Calosamia securifera*, hatch from its cocoon in their car at about 11:00 AM while it was moving. A male caught the scent and followed the car, entering it after they stopped. In all, 8 males tried to visit the captive female when they put the cage out in the shade; but only one mated with her – for 6 hours. Along this road she reported *Erynnis zarucco*, *Papilio polyxenes asterius*, *Papilio glaucus*, *Papilio palamedes*, *Phoebis sennae*, *Eurema nicippe*, *Callophrys gryneus sweadneri*, *Vanessa atalanta*, and *Hermeuptychia sosybius*. Also a possible *Asterocampa clyton*. Barbara and Kathy Malone spotted and photographed a *Nymphalis antiopa* near Newnan's Lake, Gainesville, on March 1.

Moth report from Jean Evoy recorded at her Peace River basin property, DeSoto County, 3 miles north of Arcadia:

**MICROLEPIDOPTERA:**

*Caloptilla* sp. 12/18/10, 1/3/11  
*Antaeotricha* sp. 1/10/11  
*Blastobasis glandulella* 2/11/11  
*Homaledra heptathalama* 2/20/11  
*Homaledra sabalella* 1/2/11, 2/4/11  
*Arogalea cristifasciella* 1/1/11  
*Prionoxystus robiniae* 1/4/11, 2/4/11

**TORTRICIDAE:**

*Oletheutes* spp. 1/3/11  
*Rhyacionia subtropica* 1/10/11  
*Eucosma robinsonii* 2/22/11  
*Sonia constricta* 2/24/11  
*Platynota exasperatana* 1/2/11, 2/6/11

*Platynota rostrana* 1/17/11, 2/20/11  
*Coelostathma discopunctana* 1/10/11  
*Aethes* sp. 1/1/11  
*Carolella* sp. 2/23/11

**MEGALOPYGIDAE:**

*Megalopyge opercularis* 2/2/11  
*Euclea* sp. 2/8/11

**CRAMBIDAE and PYRALIDAE:**

*Eudonia strigalis* 2/6/11  
*Neargyrtis slosonalis* 1/3/11, 2/6/11  
*Oenobotys vinotinctalis* 1/17/11, 2/10/11  
*Pyrausta acronalis* 2/11/11  
*Sameodes albiguttalis* 1/26/11



*Samea ecclesialis* 1/2/11, 2/7/11  
*Samea multiplicales* 1/3/11, 2/22/11  
*Desmia funeralis* 2/6/11  
*Hymenia perspectalis* 12/19/10  
*Diaphania modialis* 1/16/11  
*Palpita magniferalis* 2/23/11  
*Marasmia trapezalis* 1/11/11  
*Crambus satrapellus* 1/5/11  
*Microcrambus biguttellus* 1/26/11  
*Microcrambus elegans* 2/22/11  
*Argyria lacteella* 1/22/11  
*Urola nivalis* 1/1/11, 2/22/11  
*Vaxi critica* 1/2/11  
*Diatraea lisetta* 1/1/11, 2/11/11  
*Parachma ochracealis* 1/4/11  
*Tosale oviplagalis* 1/2/11, 2/5/11  
*Tlascala reductella* 1/26/11

**GEOMETRIDAE:**

*Macaria sanfordi* ? 1/21/11  
*Iridopsis pergracilis* 1/5/11  
*Iridopsis defectaria* 1/1/11  
*Phaeoura quemaria* 2/2/11  
*Nemoria lixaria* 1/2/11, 2/11/11  
*Synchlora frondaria* 1/21/11  
*Chlorochlamys chloroleucaria* 2/1/11  
*Idaea hilliata* 1/2/11  
*Idaea taturata* 2/10/11  
*Scopula aemulata* 1/1/11, 2/11/11  
*Lophosis labeculata* 1/4/11, 2/22/11  
*Eupithecia* sp. 12/10/10, 2/22/11

**SATURNIIDAE:**

*Automeris io* 2/11/11

**SPHINGIDAE:**

*Amorpha juglandis* 2/18/11

**NOTODONTIDAE:**

*Heterocampa astarte* 2/23/11  
*Heterocampa subrotata* 2/10  
*Heterocampa umbrata* 1/11/11

