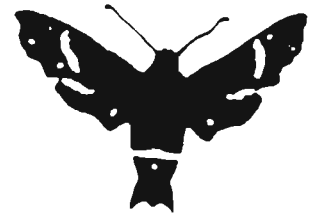




southern lepidopterists' news



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

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1992 ABBOT AWARD WINNER DOUGLAS C. FERGUSON

Douglas C. Ferguson, a Research Entomologist with the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, located at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC, was born in Nova Scotia. As a youth he was constrained by ill health and often did as little



work as possible, preferring to wander the hinterland in search of birds and butterflies. This early solution to boredom grew into an obsession with butterflies and moths during his teens, when he traded specimens extensively with other amateurs, but it later provided the incentive to seek higher education. After graduation from Dalhousie University, Halifax he was employed by the Nova Scotia Museum for thirteen years, working up from technician to Curator of Zoology, and acquiring a masters' degree from Cornell University during a year's leave of absence in 1965-1966. In the six years as a staff and faculty member at the Peabody Museum, with the cumbersome titles of Curatorial Associate and Research Staff Biologist in the Museum and Lecturer in the Department of Biology at Yale, he completed requirements for a Ph.D, which was awarded by Cornell in 1967.

While at the Nova Scotia Museum, after rather isolated beginnings as an amateur lepidopterist, he invited J.H. McDunnough to work at Halifax in retirement, and this led to a close association that lasted 12 years, until McDunnough's death in 1962. Although McDunnough's presence cut into the time that might have been spent in pursuit of graduate studies elsewhere, Doug was subsequently fortunate in working under J.G. Franclemont at Cornell, C.L. Remington (co-founder of The Lepidopterists' Society) at Yale, and in sharing working space in the collection room of the old Comstock Hall at Cornell with W.T.M. Forbes. These contacts helped foster a broad interest in different groups of Lepidoptera and in Natural History. Since 1969, Doug has been a Research Entomologist, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, with an office in the National Museum of Natural History. By a strange turn of events, the Barnes and McDunnough material, purchased many years earlier by the Department of Agriculture, forms the foundation of the North American Lepidoptera collection upon which Doug and his colleagues work today.

Doug has had extensive field experience in 30 states and eight Canadian provinces. A long interest in the fauna of the Southeast began with a 6-week stay at Welaka, Putnam Co. and the Archbold Biological Station, Florida in 1962, followed by many later trips to the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. A chance meeting with the late R.B. Dominick in 1967 led to the founding of The Moths of America North of Mexico project and also afforded the opportunity to collect every month of the year at The Wedge Plantation in Charleston Co., South Carolina. Altogether, Doug has personally collected, spread, and labeled around 175,000 specimens of Lepidoptera, which, however, still fall short of those in the Franclemont collection. Doug is the author or co-author of over 70 publications, including large works on Geometridae, Arctiidae, Lymantriidae, and Saturniidae, and a faunal account of the macrolepidoptera of Nova Scotia published in 1954.

COLLECTING HAZARDS: CHAGAS DISEASE

VERNON A. BROU

American Trypanosomiasis (Chagas Disease) is an acute and chronic infection caused by the flagellate Trypanosoma cruzi, known to occur only in the Western Hemisphere. The parasite enters man via skin transmission from infected triatomine bugs (Hemiptera). The disease was first described in 1909 by Carlos Chagas in Brazil. In South America, Chagas cardiomyopathy is the most important cause of death among males 25-44 years of age, and it is the leading cause of cardiovascular death. Various species of assassin bugs (Reduviidae), ranging from the southern U.S. to Argentina, are linked with this disease. Blood feeding species of the genera Triatoma, Rhodnius, and Panstrongylus are more often cited in literature. Most species of reduviids are predators and frequently take up residency in fermenting bait traps where they are routinely encountered feeding on flies and other insects including those in size up to medium sphingids.

