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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AND KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO UNDERSTANDING THE LEPIDOPTERA FAUNA OF THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE UNITED STATES (WEBSITE: www.southernlepsoc.org/)

J. BARRY LOMBARDINI: EDITOR

CARIA INO MELICERTA SCHAUS, 1890 SOME NEW OCCURRENCES ON THE EDWARDS PLATEAU IN TEXAS

BY

JOSEPH F. DOYLE

Red-bordered Metalmark (*Caria ino melicerta*)

The Red-bordered Metalmark, *Caria ino melicerta,* ranges from southern Texas in the United States to Yucatan, Mexico. It is the only generic subspecies of four that inhabit the western Hemisphere that occurs in Texas (Clench, 1967).

The normal range of this metalmark in Texas is the lower Rio Grande Valley and lower coastal counties. Occasionally it strays to the southern edge of the Edwards Plateau. It has been occasionally recorded from Uvalde County, Concan, Texas, *leg.* Ed Knudson, (Gaskin, 1998) and Bexar County, San Antonio, Texas; 19 August, 1976, 1 male, Culebra Rd. at I.H. 410, Leon Creek, *leg.* J.F. Doyle III (specimen in J.F. Doyle III collection).

The first record for *C. i. melicerta* in Comal County was noted by Kendall (1976) as 4 & 19 October, 1975, 2 females, *leg.* W.W. McGuire with no exact location. In the article Kendall listed *Celtis pallida* Torr., Spiny Hackberry as the larval foodplant. This is a common plant in the Mesquite savannah of south Texas.

The photos above are the second record for Comal County, Texas. They were sent to the author for confirmation by the photographer, John Siemssen of New Braunfels, Texas. They were taken on 12 August, 2009, of a male at a newly planted butterfly garden on property owned by Waste Management, Inc. located on Mesquite Creek, 7 miles northeast of New Braunfels, Texas, off FM 1101. On 29 July, 2009, the author visited the site and observed *Celtis pallida* in the area.

Another recent record of this riodinid butterfly was on 22 August 2009, Regional Park butterfly garden, Medina County, Castroville, Texas, *leg.* Bill Dempwolf of Austin, Texas. The author visited the garden on 1 September, 2009, and collected a male nectaring on *Aloysia virgata* (Ruiz & Paz), VERBENACEAE. On 2 September, 2009, the author sighted another male on the same bush and found a female, almost dead and attached to an inflorescence. A small spider was spotted nearby and probably responsible for the predation. The dead female was collected. Inspection of the larval foodplants in close proximity to the garden failed to produce any larvae or pupae. An additional female was collected on 28 October, 2009 by JFD in the garden at Castroville, Texas, with some damage to the rear wings.

Humidity and riparian influences are obvious factors in the occurrence of *C. ino melicerta* in south Texas. The subtropical climate is influenced by the constant northwestern flow of moist air from the Gulf of Mexico into the Edwards Plateau area. Comal County is intersected by the Guadalupe River. The site on Mesquite Creek is seven miles from the river and *ca.* 500 m. west of a small impoundment on Mesquite Creek. Uvalde County is divided by the Frio, Sabinal and Nueces Rivers. Medina County is split from north to south near its eastern boundary by the Medina River. Bexar County holds the San Antonio and Medina Rivers in its boundaries. All of these rivers are constant flowing.

What is most curious about the Medina and Comal County occurrences is that they appeared during a horrendous drought and at a time when tropical lepidopteran incursions have not typically started. In San Antonio, Texas, September 2007 through August 2009 was the driest two-year period ever recorded with 24.83 inches of rainfall in 24 months. In 2009, a record of 59 days was set of triple-digit temperatures for the most in one calendar year. Late August and early September is the usual time for the start of northward movement in south Texas. The individuals were not part of any colonization efforts as the species has not been noticed as having that characteristic. No recorded unusual climactic occurrences, *i.e.,* tropical hurricanes were noted during the period. This is another puzzle to add to so many about lepidoptera on the Edwards Plateau.

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(Terry Doyle, Hill Country Representative, Texas Lepidoptera Survey; E-Mail: TDoyle3@aol.com)

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WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST SLS MEMBER

Barbara Vieux Peterson
200 S. Banana River BLVD. #2302
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PLYMOUTH BLUFF, MISSISSIPPI

BY

KELLY RICHERS

Plymouth Entrance: This is the entrance to the Plymouth Bluff Environmental Center.

As a visitor from the burning down west, I had two goals when I attended the 2008 Lepidopterists' Society meeting at Mississippi State. The first was to attend the important parts of the meeting, notably those that involved drinking and camaraderie, and the second to collect Mississippi moths and butterflies. When I called the meeting organizers to find out where to stay, one of the recommended places was the Plymouth Bluff Environmental Center, located just west of Columbus.

This location, some thirteen miles east of Starkville, appeared to have the best opportunity for collecting at night, so I made plans to stay there two nights, June 23 and 24, 2008, hoping for some success collecting local moths. Although other excursions were planned, notably the Friday cookout at Noxubee and the butterfly collecting at another location, this locality seemed better for a moth collector than staying in a Starkville hotel.

As it turned out, the visit was far better than I expected. Several things made the visit memorable. First, James Adams allowed me to ship equipment to his place in Calhoun, Georgia, and offered me a night's accommodation, picking moths off his back porch, lit up with mercury vapor light. Thus, I started off with notable *Catocala* species (*epione, andromedea, ultronia, micronympha, connubialis, amica, minuta*) from Georgia, before even getting to Mississippi.

Plymouth Road: This road leads to the cottages or cabins. Heavy woods on the right, or east, fields past the row of trees on the left.

James also took me to the swampy banks of some areas he knew, (by the Oostanalula River) set four traps, and let me split the take, resulting in much good stuff the next morning. So, tired and sleepless after an all day flight into Atlanta, driving to the Dalton area, collecting all night off the Adams back porch, I set off in a rental car to a lesser known area James recommended in northern Georgia for butterfly collecting en route to Mississippi.

Following James's instructions was interesting, as he knows the area so well, that the directions sounded something like *"turn left on Turkey Snout Road after passing through Deerpoot, where the store used to be at the corner. It may not be there any more and there may not be a road sign"*. But, eventually, I found a great place and afterwards tried to get across the mountains to Birmingham. Afraid to stop at the country store from Deliverance for directions, I was slow getting to Tuscaloosa, and was late getting to Plymouth Bluff by at least two hours. Imagine my surprise at getting a call in a driving rainstorm outside Tuscaloosa by the manager of the Plymouth Bluff facility reassuring me that he would put the air conditioning and lights on and telling me which cabin was mine.

The rain dribbled out at the Mississippi border, and after passing through Columbus, on Route 82 I dutifully turned north on the Plymouth Bluff access road, which is where Route 45 goes south from 82. It is not where Route 45 goes

Plymouth Cottage: This is a cabin, which is actually several connected separate rooms.

Plymouth Trail: One of the trails off the road where traps could easily be set. Great for a day hike for butterflies also.

Geometridae (left to right, top to bottom): *Erastria cruentaria* (6705), *Dichorda iridaria* (7053), *Hypagyrtis esther* (6655), *Plagodis alcoolaria* (6844), *Metarranthis homuraria* (6828)

Microlepidoptera (left to right, top to bottom): *Lithacodes fasciola* (4665), *Cossula magnifica* (2674), *Apoda buguttata* (4669), *Euclea delphinii* (4697)

north, for reasons only Mississippians might know. I might mention that the worst road I was on in Mississippi was better than the best roads here in California, which is a sorry commentary on California roads, to be sure. From there a drive of not more than two miles put me onto the property of the environmental center.