*Heterocampa guttivatta/biundata* 1/31/11, 2/21/11

**ARCTIIDAE:**

*Cisthene striata* 1/3/11, 2/10  
*Cisthene subjecta* 1/16/11, 2/6/11  
*Clemensia albata* 1/1/11, 2/23/11  
*Cosmosoma myrodora* 1/2/11, 2/20/11  
*Apantesis* sp. 2/19/11

**LYMANTRIIDAE:**

*Dasychira* sp. 1/2/11, 2/22/11  
*Orgyia leucostigma* 1/11/11

**NOCTUIDAE:**

*Idia aemula* 1/4/11  
*Bleptina* sp. 1/22/11  
*Tetanolita floridana* 1/18/11  
*Redectis vitrea* 1/4/11  
*Sigela penumbrata* 1/1/11  
*Nigetia formosalis* 1/1/11, 2/11/11  
*Hemeroplanis scopulepes* 1/10/11, 2/21/11  
*Hemeroplanis habitalis* 2/23/11  
*Phytometra ernestinana* 2/3/11  
*Anomis erosa* 1/26/11  
*Thysania zenobia* 1/11/11  
*Metria amella* 1/4/11, 2/5/11  
*Mocis latipes* 2/11/11  
*Ptichoides vinculum* 2/8/11  
*Zale horrida* 2/23/11  
*Meganola* sp. 1/4/11, 2/6/11  
*Agriopodes fallax* 2/20/11  
*Eudryas unio* 2/20/11  
*Acherdoa ferraria* 2/24/11  
*Gonodes liquida* 1/11/11  
*Galgula partita* 1/11/11  
*Amolita obliqua* 1/1/11  
*Psaphida resumens* 1/30/11, 2/11/11  
*Leucania incognita* 2/10/11  
*Leucania* sp. 2/24/11

Jean also saw her first *Eurytides marcellus* there on February 23.

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

James sends in his first State summary for 2011:

The contributors include James Adams (JA or no notation) and Irving Finkelstein (IF). Other contributors are spelled out with the appropriate records. Most records presented here represent new or interesting records (range extensions, unusual dates, uncommon species, county records, etc.), or more complete lists for new locations/new times of year. All dates listed below are 2011 unless otherwise specified. The ridiculously huge flight of *Erannis tiliaria* mentioned in the last report continued on into early January.

Calhoun, Gordon Co., JKA residence:

**GEOMETRIDAE:** *Erannis tiliaria* (outbreak numbers continued into early January [January 4]).  
**NOCTUIDAE:** *Pyreferra pettiti*, January 30; *Psaphida grandis*, earliest on January 29.

Carbondale, I-75 exit 326, Whitfield Co.:

**NOCTUIDAE:** *Acronicta* (formerly *Merolonche*) *dollii*, March 22; *Feralia major*, March 15 and March 22.



Taylor's Ridge, 5 mi. W of Villanow, Walker Co., February 19 – 20, with ILF:

**NOCTUIDAE:** *Feralia major*, *Lithophane querquera*, *Eupsilia sidus*, *Pyreferra hesperidago*.

**GEOMETRIDAE:** *Ceratomyx satanaria* (EARLY).

Gates Chapel Rd., 8 mi. WNW of Ellijay, Gilmer Co., IF, February 24 -27:

**NOCTUIDAE:** *Feralia jocosa* (15), *Lithophane querquera*.

Atlanta, Fulton Co., IF:

**GEOMETRIDAE:** *Paleacrita merricata*, February 16.

Dixon Memorial Forest WMA, Ware/Brantley Co., March 2-5, JA & IF:

Swampy area (1 mi NE of entrance to Okefenokee Swamp, SW of Laura Walker Lake):

**SATURNIIDAE:** *Actias luna*. **EREBIDAE:** *Spilosoma dubia*, *Hypsoropha monilis*, *Zale declarans*, *Z. lunifera*, *Lesmone hinna*. **NOLIDAE:** *Nola*, sp. nov. **NOCTUIDAE:** *Panthea furcilla australis*, *Lithophane abita* (4; COUNTY), *Metaxaglaea violacea* (COUNTY), *Chaetoglaea tremula*. **GEOMETRIDAE:** *Macaria aequiferaria*, *Iridopsis pergracilis*, *Ceratomyx satanaria* (COUNTY), *Petrophora divisata*, (yellow) *Eutrapela clemataria*, *Nemoria elfa* (COUNTY), *Nemoria lixaria*, *N. bifilata*, *Cladara limitaria* (COUNTY).