Infected sylvatic Triatoma species have been found in most southern U.S. states. They have a blood-dependent life cycle. Dogs and cats are important domestic reservoirs. Opossums, rats, armadillos, and native rodents are important sylvatic reservoirs.

These insects usually feed at night and one individual can ingest up to one milliliter of blood per incident. Man is infected when the

trypomastigotes in the insect feces penetrate the entry point as the bug defecates during or after feeding. Often there are no signs of the entry site. Sometimes there is an erythematous area at the site of skin penetration. Subsequently the heart wall, skeletal muscle and both central and autonomic nervous systems are invaded. A variety of maladies may ensue including fever, hypothermia, malaise, anorexia, convulsions, as well as fatal meningioencephalitis. The mortality among patients hospitalized with acute disease is about 10%. In some patients, congestive heart failure develops rapidly and is quite often fatal. Sudden death without previous symptoms is frequent in endemic areas. The disease also causes other serious complications including megaesophagus and megacolon.

There is no protective immunity in humans, nor is there any specific therapy. Chagas disease is primarily the result of socioeconomic deprivation. There are documented instances in the U.S. (Florida, and others) of persons living in poorly constructed housing which were infested with these insects.

WANTED: EDITOR FOR THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' NEWSLETTER

Do you have a flair for editing? Are you creative and looking for a challenging and satisfying opportunity to serve an exciting organization? The Southern Lepidopterists are in need of a new Editor for the Newsletter. If you or anyone you know is interested in serving this important office, please contact: John Calhoun: 813-736-3778.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS

There is new evidence that Eumaeus atala is continuing its strong comeback in southern Florida with the discovery by Carmen Berrows-MacDougall of a large colony in northern Palm Beach County. This latest find is associated with an extensive stand of Zamia in a protected coastal sand pine scrub habitat. A flowering brazilian pepper bush at the site was covered with hundreds of nectaring E. atala!

Carmen, an environmental consultant, is coordinator of the Butterfly Project. The project helps children plant native flower gardens to attract butterflies so that the students can learn to appreciate Florida's biological diversity while fulfilling the state's environmental education requirement. The Butterfly Project has also been instrumental in initiating a policy requiring local schools to use native plants for landscaping and to minimize impact on natural ecosystems during school construction. The group is currently alerting homeowners to the presence of E. atala on ornamental Zamia plantings and encouraging them not to spray the larvae with insecticide.

Irving Finkelstein and Hermann Flaschka have recently undergone major surgeries. They are both recovering nicely. We wish them good health and ability to resume their normal routines.

RESEARCH REQUESTS & MEMBERS NOTICES

FOR SALE: Light Traps. 12 volt DC or 110 volt AC with 15 watt or 8 watt black lights. The traps are portable and easy to use. Flow-through rain

drain and beetle screens protect specimens from damage. For a free brochure and price list contact; Leroy C. Koehn, 6058 Campbell Rd., Mentor on the Lake, OH 44060, Telephone 216-257-0796.

WANTED TO PHOTOGRAPH FOR BOOK: Live ova/larva/pupa of lepidoptera from other areas. Most wanted: Papilios, Parnassius, Pierids, Nymphalids: (Fritillaries, esp. S. diana, S. idalia), Anaea sp., Basilarchia sp., A. bredowii, H. misippus, A. jatrophae, Polygonia sp., and Eunica., Lycaenids, Heliconiids, Sphingids, Thysania zenobia, Ascalapha odorata, Saturniids, live brown recluse spider and other interesting insects. Send list to: David Liebman, 981 S. Quail St., Norfolk, VA 23513, phone 804-853-4722.

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MEMBERSHIP ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

Please note the typographical error on page 41 of VOL:14 NO 2 in the Southern Lepidopterists' Society Newsletter: Brain Pasby should be changed to Brian Pasby.

CURRENT ZONE REPORTS

ZONE I TEXAS: Coordinator , Ed Knudson, 8517 Burkhart, Houston, TX 77055.