The center is composed of several cabins, which are more like dorm rooms connected in threesomes or foursomes. It turned out Harry Zirlin, from New York, was in another cabin, as were three wild Canadians, who shall remain nameless as wild Canadians should. Suffice it to say they were from Edmonton, and that says enough. They had more beer than even I did for this trip.

There is a large building housing the center in addition to these cabins, and tennis courts across the quiet private street, with fields beyond to the west. However, far more interesting were the extensive woods to the south and east, with paths through them. I set traps on these paths, having equipment for two traps and one mercury vapor sheet setup, which I put near the large building.

At the end of the two nights stay I had seen so many interesting moths that I requested and received permission to rent one more night after the two I spent in Starkville for the actual meeting. The staff was very accommodating and the entire experience was one I would recommend for anyone able to visit, whether to wander the natural areas, collect, or just rest up in a pleasant environment.

Of the moths I spread those identified are listed below. There are still about fifty UFO moths on which I am working, as usual when I do identifications. Many thanks to Ron Leuschner, who worked diligently to identify many of the moths I could not. Thanks also to the organizers of the 2008 meeting at Mississippi State, and James Adams and his family for their generosity and hospitality.

MONA **Species**

Tineoidea
368 *Acrolophus panamae*
373 *Acrolophus popeanella*
374 *Acrolophus propinqua*
383 *Acrolophus texanella*

Gelechioidea
1011 *Antaeotricha schlaegeri*
1014 *Antaeotricha leucillana*
1024 *Anthaeotricha vestalis*

Cossoidea
2674 *Cossula magnifica*

Tortricoidea
3173 *Epiblema abruptana*
3235 *Proteoteras moffatiana*
3635 *Choristoneura rosaceana*
3706.1 *Sparganothis lamberti*
3716 *Sparganothis diluticostana*

Zygaenoidea
4624 *Harrisina americana americana*
4650 *Norape ovina*
4665 *Lithacodes fasciola fasciola*
4669 *Apoda biguttata*
4671 *Prolimacodes badia badia*
4697 *Euclea delphinii*

Pyraloidea
4751 *Munroessa gyralis gyralis*
4949 *Ostrinia nubilalis*
4951 *Perispasta caeculalis*
5079 *Udea rubigalis*
5142 *Diacme elealis*
5152 *Samea baccatalis*
5156 *Nomophila nearctica*
5159 *Desmia funeralis*
5200 *Colomychus talis*
5223 *Palpita illibalis*
5226 *Palpita magniferalis*
5228 *Polygrammodes flavidalis*
5272 *Herpetogramma bipunctalis*
5292 *Conchylodes ovulalis*
5293 *Conchylodes concinnalis*
5306 *Patissa vestaliella*
5362 *Crambus agitatellus*
5381 *Crambus caliginosellus*
5419 *Microcrambus biguttellus*
5434 *Fissicrambus hemiochrellus*
5451 *Parapediasia teterrella*
5464 *Urola nivalis*
5476 *Diatraea crambidoides*
5478 *Diatraea evanescens*
5517 *Aglossa caprealis*
5532 *Hurculia infimbrialis*
5533 *Herculia olinalis*
5566 *Arta statalis*
5596 *Pococera scortealis*
5605 *Pococera aplastella*
5607 *Pococera vaciniivora*
5625 *Omphalocera cariosa*
5686 *Acrobasis caryivorella*
5766 *Immyrla nigrovittella*
5770.1 *Quasialebriacus atratella*
5794 *Nephopterix vetustella*
5803 *Nephopterix celtidella*
5809 *Tulsa finitella*
5843 *Dioryctria reniculelloides*
5847 *Dioryctria disclusa*
5863.1 *Dioryctria clarioralis*
5965.3 *Baphala phaeolella*
5995 *Euzophera semifuneralis*
6069 *Homosassa platella*

Pterophoroidea
6203 *Oidaematophorus homodactylus*
6205 *Oidaematophorus stramineus*

Drepanoidea
6253 *Eudeilinia herminiata*

Geometroidea
6322 *Mellilla xanthometata*
6326 *Macaria aemulataria*
6331 *Macaria promiscuata*
6339 *Macaria transitaria*
6353 *Macaria multilineata*
6362 *Digrammia continuata*
6386 *Digrammia ocellinata*
6478 *Exelis pyrolaria*
6571 *Iridopsis cypressaria*
6581 *Iridipsis perfectaria*
6582 *Iridopsis vellivolata*
6590.a *Anavitrinelia pampinaria erosiata*
6655 *Hypagyrtis esther*
6705 *Erastria cruentaria*
6726 *Euchlaena obtusaria*
6733 *Euchlaena amoenaria amoenaria*
6734 *Euchlaena marginaria*
6740 *Xanthotype urticaria*
6828 *Metarranthis homuraria*
6844 *Plagodis alcoolaria*
6885 *Besma quercivoraria*
6908 *Nepytia semiclusaria*
6966 *Eutrapela clemataria*
6974.a *Patalene olyzonaria puber*
6975 *Patalene epionata*
6982 *Prochoerodes transversata*
7029 *Nemoria elfa*
7046 *Nemoria bistriaria bistriaria*
7053 *Dichorda iridaria iridaria*
7114 *Idaea demissaria demissaria*
7123 *Idaea obfusaria*
7138 *Cyclophora benjamini*
7147 *Calothysanis amaturaria*
7159 *Scopula limboundata*
7196 *Eulithis diversilineata*
7414 *Orthonama obstipata*
7441 *Eubaphe meridiana*
7486 *Eupithecia jejunata*

Bombycoidea
7715 *Dryocampa rubicunda*
7758 *Actias luna*

Sphingoidea
7790 *Ceratomia hageni*
7824 *Paonis excaecatus*
7885 *Darapsa myron*

Noctuoidea (Notodontidae)
7903 *Datana angusii*
7911 *Datana ranaeceps*
7920 *Peridea angulosa*
7931 *Gulphisia s. septentrionis*
7951 *Symmeristi albifrons*
7982 *Heterocampa varia*
7985 *Heterocampa subrotata*
7999 *Lochmaeus b. bilineata*
8005 *Schizura ipomoeae*
8011 *Schizura leptinoides*

Noctuoidea (Arctiidae)
8045 *Crambidia lithosioides*
8061 *Cisthene kentuckiensis*
8072 *Cisthene packardii*
8089 *Hypoprepia miniata*
8098 *Clemensia albata albata*
8107 *Haploa clymene*
8137 *Spilosoma virginica*
8170 *Grammia vittata*
8267 *Cisseps fulvicollis*

Noctuoidea (Lymantriidae)
8313 *Orygia detrita*

Noctuoidea (Noctuidae)
8322 *Idia americalis*
8323.1 *Idia concisa*
8329 *Idia diminuendis*
8337 *Reabotis immaculalis*
8360 *Horisma o. orciferalis*
8366 *Tetanolita mynesalis*
8370 *Bleptina caradrinalis*