¼ mi ESE of Laura Walker Park, just east of Ware Co. line, Brantley Co.:

**SATURNIIDAE:** *Actias luna*, *Antheraea polyphemus*. **SPHINGIDAE:** *Deidamia inscripta*. **LASIOCAMPIDAE:** *Phyllodesma americana*. **EREBIDAE:** *Zale declarans*, *Z. helata*. **EUTELIIDAE:** *Marathyssa basalis*. **NOCTUIDAE:** *Chaetoglaea tremula*, *Morrisonia mucens*, *M. confusa*, *Elaphria georgei*, *E. excessa*. **GEOMETRIDAE:** *Episemasia solitaria*, (yellow) *Eutrapela clemataria*.

Ware Co., ½ mi. from NE corner of Laura Walker Lake

**EREBIDAE:** *Spilosoma dubia*, *Agyrostrotis sylvarum*, *Metria amella*, *Zale declarans*, *Z. calycanthata*, *Zale* sp. **NOCTUIDAE:** *Chaetoglaea tremula*, *Agrotis subterranea*. **GEOMETRIDAE:** *Iridopsis vellivolata*, *Episemasia solitaria*, *Petrophora divisata*, (yellow) *Eutrapela clemataria*, *Nemoria elfa*.

Griffin Ridge WMA, 3 mi. SW of Ludowici, Long Co. March 3-4, JA & IF:

**SATURNIIDAE:** *Actias luna*, *Antheraea polyphemus*. **EREBIDAE:** *Spilosoma dubia*, *S. congrua*, *Argyrostrotis deleta*, *Zale calycanthata* (numerous), *Z. declarans*, *Z. lunifera*, *Z. intenta*, *Zale* sp. **NOCTUIDAE:** *Cerma cora* (2; COUNTY), *Lithophane abita* (3), *Feltia* (*Trichosilia*) *manifesta*. **GEOMETRIDAE:** *Macaria aequiferaria*, *Ceratomyx satanaria* (LOTS; 30+), (yellow) *Eutrapela clemataria*.

Skidaway Island, Chatham Co., Ga., Fitz Clarke:

December 22, 2010:

**PIERIDAE:** *Phoebis sennae* (apparently quite cold tolerant, as temps were in the low 20's for two nights previous).

January 1, 2011:

**NYMPHALIDAE:** *Danaus plexippus* (apparently can live for extended period, though not necessarily overwinter, in SE GA).

Chickasawhatchee WMA, Swamp of Toa, Southwest Georgia (Coastal Plain), Dougherty Co., March 14, Roy Brown:

**LYCAENIDAE:** *Callophrys gryneus* (COUNTY record and range extension for nominate subspecies. Most sources indicate a gap between north/central GA *gryneus* and Floridian *sweadneri*). **PIERIDAE:** *Anthocharis midea* (common; COUNTY, also in a records gap in south GA).

Louisiana: Michael Lockwood, 215 Hialeah Avenue, Houma, LA 70363, E-Mail: [mikelock34@hotmail.com](mailto:mikelock34@hotmail.com)

Mike sends in the following report from Kevin Cunningham: October 23, 2010; Peveto Woods Sanctuary off of LA Highway 82, Cameron Parish, Louisiana:

**PIERIDAE:**

*Phoebis agarithe maxima*, three males

*Ascia monuste monuste*, one male



**PAPILIONIDAE:**

*Battus philenor philenor*, one male

**Mississippi:** Rick Patterson, 400 Winona Rd., Vicksburg, MS 39180, E-Mail: [rpatte42@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:Stephen.Hall@ncmail.net)

Steve states that the following selected moth records were submitted by Merrill Lynch, all observed February 20<sup>th</sup> at his farm in Watauga County. Merrill states that this was "the best night yet so far this year in Watauga County. Perfect conditions; balmy with temps holding around 54 degrees until 9 pm. I had about 65 individuals of 11 species, including three lifers (!!); almost all at my sugar bait except for 3 species of *Agonopterix* that were attracted to the UV light on the porch."

**NOCTUIDAE:**

*Lithophane unimoda*, 20+

*Lithophane joannis*, 4

*Lithophane antennata*, 1, at sugar bait

*Eupsilia morrisoni*, 25+

*Eupsilia vinulenta*, 4

*Eupsilia tristigmata*, 2

*Eupsilia devia*, 1, at sugar bait (COUNTY); recorded only a few times in North Carolina

*Pyreferra citrombra*, 2

**OECOPHORIDAE:**

*Agonopterix pulvipennella*, 3 at light sheet

*Agonopterix canadensis*, 2 at light sheet

*Agonopterix alstroemeriana*, at light sheet

The following selected butterfly record was submitted by Harry LeGrand.