Ed Knudson reports that the still-growing checklist for Guadalupe Mt. Nat. Park now exceeds 1200 species of Lepidoptera, the largest regional list so far compiled in the state. This will be the first to be published, hopefully with some illustrations included. The following interesting species were taken in the Guadalupe Mts. during visits in May, June and July. El Paso (30 May): Zoetheca tranquilla. Dog Canyon (29-30 May): Ectypia clio, Mamestra configurata; (26-28 June) Nemoria unitaria, Hydriomena similaris, Eupithecia misturata, E. nimbosea, Pygoctenuchia pyrrhoura, Metalectra bigallis, Asticta victoria, Apamea perpensa, Setagrotis piscipellis; (31 July) Decantha stoda, Periploca atrata, Plutella porrectella, Catastega spectra, Sphinx separata, Mniotype pallescens, Cucullia oribac, C. montanae, Dargida procincta, Hydroeciodes repleta, Abagrotis bimarginalis, and Setagrotis atrifrons.

Mike Rickard and Ed met Hoe Chuah and David Cushing in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas during Labor Day weekend. Unfortunately, very few butterflies were on the wing and, although there had been plenty of rain earlier in the year, it had been very hot and dry during most of the summer. Only about 45 species were seen in two days, from Brownsville to Roma. In Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge large moths were scarce, but there were many micros. The geometrid, Synchlora gerularia, was quite common. A possible new Texas state record was the pyralid, Sameodes albiguttalis, which Ed has seen from Louisiana and Mississippi.

Courtesy of Hermann Flaschka, Ed has been using a sesiid trap since May. This has produced huge numbers of two species, Synanthedon decipiens

and Podosesia aureocincta, and almost nothing else. One surprising catch in Houston was the large lyonetiid, Euprora argenticlineella, at uv light. This species is notable for having large white tufts on its antennae and palpi. Another interesting species taken in Houston was Opogona omoscopa, the first Ed knows of from Texas.

ZONE II ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, TENNESSEE: Vernon Brou, 74320 Jack Loyd Rd., Abita Springs, LA 70420; Bryant Mather, 213 Mt. Salus Dr., Clinton, MS 39056; Mecky Furr, 7926 Cross Pike, Germantown, TN 38138.

Jeff Slotten collected in Bay St. Louis, Hancock Co., MS on 27 and 28 September. A brackish marsh along U.S. 90 yielded the following skippers: Poanes aaroni (STATE RECORD), Euphyes dion bayensis, Euphyes pilatka, Panoquina panoquin, Panoquina ocola, Erynnis funeralis, Lerema accius. Rick Kergosian who located this marsh about twenty years ago accompanied Slotten on 28 September.

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

William Nix reported the sesiids Podosesia syringae, Synanthedon scitula, and Synanthedon pictipes from Atlanta on 3 - 5 July.

James Adams reports that collecting in the Dalton area has been very good for moths. Butterfly collecting has been generally disappointing since his arrival there and this year has been no exception. The following report is printed as it was received. Unless otherwise specified, all records are from Whitfield County, Georgia. Specimens without dates represent multiple captures on many dates:

BUTTERFLIES AND SKIPPERS:

As stated above, collecting butterflies in north Georgia is a real chore. I have seen/collected a few interesting butterflies and skippers in the last year, however. As stated previously, this area is particularly good for mixed black/yellow female phenotypes of the Tiger Swallowtail, P. glaucus. Amblyscirtes aesculapius (1 male; 24-May-1992) is a new addition to the Dalton list. I also collected Poanes hobomok, Lerema accius, Erynnis martialis, and Satyrium edwardsii at Pigeon Mountain in Walker Co..