8371	*Bleptina inferior*	8756	*Argyrostrotis contempta*	9285	*Polygrammate hebraeicum*
8397	*Palthis angulalis*	8757	*Argyrostrotis diffundens*	9556	*Chytonix palliatricula*
8398	*Palthis asopialis*	8764	*Argyrostrotis anilis*	9592	*Properigea tapeta*
8441	*Bomolocha manalis*	8769	*Spilosima lunilinea*	9638	*Amphipyra pyramidoides*
8442	*Bomolocha baltimoralis*	8786	*Catocala sappho*	9669	*Spodoptera ornithogalli*
8444	*Bomolocha palparia*	8791	*Catocala insolabilis*	9678	*Elaphria versicolor*
8481	*Phytometra rhodarialis*	8805	*Catocala unijuga*	9688	*Galgula partita*
8493	*Isogona tenuis*	8876	*Catocala micronympha*	9689	*Perigea x. xanthioides*
8514	*Scoleocampa liburna*	8955	*Marathyssa inficita inficita*	9690	*Platysenta videns*
8525	*Phyprosopus callitrichoides*	8970	*Baileya ophthalmica*	9693	*Platysenta mobilis*
8528	*Hysporopha hormos*	8996	*Nola clethrae*	9717	*Emarginea pallida*
8534	*Plusiodonta compressipalpis*	9037	*Hyperstrotia pervertens*	9720	*Ogdonconta cinereola*
8587	*Panopoda rufimargo*	9038	*Hyperstrotia villificans*	10455	*Leucania scirpicola*
8651	*Lesmone detrahens*	9044	*Thioptera nigrofimbria*	10456	*Leucania adjuta*
8721	*Allotria elonympha*	9057	*Homophoberia apicosa*	10459	*Leucania inermis*
8727	*Parallelia bistriaris*	9090	*Tarachidia candefacta*	10532.1	*Homorthodes lindseyi*
8733	*Caenurgia chloropha*	9127	*Spragueia leo*	10585	*Orthodes crenulata*
8744	*Mocis marcida*	9136	*Acontia aprica*	10911	*Anica infecta*
8745	*Mocis texana*	9200	*Acronicta a. americana*	11029	*Abagrotis alternata*
8750	*Ptichodis herbarum*				

Noctuidae (Left to right, top to bottom): *Ceratomia hageni* (7790), *Catocala micronympha* (8876), *Catocala insolabilis* (8791), *Catocala unijuga* (8805)

I would like to express my appreciation to the organizers of the Mississippi State meeting, James Adams and his family, Ron Leuschner for many identifications, and Peter Jump for Acrolophid identifications. Any errors in the species lists are mine, primarily due to my inability to read my own handwriting…

(Kelly Richers; E-Mail: KeRichers@wuesd.org)

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MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS TO THE SL SOCIETY [SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER, 2009]

***Tom Neal* (Benefactor)**
***Robert Patterson* (Benefactor)**
Lary Reeves
Anonymous (Benefactor)

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ERRATUM

I always find mistakes after the fact - unfortunately too late. The Header on the September issue (Volume 31) should read *"NO. 3"* **NOT** *"NO. 1"*. I think that this is the second time that I made this error!!! I don't learn [The Editor].

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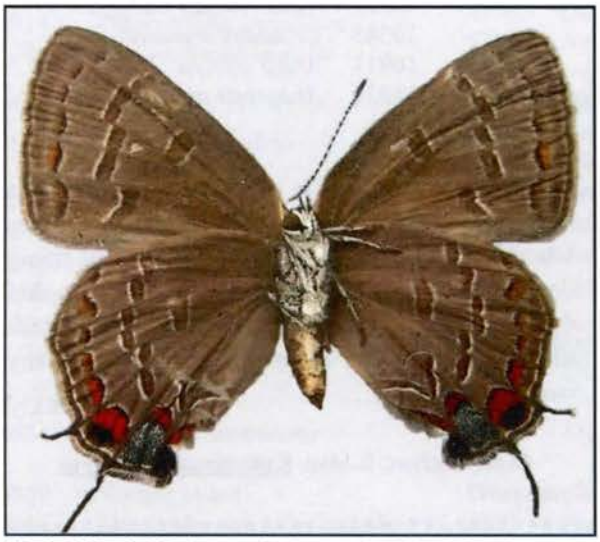
THE KING AND I, LOUISIANA - STYLE

BY

CRAIG W. MARKS

On June 9, 2005, I was in Blackwater River State Forest in Okaloosa County, Florida, looking for Hessel's Hairstreaks, *Callophrys hessli*. My search had been mostly along a red-dirt road as it crossed over several slow moving creeks along which White Cedar was growing. I had spent most of my time walking the road or the forest edges, but around noon I decided to take a *"direct route"* back to my car by walking thru a heavily wooded area rather than return *via* the circuitous route I had previously walked along the forest edges. Only a couple of minutes into the woods, as I walked into a sunlit gap with light understory, a large gray hairstreak suddenly flushed in front of me. It didn't go far, landing on a longish, shiny leaf of what I would describe as a tall, *"leggy"* shrub. Clearly not a Striped Hairstreak, *Satyrium liparops,* and possessing too much red to be a Banded Hairstreak, *S. calanus,* I wasn't really sure what it was.



Male King's Hairstreak (ventral), Natchitoches Parish, May 2006

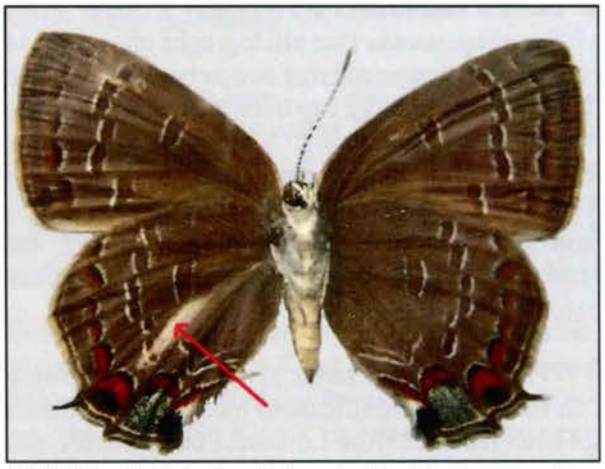
Female King's Hairstreak (dorsal), Vernon Parish, May 2006

After collecting this mystery hairstreak, I paused to check the area for more. It turned out there were several, all flying around or landing on the same species of shrub, mostly in spots where the sun would break through the tree cover into the understory. Later that afternoon, I moved locations within Blackwater to another, but larger, slow moving bayou, this one in Santa Rosa County. There were even more of these unknown hairstreaks flying. As with the first location, they were flying inside the forest cover and associated with the same shrub. In fact, each large *"clump"* of the shrub seemed to produce one or more hairstreaks.

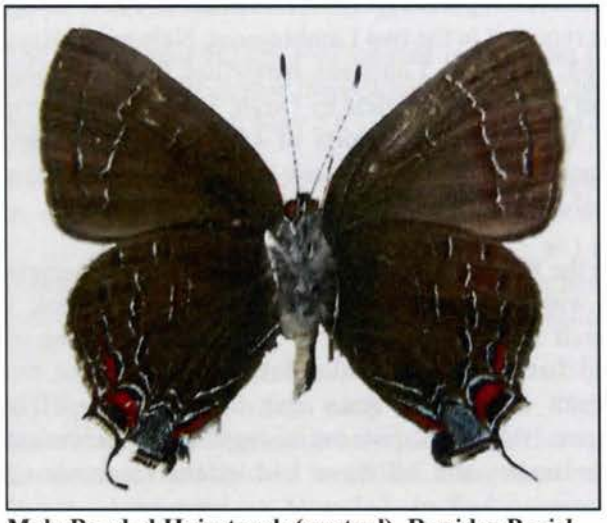
That night I searched Cech and Tudor's book (2005) on the *"Butterflies of the East Coast: An Observer's Guide"* and discovered I had just collected my first King's Hairstreak, *Satyrium kingi*. Described by those authors as the only Southern-based *Satyrium*, I also learned its distribution closely mirrors that of its larval hostplant (probably its only hostplant), sweetleaf, *Symplocus tinctoria*, thereby solving the second mystery, the identity of the *"leggy"* shrub. Other facts learned from Cech and Tudor were that males of this hairstreak perch at mid-day on fairly low foliage, that it is rather staid in flight and approachability and that nectaring is opportunistic as few flowering plants are available during the flight period of May to June in the South.