**LYCAENIDAE:**

*Leptotes cassius*, the first records for North Carolina (STATE) were made by Mark Jones in his yard in Wilmington, New Hanover. He obtained photos of individuals there on August 27, 2006, and on August 29, 2007. He also observed the species in his yard in the latter part of July 2010.

**South Carolina:** Brian Scholtens, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424, E-Mail: [scholtensb@cofc.edu](mailto:scholtensb@cofc.edu)

Brian sends in the following list of new South Carolina state records from early spring last year in Congaree National Park (The collectors are Joe Culin from Clemson University, John Snyder from Furman University, and Brian Scholtens from College of Charleston):

**COSMOPTERYGIDAE:**

*Melanocincla sparsa* - 14 May 2010

*Teladoma helianthi* - 14 May 2010

**GELECHIIDAE:**

*Coleotechnites variella* - 14-15 May 2010

*Pseudochelaria walsinghami* - 14 May 2010

*Chionodes formosella* - 14 May 2010

*Chionodes fuscomaculella* - 14 May 2010

*Anacamptis agrimoniella* - 15 May 2010

**TINEIDAE:**

*Mea bipunctella* - 14 May 2010

**HELIOZELIDAE:**

*Antispila nysaefoliella* - 14 May 2010

**LYONETIIDAE:**

*Philonome clemensella* - 14 May 2010

**GLYPHIDOCERIDAE:**

*Glyphidocera septentrionella* - 14 May 2010

**COLEOPHORIDAE:**

*Mompha circumscriptella* - 15 May 2010

*Mompha eloisella* - 14 May 2010

**TORTRICIDAE:**

*Gretchena concubitana* - 14 May 2010

*Ancylis spireaefoliaria* - 14 May 2010

*Olethreutes exaeresima* - 14 May 2010

*Olethreutes auricapitana* - 14 May 2010

*Metendothenia separatana* - 14 May 2010

*Phaneta umbrastriana* - 23 April 2010



*Epiblema abruptana* – 14 May 2010  
*Epiblema discretivana* – 14 May 2010  
*Sparganothis niveana* – 14 May 2010  
*Platynota semiustana* – 15 May 2010

**CRAMBIDAE:**

*Scoparia basalis* – 14 May 2010  
*Eiparagyraetis plevie* – 14 May 2010  
*Palpita freemanalis* – 25 March 2010  
*Donacula longirostrella* – 14 May 2010

**PYRALIDAE:**

*Peoria approximella* – 14 May 2010  
*Oreana unicolorella* – 14 May 2010  
*Salebriaria bella* – 14 May 2010

*Salebriaria fergusonella* – 14 May 2010  
*Sciota crassifasciella* – 15 May 2010  
*Tulsa finitella* – 14 May 2010  
*Honora mellinella* – 15 May 2010  
*Unadilla maturella* – 17 April 2010  
*Aphomia fulminalis* – 14 May 2010  
*Acrobasis minimella* – 14 May 2010

**NOCTUIDAE:**

*Acronicta noctivaga* – 17 April 2010  
*Dyspyralis puncticosta* – 14 May 2010  
*Macrochilo absorptalis* – 14 May 2010

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

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

Ed reports the following: As is the case for much of the Southern lepidopterists region, we had the coldest December and January in decades, with freezing temperatures and some snow well into extreme south Texas. Spring came slightly late, but by late February warm weather brought out the usual spring leps. in the Houston and Austin areas.

*Anthocharis midea texana* has been quite common north of Houston and a few showed up in the city. *Callophrys henrici* is also out in Houston and Austin.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
The Southern Lepidopterists' News is published four times annually. Membership dues are \$20.00 annually. The organization is open to anyone, especially those with an interest in the Lepidoptera of the southern United States. Information about the Society may be obtained from Marc Minno, Membership Coordinator, 600 NW 34 Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32607, E-Mail: [mmminno@bellsouth.net](mailto:mmminno@bellsouth.net), and dues may be sent to Jeffrey R. Slotten, Treasurer, 5421 NW 69th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32653.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY**

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