MOTHS:

Saturniidae: Citheronia regalis was unusually abundant this year including many females (July 1992); female Anisota pellucida were attracted to a virgin (reared) female (30-May-1992); Anisota stigma unusually common (late June-mid August 1992); Hemileuca maia (30-October-1991); Sphingicampa bisecta (State Record?) actually quite common (July-August-1992); Callosamia promethea, collected Pigeon Mountain Walker Co., (6-May-1992).

Sphingidae: Adding gas stations up the road in Rocky Face to my rounds during moth collecting has significantly added to the list of Sphingids I have taken in Whitfield Co., and most of the following records are from Rocky Face: Sphinx franckii (two males; 14-July, 25-July-1992); S kalmiae, common (July-August-1992); Eumorpha pandorus, E. achemon,

Paonias excaecatus, P. astylus, Ceratomia amyntor (catalpae and undulosa as well, of course), Manduca rustica and Smerinthus jamaicensis. Hemaris thysbe was collected at Pigeon Mountain (30-July-1992).

Lasiocampidae: Tolype notialis, common; Heteropacha rileyana, common.

Notodontidae: Hyperaeschra georgica, common; Furcula borealis (late June-July-1992); Hyparpax aurora (19-July, 25-July 1992), also two specimens from Villanow, Walker Co. (16 May, 30 June 1992); Schziura ipomoeae (common), S. concinna (common), S. apicalis (16 April, 30 July 1992), S. badia (6 June, 2 July 1992).

Noctuidae: Choephora fungorum (Oct. - Nov. 1991), Anomogyna dilucida (late Oct. 1991), Raphia abrupta (July 1992), Colocasia spp. (July 1992) Panthea furcilla (several specimens), Panthea sp. (Fort Mountain, Gilmer Co, 700 M., 22 July 1992), Condica confederata (24 Aug. 1992), Nycteola frigidana, Callopietria mollissima (several specimens), C. cordata (12 Aug. 1992), Ascalapha odorata (30 July 1992), Agriopodes fallax (9 Aug. 1992), Chrysanympha formosana (quite common this year from April - early June), Argyrogramma verruca (30 July 1992), Harrismemna trisignata (20 July, 28 July, 12 Aug. 1992), Spragueia dama (26 July 1992), S. apicalis apicella (12 Aug. 1992, Acronicta betulae (Fort Mountain, 22 July 1992). Feralia major was extremely common this year, starting in early January (6 Jan. - early March 1992).

Geometridae: The year began interestingly with Feralia major (above) and Ceratomyx satanaria (Feb. 1992; no females yet!) being relatively common. Caripeta aretaria (7 March 1992), Heliomata cycladata (April - May 1992; also found at Pigeon Mountain), Heterophleps triguttaria (27 May 1992), Eclipoptera atricolorata (16 June, 30 June 1992), Dichorda iridaria (common).

Drepanidae: Drepana arcuata (8 Aug. 1992); also one specimen from Fort Mountain (22 July 1992).

Epiplemidae: Calledapteryx dryopterata (18 June, 23 July 1992); also one specimen from Pigeon Mt. (6 June 1992).

Thyatiridae: Euthyatira pudens, unusually common (April 1992); Habrosyne scripta (Ft. Mountain, 22 July 1992), also one specimen from Gatlinburg, Sevier Co., TN (14 Aug. 1992).

Cossidae: Givera sp. (not anna; late July 1992).

Pyralidae: Omphalocera cariosa (28 July 1992), Pyrausta niveiciliialis, Diaphania nitidalis, Pantograpta limata, Epipagis huronalis.

Epipyropidae: Fulgoraecia exigua (2 July 1991)

Limacodidae: Dalton continues to be an incredible area of limacodid diversity. I have collected about 20 species in the area, including three new ones this year: Heterogena shurtleffi (May - August), Adoneta sp. nr. pygmaea (early August), and Monoleuca semifascia (late July). I also collected two more Phobetron pithecium; a male (30 July) and a female

(Ft. Mountain, 22 July). Adoneta spinuloides, Acharia stimulea, Euclea indeterminata, and Nadata nasoni, uncommon last year, were all quite common this year. One species is yet to be determined (Slossonella tenebrosa?). Fifteen different species of limacodids (± 50 species in the U.S.) were collected on one night (13 July 1992).