My coming experiences with this bug certainly would serve to confirm much of that information. For example, I have found the King's Hairstreak's flight as being less *"swirling"* and slower than both Banded and Striped Hairstreaks. They like to dash about (as only a hairstreak can *"dash"*) in the shade, landing on the tips of outreaching branches from stands of the foodplant, primarily in spots of sunlight. However, if you want to catch these bugs, I recommend getting some extensions for your net as they don't usually allow close approach. I have never seen it nectaring, possibly because I have never seen it in an area where nectar sources are present.

Further research revealed that the King's Hairstreak was not included in Klots' 1951 *Field Guide*. Harris (1972) noted it was first described by Klots and Clench in 1952. After 1952, the known range was extended in the southeastern states and included Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. In Georgia, Harris (1972) found it to be local throughout the state but generally rare, likely to be found in open hardwood, usually mixed with oak and low undergrowth. Typically, a small stream flows nearby. This has been true in every instance where



Male King's Hairstreak (ventral) with abnormal spot, Vernon Parish, May 2006



Male Banded Hairstreak (ventral), Rapides Parish, May 2008

Female Banded Hairstreak (dorsal), Rapides Parish, May 2008

I have found it.

Howe (1972) wrote that little was known about this *"local and uncommon"* hairstreak. He described it as having a limited distribution in the southeastern states from southern Virginia south to northern Florida then west to Mississippi, chiefly in lowlands but also into the southern uplands. Pyle (1981) described its range similarly, and as local in deciduous woods. Also noting that it was not described until 1952, he characterized it as *"vaguely unknown."* Opler and Malikuh (1992) generically stated the range to be the Atlantic Coastal Plain from Maryland south and the gulf states to east Texas and southern Arkansas where it was local and rare.

LeGrand (2006) reported it from ten counties in North Carolina and in six counties in South Carolina, mostly in the coastal plain. He suggested (and I agree) that to find it one should look where sweetleaf is common, but he then cautioned that such a search will generally fail as it is quite colonial. He noted that relatively few flowers are in bloom when this butterfly is on the wing. Its preferred habitat is pocosin ecotones, especially where longleaf pine forests meet pocosins, although it can also be present in swamp/bottomland margins but, again, always near sweetleaf.

Closer to home, Mather (1994) listed this hairstreak as present in Mississippi with no other information. Spencer (2006) reported it as a breeding resident with one brood, known from south and central Arkansas, again local and rare and as a species of special concern. Wauer (2006) listed this one as recorded in May and June in *"brushy hardwood forests"* located in the pineywoods region of east Texas along the Louisiana and Arkansas border where sweetleaf grows. Sabine National Forest, Martin Dies Jr. State Park and Big Thicket Area were given as specific locations where it has been found.

Glassberg, Minno and Calhoun (2000) reported King's Hairstreak in west Florida from mid May to August, most common in early June. Opler and Malikuh (1992) indicate it flew from mid May to early June. Pyle (1981) stated it is probably single brooded, in May on the coast and July to August inland. Here in Louisiana, I have found it as early as May 20th and as late as June 12th.

King's Hairstreaks resemble several other *Satyrium* including Banded, Striped, Hickory and Edwards Hairstreaks. The latter two have not yet been located in Louisiana although Edwards Hairstreak has historically been reported from east Texas along the Louisiana border. King's Hairstreaks are larger than Banded Hairstreaks and most Striped Hairstreaks. All three can be found in the same immediate habitats. In fact, on three occasions I have seen King's and Striped Hairstreaks on the same day within sight of each other. In his SLS newsletter article entitled, "*Satyrium calanus falacer (Godart [1924])(Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) in Louisiana,*" Brou (2009) reported *calanus* is single brooded, peaking about 3 weeks earlier in St. Tammany Parish than the *"similar looking S. kingi"*. My records reflect that Banded Hairstreaks seem to fly about two to three weeks before King's Hairstreaks, although on one occasion there was overlap (see discussion on Indian Creek site below).

Male Striped Hairstreak (ventral), Natchitoches Parish, May 2008

Sweetleaf, Rapides Parish, May 2009

Sweetleaf, Rapides Parish, May 2009

In Louisiana, Banded Hairstreaks are typically a darker shade of gray than King's Hairstreaks (see photographs on pages 144 and 145). The primary diagnostic distinction between Banded and King's Hairstreaks is the red cap over the blue spot on the King's Hairstreak's ventral hindwing. Also, the female Banded Hairstreak has a red or orange spot over the tail dorsally. While the Striped Hairstreak is the same shade of gray as the King's Hairstreak and also has the red cap over the eyespot, the multiple ventral stripes make diagnosing the Striped Hairstreak easy (see photographs).

Glassberg (1999) described the range as essentially following the range of its foodplant. Significant to me was his comment that it had not been reported from Louisiana but probably was there. When I initially began to investigate the status of King's Hairstreak in Louisiana, I started by referencing Lambremont (1954) who did not report *kingi* from Louisiana in 1954. *Kingi* was also not reported in the two Lambremont, Nelson and Ross articles (1963, 1965) on Louisiana butterflies from the mid-1960's. In an unpublished article by Gayle T. Strickland *circa* about 1971, there were no reports of *kingi*. The webpage, *Butterflies and Moths of North America*, also does not list this bug as part of Louisiana's reported fauna.

After noting the King's Hairstreak's habitat in extreme western Florida and with no reported suggestions of where to look, I began a search for similar habitat in my region. In May of 2006, I found that habitat at the Blue Hole Recreation Area, the Longleaf Vista Recreation Area and the Kisatchie Hills Wildness Area. All three spots were deep within hardwood bottoms near water, and all three had extensive stands of sweetleaf.

Sweetleaf is a shrub or small tree with a short trunk, up to 20 feet tall. It ranges from southern Delaware to central Florida and west to east Texas, generally below 1000 feet in altitude, remaining evergreen southward. The leaves are 3-5 inches long and 1-2 inches wide, shiny and dark green above, paler below (see photographs). The leaves have a sweet taste to livestock, thus the other common name, *"horse sugar"*. Its habitat is indicated as moist valley soils in the understory of hardwood forests (Little, 1980). Cech and Tudor (2005) describe it as a small, understory tree that grows along forest and stream edges, a component of the *"shrub layer"* in most pocosins. It flourishes after disturbance. They report younger plants are preferred by *kingi*.

I first found this hairstreak on May 20, 2006, at the Kisatchie National Forest Unit in Vernon Parish; specifically, at the Blue Hole Recreation Area within that unit. Directions to this colony are as follows. Park in the designated area, walk toward the pavilion, keeping the water on your left until you reach a point where the pond ends and the trail turns left. Rather than turn left, continue forward into the pine forest. Almost immediately, the terrain will drop into a moist boggy area with a small creek in the middle. After about 300 feet, the small creek runs into a larger creek at a 90 degree angle. At this junction, turn right and start looking for sweetleaf on both sides of the larger creek. Follow the larger creek another 300 feet until it runs into a bluff. At that bluff, there is a large stand of sweetleaf. Other interesting butterflies in this area include Striped Hairstreaks; Gemmed Satyrs, *Cyllopsis gemma*; and Little Wood-

Satyrs, *Megisto cymela.*

One week later on May 27, 2006, I found two colonies in the Kisatchie National Forest Unit in Natchitoches Parish. The first was in the Longleaf Vista Rec Area. Facing the trailhead behind the restrooms, there are two ways to go. One way takes you along a ridge and the other takes you immediately downhill. Take the trail that goes immediately downhill and follow it downward to the bottom where it crosses a stream. At that crossing, primarily to the left, on both sides of the stream, are stands of sweetleaf. Work along the streambed, using your net pole or a long stick to gently tap the bushes. The hairstreaks will flush but typically don't fly far.

That same day I found an even larger colony in the Kisatchie Hills Wilderness Area along the Caroline Dormon trail where that trail crosses Road FS 360. Park where the trail crosses that road and walk east on the trail. About 400 to 500 yards in, start looking for extensive stands of sweetleaf immediately next to the trail. On this particular day, I saw about a dozen King's Hairstreaks, always perched on outreaching branches of its foodplant, typically at head height or taller and in the sunlight. On May 24, 2008, Jeff Trahan and I returned to the area as part of the annual NABA count we have been conducting in this Unit and found one. Other butterflies present in this immediate area include Striped Hairstreaks; Red Admirals, *Vanessa atalanta*; and Common Wood-Nymphs, *Cercyonis pegala.*

The most recent colony I've located is at Indian Creek Recreation Area at the Alexander State Forest in Rapides Parish. I first discovered this colony on May 26, 2008. This past summer I checked the colony twice and found these hairstreaks flying on May 23, 2009, and again on June 12, 2009, with three seen on each occasion.

Although this area is part of central Louisiana's pineywoods, these hairstreaks were flying deep in a hardwood swamp through which a slow moving bayou wound, not easily accessible without boots and protective clothing. I found it by chance one day during late summer, 2007, as I followed a hunter's trail marked by orange tape (I love following hunter's trails, those things lead through the darnedest places). I knew the bayou was present so I decided to use the trail to see how close it would get me. As I reached the bayou I saw Sweetleaf and made a mental note to return in May.

My first visit back was in early May, 2008. There were no King's Hairstreaks flying, but several male Banded Hairstreaks were engaged in aerial dogfights through the dappled undergrowth. Unlike the King's Hairstreaks which always seem to alight on sweetleaf, these Banded Hairstreaks were landing at about the same height, but on elm leaves. I returned on May 26th, to find numerous King's Hairstreaks flying. Within 25 yards of the King's Hairstreaks, I caught a female Banded Hairstreak.

With all of the storms during the fall of 2008, this area now has many downed trees making access even more difficult. One such tree fell across the bayou that intersects the swamp so I decided to cross *via* the fallen trunk to investigate what lay on the other side. In addition to gaining access to an area that yielded Delaware Skippers, *Anatrytone logan*, I found much more sweetleaf. I intend to investigate this area further in the future as I suspect this colony of King's Hairstreaks will be even larger than the one found in Kisatchie. I also hope to find Dion Skippers, *Euphyes dion.*

I am not the only person to find *kingi* in Louisiana. Records from the Lepidopterist Society's Season Summary for the year 2005 (published during the summer of 2006) reflected sightings of *kingi* by Dr. Michael Isreal at Rogillionville on June 11, 2005, in West Feliciana Parish. Also, Vernon Brou wrote an article in 2008, *"Satyrium kingi (Klots & Clench, 1952) in Louisiana"*, wherein he reported *kingi* from St. Tammany (81 specimens) and Natchitoches (1 specimen) Parishes from mid May through mid June. All of his specimens were taken at light traps, primarily at his Abita Springs study site in St. Tammany Parish over the last 25 years. Finally, this hairstreak was reported by Kilian Roever (personal communication) as present at Tunica Hills, also in West Feliciana Parish. I have no specifics regarding Kilian's sight dates.

So, as suspected, King's Hairstreaks are present in Louisiana, now documented from five parishes across the middle of the State. This is simply not a butterfly to be found in open, easily accessible areas like a city garden; rather, locating it requires planning and effort. I suspect this is reflected in the lack of more records, and I'm sure it will eventually be found in many other places within the State.

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PHOTOGRAPHS OF A SPICEBUSH SWALLOWTAIL CAPTURED BY A GREEN LYNX SPIDER

BY

TOMMY ALLEN

Spicebush Swallowtail and hard to see Green Lynx Spider

Green Lynx Spider feeding on Spicebush Swallowtail

Photographs were taken over Labor day weekend (2009) on a recent field trip to Talladega National Forest (western section) just south of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. A Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*) was captured by a Green Lynx Spider *(Peucetia viridans*). Interesting fact: the Green Lynx Spider seldom bites humans. However, while its bite is harmless, it can be very painful (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peucetia_viridans).

VERNON BROU AND VISITOR BOB BELMONT
(2009 NOVEMBER 03)

Bob Belmont (left) SLS member from Sanford, Florida, visiting V. A. Brou Jr. Bob, has studied and collected insects for 42 years and is well known for his interest in the moth family Geometridae of America north of Mexico. "Bob is a member of the Lepidopterists' Society, Entomological Society of America, Bohart Museum Society, and many other work-related organizations.

Bob is a Research Associate of the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, has his B.S. in entomology from UC Davis, M.S. in entomology from UF in Gainesville and is a Board Certified Entomologist through the Entomological Society of America. He is presently the Pest Prevention Training & Technical Director for Massey Services in Orlando, FL, (www.masseyservices.com) one of the largest pest management companies in the nation". He has provided representative images of most of the species in his personal research collection accessible on the web at: http://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu/pinned.php?plate=17.0&size=s&sort=h and ttp://mothphotographers group.msstate.edu/BobBelmont/450/BelmontIntro.shtml

In a recent note, Bob commented *"Vern, I was really impressed with your meticulous recordkeeping through continuous collections at your home. The data you've accumulated and the great collection you've amassed will aid researchers and lepidopterists for years to come."*

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JAMES' CONTINUING CHALLENGE TO THE SLS MEMBERS FOR ARTICLES ON *"FIRST ENCOUNTERS"* AND *"DANGERS OF LEPPING"*

My repetitious question to James is *"Did we score any 'challenge money' in the September issue of the NEWS?"* And the reply from James was the following:

> *"Yep. $40.00. Here's the breakdown. The First State record of Anteos chlorinde by Jeff Trahan and the first Blue Morpho by Gary Ross were definitely winners. It was not absolutely clear, however, in the Craig Marks article that the Frosted Elfin was a first for him, and it definitely was NOT a first for Louisiana, so I figured it was worth $5.00. As for your SHORT reminiscence about C. dumetorum, as was the case with your Appias drusilla article, there's no STORY with it, just 'I remember this bug when I was a kid.' There wasn't even an indication that you remembered the details of your absolute first individual (no offense intended). As such, it's worth at most $5.00. And, although interesting, the Question Mark article represented neither a first sighting for the individuals involved, nor a first record for the keys. So, no money there.*
>
> *However, I happened to glance at the previous newsletter, and Craig Marks' Northern Metalmark article was very detailed and described his first encounter's ever with that bug, so it was worth $10.00 as well. And, as such, with the total of $40.00 for this newsletter, I've reached my $100.00 limit for the year."*

Again many thanks to James for his contribution and he states that he will continue the *"challenge"* next year. [The Editor]

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VERNON BROU AND VISITOR RICKY PATTERSON
(2009 OCTOBER 03)

(a bright sunny day among the bananas)

Ricky Patterson (left) SLS member from Vicksburg, Mississippi visiting V. A. Brou Jr. Ricky has studied and collected insects for 38 years and is well known for his avid interest in Rhopalocera. Though, he is more and more being drawn to the moths of the state. Ricky is a member of the Lepidopterist's Society, the Southern Lepidopterist's Society, Kentucky Leps, and is a research associate with the Mississippi Entomological Museum. Ricky has a day job working at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station as a Senior Reactor Operator and Shift Manager.