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

Dave Baggett recorded new catches for Palatka, Putnam County, Florida at his backyard 15 watt black light: Manduca rustica, August 10th, 1992; Hylephila phyleus, August 21st, 1992; and Darapsa versicolor, August 21st, 1992.

Palmer Kinser, Dave Baggett's supervisor at the Water Management District Headquarters in Palatka, collected Munroessa faulalis (Pyralidae) from Little Lake Harris, Double Run Swamp in Lake County on August 11th, 1992.

Dave Baggett and Marc Minno added new Lake County records for common species. Dave emphasizes the importance of recording such records for all counties in Florida. Their new records include the following: Agraulis vanillae, Copaeodes minima and Junonia coenia at Sugar Mountain Scrub in July, 1992; Phyciodes tharos, Vanessa atalanta, and Limenitis archippus at Lake Apopka in July.; Anartia jatrophae, Hermeptichia sosybius and Limenitis archippus were taken at Little Lake Harris in July; Panthiades m-album at Little Lake Harris in early August, 1992; Calycopis cecrops at Lake Griffin in early August; Phoebis sennae and Colias eurytheme at Double Run Swamp on Little Lake Harris in early August; Atrytone logan, Eurema nicippe, Urbanus dorantes, Pyrgus oileus at Lake Apopka in early August. Dave also reported the 2nd Florida record for Fernaldia anatomella on August 26th at Lake Harris, Lake County, Florida.

William Nix gave some fine reports: Sessiid collecting in Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida in early April produced Synanthedon rubrofascia and Synanthedon geliformis. He reported Podosesia aureocincta and Synanthedon sapygaeformis from Delray Beach in April and May, 1992. On the 6th-22nd of July, 1992, Nix reported from Delray Beach the arctiids Palpida pallidior and Pareuchaetes insulata as well as the pyralids Hexeris enhydris and Palpita kimballi.

John Kutis collected in Goose Pasture, Jefferson County, Florida on the 21st of May, 1992, where he found Catocala orba and Catocala lincolnana. On the 27th of May, John reported Catocala coccinata at Gulf Hammock, Levy County, Florida.

Tom Neal and Jeff Slotten collected at Cedar Key Shell Mound Park in Levy County on the 23rd of May, 1992. They baited trees and found Catocala delilah, Catocala amestris, Catocala jair, Catocala amica, Catocala ilia, Catocala muliercula, and Catocala micronympha. At ultraviolet lights they reported Seirarctia echo and the micro Meskea dyspteraria. Encouraged by the new record for Catocala delilah, one of the few moths that John Kutis has not collected in north central Florida, John sent a search party (himself) and found Catocala delilah at Shired Island in Dixie County on the 27th of May, 1992.

Lee Adair journeyed to Homestead and Florida City to survey and photograph the damage from hurricane Andrew. He reports that Owaissa Bauer Hammock, Ross Costello Hammock, and IFAS Station had extensive damage. The USDA Plant Experiment Station at Cutler Ridge was so badly damaged that it may not be rebuilt. North Key Largo in Monroe County

suffered minimal damage.

Tom Emmel surveyed the outer islands at Biscayne National Monument and reported extensive damage to the barrier islands from wind and storm surge.

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

SOUTH CAROLINA: (all records Ron Gattelle unless otherwise noted). Ron reports that, after the early warm spring, summer began late and cool. August was exceptionally wet. Calpodes ethlius is having another outbreak year and is a pest of Canna.