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JAMES ADAMS - PHOTOGRAPHS FROM ARIZONA

Aemilia ambigua

Eutrepsia inconstans

Eutrepsia inconstans

Sabulodes niveostriata

The *Aemilia ambigua* (arctiine noctuid) and the geometrid *Sabulodes niveostriata* are both found in mid to upper elevation pine forests. The larvae feed on pines, and the adults sit on pines (supposedly) as well. The convergence in pattern between these two species is apparently because the brown *"stripey"* pattern blends in with the pine needles. Both shots were at Greer, Apache Co., AZ, August 3-5, 2008.

Eutrepsia inconstans (a lovely day-flying geometrid) is common in a narrow strip along Hwy. 191 in extreme eastern Arizona between mile markers 202 and 207 in Greenlee Co. The date of the photographs was August 5, 2008.

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DEFINITIONS:

Verruca (pl. ***Verrucae***) - a wart; a wartlike elevation; a tubercle bearing many setae.

Seta (pl. ***Setae***; adj. ***Setaceous***) - a stiff hair; a bristle or bristlelike part or organ.

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ORANGETIPS AND MARSH CATTLE
AN ADVENTURE IN LOUISIANA'S CAJUNLANDS
BY
GARY NOEL ROSS

Much of Louisiana is flat, pancake flat. With a mean elevation of barely 100 feet, Louisiana and Florida tie for the second lowest topography among the nation's fifty states. (Delaware, with a mean elevation of 60 feet, ranks first). And for another bit of trivia, Louisiana and California are the only two states in the nation with land areas below sea level. Add to this the fact that Louisiana borders the central Gulf Coast and therefore is a significant distance between the more tropical areas of lower Texas to the west and the Florida peninsular to the east, and it is easy to understand that many of the nation's butterfly species do not make Louisiana their home.

This paucity of diverse habitats is unfortunate for those of us with a zen for butterflies. But Louisiana is not without some noteworthy landscapes. Take the Tunica Hills in East and West Feliciana Parishes just south of the Mississippi/Louisiana border, for example. These *"hills"* are ancient terraces that were laid down by the Mississippi River and overlaid by several feet of wind-blown dust (*"loess"*). Today, the strata have eroded into exceptionally steep hills and bluffs that harbor relict hardwood forests whose counterparts are to be found not again until hundreds of miles farther north. Then there are the ancient beach ridges and salt domes within the coastal marshlands of extreme southwest Louisiana. These elevated *"islands"* amidst a sea of grass achieve just enough elevation to command hardwood forest and associated plants that support butterflies typical of central and northern Louisiana.

As one might suspect, these so-called *"biogeographical anomalies"* have intrigued field biologists. As a graduate student at Louisiana State University in the early 1960's with access to *"wheels,"* I often traveled to the Tunica Hills and to Cameron Parish in southwest Louisiana to survey butterflies. Seldom was I disappointed—often a new state record, a new parish record, or at least a new check on my *"life list."*

Such was the case on March 23, 1991, a glorious sunny, dry day. I was in Cameron Parish—Louisiana's largest, second most underpopulated, and most isolated (the parish is nearly 33 percent water, has a population density of eight persons per square mile, and has but a handful of hard-surfaced roads). I was just south of the town of Cameron on a small open-wooded ridge termed a *"chenier."*

> *[NOTE: A chenier is a French/Cajun word meaning "oak place." Geologically, cheniers are ancient, dry beach ridges, originally built up from a longterm mixing of shell, sand, and organic material caused by wave action. Cheniers are always located near a delta but eventually become separated from other high ground by extensive intervening marshland. These unique ridges are long and narrow strips of dry land that rise a few feet or so above their surrounding muck, paralleling the coast like undulating waves of dry land. They are found only where a voluminous river has periodically changed its course. The Louisiana cheniers vary from several hundred to 2,700 years old and are a product of the past meanderings of the mighty Mississippi. Cheniers are found nowhere else in the United States and in only four or five other places in the world. Louisiana's cheniers were once all wooded, dominated by storm-resistant live oak (Quercus virginiana) and water- and salt-tolerant hardwoods such as hackberry (Celtis laevigata), honey locust (Gleditsia triacanthos), and toothache tree/prickly ash (Zanthoxylum clava-herculis). Until roads were constructed linking the cheniers to higher ground farther north, local folk had only one form of transportation: boat. Today, practically all the chenier lands are privately owned and are used for cattle ranching. Over the years, locals have cut down most of the forest for wood and to create pasturelands. Cattle roam freely through the open marshes and along their trails that meander mazelike through pastures and remnant woodlands. Because there is such little dry land and vehicular traffic, Cajun-speaking cowboys usually float their cattle to market on oil-drum rafts and on cattle drives that utilize the few existing roads.]*

I was busily tagging migrant monarch butterflies as they sailed in from across the Gulf from their wintering grounds in Mexico. But before long, my attention was diverted by a small, white butterfly flying lazily in the dappled light of the hackberry-oak woodland barely above the watery marsh. From past experiences in the area, I knew that the

Male Falcate Orangetip (*Anthocharis midea*) on *Cardamine pensylvanica*

Newly emerged female Falcate Orangetip on chrysalis

Male and female on native Louisiana iris (*Iris giganticaerulea*)

Female on *C. pensylvanica*

Female on dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)

Two eggs [clear is empty (left), orange is viable (right)] of Falcate Orangetip on host plant Pennsylvania bitter cress (*Cardamine pensylvanica*), family Brassicaceae)

Early instar larva of Falcate Orangetip

Mature larva

Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*) and Checkered White (*Pontia protodice*) were rare in this coastal parish; furthermore, those two species usually are found in open venues. I deduced that the only other white butterfly ever found in Louisiana is the Falcate Orangetip (*Anthocharis midea*). These dainty butterflies are univoltine, that is, they produce only a single brood each spring. In Louisiana, however, orangetips typically are found in upland oak-hickory forests, such as those of central and northern parts of the state. I was puzzled. So, I netted the butterfly. My judgment was correct—the specimen was indeed a rather tattered female orangetip. I concluded that the specimen was a stray that somehow had traveled hundreds of miles from either more northern parts of the state or perhaps from some isolated populations in eastern Texas. Whatever, I was delighted. I had a new parish record and a significant range extension for the species.

The burnished image was filed away in my mind. Then on March 19 of the following year, I again was in the same patch of chenier woodland tagging monarchs. I was astonished to see another lone orangetip—this time, a newly emerged male sporting its characteristic bright orange-tipped forewings. Even more incredible is that by day's end I had encountered nine freshly emerged butterflies, five males and four females; most were flying within a few feet of the ground in the brightest sections of woodland. I even was able to track a female until she began ovipositing. The host plant she chose, appropriate for this species of butterfly, was Pennsylvania bitter cress (*Cardamine pensylvanica*), a member of the mustard family (Brassicaceae=Cruciferae) that includes such familiar foods as cabbage, broccoli, and brussels sprouts. Bitter cress has fine leaves and tiny white terminal flowers. The species is an herbaceous annual that colonizes bare ground as an early pioneer species in ecological succession, and has been recorded from virtually all 64 parishes in Louisiana. In Cameron's hot locale, the mustard achieves only about a foot in height and goes to seed much earlier than in more temperate areas. I noticed that the plants were definitely water-loving: they flourished only in patches of bare ground on the northern slopes of the cheniers in the soggy interface between the light-colored soil of the chenier proper and the black muck of the marsh. Oddly, the most robust plants were growing along the braided cattle trails and even more strangely, actually within the cattle's hoof prints etched deeply into the soil.

Concluding that I had discovered an unrecorded breeding site for the Falcate Orangetip, I spent the next two days combing the region for other colonies. By dusk on March 21 I had mapped four colonies on four different cheniers, a total population of fifty-six butterflies. But the next day was disappointing; I located only a handful of butterflies throughout the four colonies. The following day, I found none at all. And because of heavy thundershowers the previous evening, coupled with poor drainage, three of my four study plots were now under a nearly a foot of water. I wondered if I had just witnessed the demise of this newly discovered population.

I awoke early on March 24 and resolutely made my way from my motel to the nearest plot for another search. Wearing rubber boots, I waded cautiously, trying not to alarm any of the resident cattle and keeping an eye out for poisonous snakes. I noticed that the bitter cress plants were still evident although for the most part, only their budding tips were above the waterline. I crouched to inspect one plant. I was gratified to see a tiny orange egg, unmistakably that of *Anthocharis*. I moved on. By day's end I had painstakingly counted sixty-three eggs, usually one per plant, distributed throughout my four study plots.

Pupating larva

Pupa (chrysalis)

Apparently, in less than one week, the adults had mated, and the females had deposited their eggs. Although relieved to learn that the butterflies had prepared for the next year's generation, some questions still persisted. For example: How could the caterpillars, or more likely, the chrysalises survive the next eleven months in a habitat prone to flooding? And how could they survive the cattle's browsing and trampling?

I collected a batch of twelve eggs (with leaves) and six rooted host plants that I placed in a bucket of water to keep them fresh. I then transported the whole kit and caboodle back to my home in Baton Rouge, 120 miles away. I planted the bitter cress in a three-foot-tall glass terrarium and set the eggs carefully onto the newly planted specimens. Within three to four days, all eggs hatched. The small, linear, yellow-green caterpillars quickly ate their eggshells and then crawled to the very tips of the plants to begin feeding on the delicate flower petals. As they matured, the caterpillars remained slender, devouring more and more of the plant tips—buds, flowers, or new seed pods—never descending to feed on leaves (apparently, the larvae are small enough to acquire sufficient nourishment from non-foliate parts.) This behavior probably serves three purposes. First, by remaining on the seedpods, their linear bodies mimic the actual elongate seedpods and so escape many predators. Second, cruciferous plants contain potent phytochemicals, including mustard oils, which are potentially dangerous and most likely concentrated in leaves (certainly, cattle avoid consuming bitter cress). And third, by remaining on the top of their host plant, caterpillars significantly lessen the risk of drowning in a semi-aquatic habitat.

Typical Falcate Orangetip habitat—flooded; a gas pipeline is to right (photograph taken May 1993)

Same habitat in previous photo during drought (October 1993)

Hackberry Ridge, a chenier east of Oak Grove and Rutherford Beach; interior of woodland is dominated by hackberry trees (*Celtis laevigata*) and was a habitat for the Falcate Orangetip

Louisiana iris, live oak tree (*Quercus virginiana*) and arboreal prickly pear (*Opuntia*) cactus on Little Chenier (April 1991)

After three weeks, my house-reared caterpillars changed from green to brown, an indication that they were nearing the end of their larval phase. It was time to see how the *"wild"* caterpillars were doing. So, I packed the terrarium into my truck and returned to Cameron.

The marshes were now showing their full color. The luminary Louisiana irises (especially *Iris giganticaerulea*) were in bloom, providing tall clumps of blue scattered mainly along the margins of the cheniers. But because of the lack of rain during the preceding two weeks, the formerly inundated habitats on the cheniers were now dry, except for a few natural swales and many of the cattle paths. Most of the bitter cress, had already gone to seed, their leaves presently yellowish and withered. In the still damp depressions, however, many of the plants were still quite healthy. On eight of these, I found brown caterpillars.

My next problem: Where do the caterpillars pupate? They surely could not attach themselves to the host plants, which were soon to wither away. Logic dictated that they needed a place where they could remain secure until the following March—nearly a year away. Using ice cream sticks I marked the eight plants hosting caterpillars. When I returned to inspect the plants the following morning, I discovered that half the caterpillars were missing—the larvae apparently traveling at night. Obviously, I would have to pull an *"all-nighter"* if I wanted to learn where they went.

Cow in marsh feeding on introduced water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) near a colony of the Falcate Orangetip on Little Chenier

At dusk, I transferred four of the house-reared caterpillars onto abandoned host plants in the field. I then drenched myself with insect repellent, mindful of local Cajun wisdom: *"If you can't complete any outdoor activity by sunset, forget it!"* (Mosquitoes in coastal Louisiana often are so numerous that one has the impression that the air is vibrating.) With flashlight in hand, I located a more-or-less comfortable spot near the tagged plants, spread my poncho on the ground, sat down, and began to mark time.

In the wee hours of the morning, when I had just about decided that I had had enough of the misery, a break came. One of the caterpillars began to crawl down its host plant. Keeping my distance so as not to directly illuminate the caterpillar with my flashlight, I kept a watchful eye. The slightly plump, brown individual made its way to the ground and then continued onward. I followed on hands and knees. After traveling without pause about thirty feet onto slightly higher ground, the caterpillar encountered a small hackberry tree. It then crawled about ten feet up the trunk and rested. I remained with the caterpillar for nearly a half-hour, but nothing more seemed to be happening. After marking the trunk with a strip of white cloth, I backtracked to check on the other three caterpillars. All three had disappeared from their host plants, so I began scouring, scrutinizing. After a while, my light fell on something I did NOT want to see: a fat, two-foot-long water moccasin—a highly aggressive poisonous snake in Louisiana and the bane of biologists working in wet habitats. Thankfully the creature was slithering away. After a wave of the jitters passed, I sallied forth. Within minutes I spotted two *"escapees"* on the damp earth, tenaciously crawling to higher ground. When they each encountered the base of a hackberry tree, they ascended to

Cow grazing in flooded marsh on Little Chenier

Cow grazing in flooded marsh on Little Chenier

Cattle barge transporting cattle from Little Chenier to dryer pasturelands for summer grazing. Sign indicates pickup venue for boat travel to Little Pecan Island (June 1991)

Cow on Little Chenier next to marsh

Cameron Ridge with hackberry trees (*Celtis laevigata*) and tickseed (*Coreopsis*) in bloom

a height of six to ten feet. By four in the morning, both were stationary.

Satisfied, I returned to my truck to check my terrarium. I found that my eight *"captives"* had crawled to the upper ends of some handy dead twigs I had provided to support the spindly host plants. They had attached themselves to pupate. Now exhausted, I drove to my motel for a much-needed shower and a couple of hours of deep sleep.

By midmorning I was soldiering on. Sure enough, the caterpillars were still in their same positions. Each had attached itself at its base and with a silken girdle. It then had shed its skin revealing the chrysalis. Basic brown in color, with yellow, green, and tan mottling, the chrysalis has a pointed anterior that gives it an uncanny resemblance to a thorn, a bark protrusion, and even foliose lichens so common on the hackberries. In addition, the pupa's high perch is secure from floodwaters and marauding cattle until the target emergence the following spring.