Orangeburg County, Bull Swamp: Poanes aaroni howardi, Wallengrenia otho, W. egeremet (1,6,9 June), Euphyes dion alabamiae (6 June). Hwy. 394 one mi. E. of Hwy. 3 (1,6,9 June): Strymon l. liparops (1 June), Problemma byssus (9 June), Harkenclenus titus mopsus, Celastrina ladon ladon, Euptoieta claudia, Phyciodes tharos, Polites origines, Erynnis martialis (1,6,9 June).

Charleston County, Mt. Pleasant, Hwy. 17 nr. Boone Hall Plantation (5 June): Satyrium kingi, two males; Eurystrymon favonius, one female. Hwy. 17 south of Ravenal (5 June): P. origines, W. egeremet, E. dion alabamiae, Poanes yehl.

Colleton County, Jacksonboro, Westvaco Park: Satyrodes appalachia, Pompeius verna sequoyah, Megisto "cymela" (5 June). Same area 10 August S. appalachia.

Berkley County, Goose Creek: One female Asterocampa celtis reinthali (20 July) from which 30 viable ova were obtained. No larvae died or diapaused and adults emerged 17-25 August. Several 2nd and 3rd instar larvae of Asterocampa clyton were located in Ron's subdivision on 25 July and reared through. None diapaused and all emerged 10-27 August. The heads of these A. clyton were very light in color and quite different from the black heads of a batch of Floridian A. clyton flora larvae that Ron was just finishing rearing. Further, it was noted that last instar A. c. clyton tended to stay social and congregated together, which last instar A. c. flora did not do. A. c. clyton also always made leaf tents.

Pickens County, Clemson Forest North: On 25 April Hoe Chuah found Thorybes pylades, Erynnis icelus, E. brizo, E. juvenalis, Poanes zabulon (abundant), Amblyscirtes hegon, A. reversa, A. vialis, A. belli, Battus philenor, Papilio glaucus, Colias philodice, Phoebis sennae (early for upstate), Eurema nicippe, Incisalia nippon, Everes comyntas, Celastrina ladon, Vanessa virginensis, V. cardui, Phyciodes tharos, Charidryas nycteis, Basilarchia arthemis astanyx, and Hermeuptychia sosybia. Ron collected the same area on three occasions from 10 till 11 AM each day. The more interesting species were Feniseca tarquinius and Lethe creola (26 June); Celastrina ladon (common, 3 July) and Satyrodes appalachia (24 July).

NORTH CAROLINA: All records Ron Gattelle unless otherwise noted.

Macon County: Intensive collecting (27 June; 3-7, 9, 24 July) yielded only one sight record of Speyeria aphrodite. Further, all endemic Speyeria were greatly down in numbers in GA, NC, TN, and KY during July. I attribute this to an unseasonably warm March and April (breaking larval diapause) followed by a rare heavy snowstorm in mid May (9-20 inches) and a record cold period in early June which undoubtedly killed off many larvae and pushed others into maturing very late. This scenario is especially likely in the case of S. aphrodite which ranges above 4000 ft. Speyeria were more affected by these conditions in NC, where there were virtually none flying, than in KY, where they were few and late. August and September population numbers should be interesting.

Phyciodes batesi was taken at two locations in Macon Co. (27 June) by Gattelle and Jeff Slotten (NEW CO. RECORD) and by Ron again on 6 July. All specimens were females and were rather flown to quite worn. These specimens were 3-5 weeks later than expected! To Ron's knowledge, based on Klots (1972), these are the first far southern records of batesi since 1957. However he feels batesi is actually very widespread and not rare in northeast GA and western NC. This is almost surely a case of too little collecting in general, collecting during the wrong season, and overlooking the proper high elevation habitat.

Erora laeta was taken by Gattelle at a second location in Macon Co. (9 July). E. laeta was also was found in good numbers at Big Black Mt., KY by Gattelle (8, 14 July) and Slotten (18, 19 July). On 24 July Feniseca tarquinius was taken for a new MACON CO. RECORD.

CATOCALA CAPERS

DR. FRANCIS ANNE ECKER



PROTO-LEPIDOPTERIST

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

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