Pasture land on Grand Chenier: live oak in background, spider lily (*Hymenocallis*) in bloom in foreground

Edge of Little Chenier: live oak tree, prickly pear cactus, and Louisiana iris (May 1991)

I was still intrigued by one particular detail—the way the bitter cress plants seemed to flourish best near the cattle tracks. I decided that I should investigate conditions on a chenier lacking cattle and people. I chose Little Pecan Island, which at 2,700 years is Louisiana's oldest extant chenier. As a result of extensive dredging to create navigational ditches and canals for petroleum exploration, Little Pecan is

Massive trunk of live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) on Little Pecan Island (June 1991)

Long-term erosion on Hackberry Ridge east of Oak Grove and Rutherford Beach (May 1991)

Creole Nature Trail sign near Holly Beach

Long-term erosion on Hackberry Ridge east of Oak Grove and Rutherford Beach: prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia*) in foreground (May 1991)

Erosion along LA 82 just west of Holly Beach (May 1991)

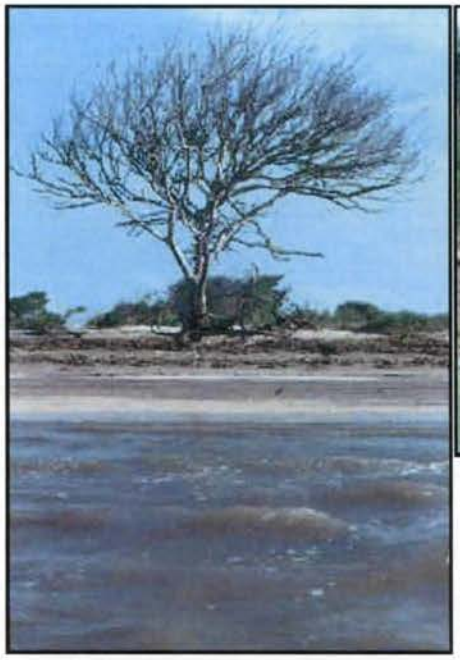
Long-term erosion on Hackberry Ridge east of Oak Grove and Rutherford Beach (May 1991)

Long-term erosion on Hackberry Ridge: prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia*) in foreground (May 1991)

completely surrounded by open water, not marsh. Although it was homesteaded by a few families in the late 1800s, Little Pecan is now uninhabited but managed by The Nature Conservancy as a preserve for research and nature-oriented recreation.

Having secured permission to visit, I was transported by small boat to the island. In a two-day survey I located only two-dozen *Cardamine* plants, all growing in a natural depression under the parasol-like branches of ancient live oak trees. None showed any signs of having hosted *Anthocharis* caterpillars—and I suspected there were too few plants to sustain a colony of the butterflies from one year to another. If ever the species had thrived here, it probably had died out a long time ago.

I came away from Little Pecan Island convinced that the cattle on the other cheniers were key to making Cameron Parish hospitable to the Falcate Orangetip butterfly. The cattle tracks create countless small catch basins (*"minipools"*) that retain water long after the surrounding terrain has dried out. These damp reservoirs allow *Cardamine* to grow taller, produce more flowers, and remain alive longer. This may matter little to orangetip caterpillars in a spring with normal rainfall. But during unusually dry years, which come along quite frequently, the plants within the hoof-prints are probably crucial for caterpillars that exhaust the tender buds, flowers, and young seed



Long-term erosion on Hackberry Ridge: hackberry tree (*Celtis*) is dead from past saltwater incursion (May 1991)

Typical flooding on Little Chenier after a thunderstorm (July 1991)

pods on their original hosts. Simply put, the skillful caterpillars simply relocate. In addition, the periodic churning of the ground by the cattle creates and maintains ground unhampered by competing, congesting vegetation. This promotes seed dispersal of bitter cress since it depends upon uncluttered ground for germination.

How long this relationship between orangetips and cattle has prevailed is conjecture, of course. I theorize that in the past, the butterflies were most likely more widely distributed across the cheniers—having arrived from an eastern extension of a larger population in less marshy eastern Texas. As the chenier forests were cut, the butterflies' foothold probably became more precarious and the cattle became a more significant factor in the survival of this isolated population. Another possibility is that the chenier butterfly population was once connected to the more northerly Louisiana population, but I think the intervening distance and alien habitat seem too great.

In 1992, after I returning to my home, I placed the terrarium containing the eight remaining pupae near a large east-facing window in my makeshift laboratory—actually, a large bathroom. During the year I occasionally sprinkled water within the container—although the plants died out in early April. A year later, on March 10, 1993, two of the pupal cases split open, freeing two perfectly formed female butterflies. The following day, one male emerged. I drove to Cameron Parish to check my field site. All the plots were relatively dry because of the lack of heavy spring rains. On March 21, a single female appeared, and on the following day both a male and female were on the wing. By March 25, all had vanished. For the next four days I searched in vain for butterflies—this was probably the shortest flight period on record for a population of butterflies within the state, or perhaps even for any locale. But I did see a few of their orange eggs—all on *Cardamine* growing in cattle tracks.

Another year passed. Because the weather was warm, I decided to place the terrarium with its five remaining pupae in an outdoor patio. On March 12, 1994, an unexpected shower during the night saturated the soil in the enclosure. To my surprise, between March 19 and 26, two females and one male emerged—a full two years after beginning their deep sleep. During the same period I observed relatively large numbers of adults throughout the four colonies I had identified in Cameron Parish.

Constance Beach west of Holly Beach. Note erosion before Hurricane Rita (August 1991)

Constance Beach west of Holly Beach. Note erosion before Hurricane Rita (August 1991)

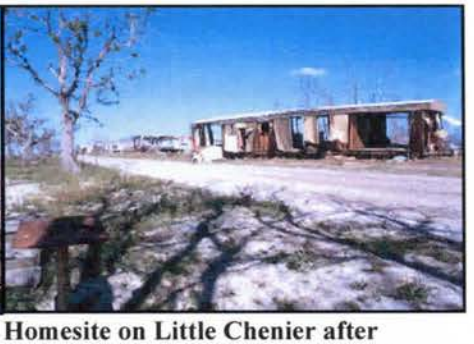
Homesite on Little Chenier after Hurrican Rita on September 24, 2005. Battered live oak tree is alive but still leafless (April 8, 2006)

Homesite on Little Chenier after Hurricane Rita. Battered live oak trees are alive but still leafless (April 8, 2006)

Homesite on Little Chenier after Hurricane Rita. Live oak tree provided some protection for summer-camp trailer (April 8, 2006)

Peveto Woods Sanctuary (Baton Rouge Audubon Society). Located just east of Johnson Bayou on a coastal chenier, the sanctuary is maintained for research and recreational activites involving migratory birds and Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) butterflies. On September 24, 2005, Hurricane Rita flooded the site with 12-15 feet of saltwater (April 8, 2006)

Site just south of Cameron used for original research on the Falcate Orangetip. Battered hackberry trees are alive but still leafless because of saltwater intrusion from Hurricane Rita (April 8, 2006)



Homesite on Little Chenier after Hurricane Rita. Battered live oak trees are alive but still leafless (April 8, 2006)

Then in March of 1995, the remaining two butterflies in my terrarium, which I had kept in a shaded area of my patio, emerged hibernation after three full years. Considering my data, I conclude that in a normal wet spring, when the host *Cardamine pensylvanica* does well in southwest Louisiana, adult butterflies emerge from their pupal hibernation in mid March, mate, and rapidly lay eggs on the most virile plants they can locate. The new generation of caterpillars races through its stages. The mummylike pupae then remain in their hostile environment for another 11-12 months and the return of spring rains. However, in a dry spring, when the bitter cress plants are unlikely to flourish, the butterfly pupae can remain in suspended animation until the following year, or perhaps even three to four years awaiting the return of a March with life-supporting rains.

Then Armageddon. On September 24, 2005—less than one month after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and much of the coastal areas of eastern Louisiana and Mississippi—Hurricane Rita, a Category 3 storm with winds of 115 miles per hour, slammed into Sabine Pass at the Louisiana/Texas border. The storm pushed a wall of salt water 12-15 feet in height onto the land. Johnson Bayou, Holly Beach, Creole, Oak Grove, Grand Chenier—all wiped from the face of the planet. In the town of Cameron, the only structure left intact was the Town Hall. Mats of marsh vegetation lay scattered about and the trees—including many of the stately live oaks—were either uprooted or severely sheared. From the air, the coastal landscape was unrecognizable. For the next three springs I revisited the devastated areas. But I could not locate a single habitat likely to host the Falcate Orangetip; understandably, I observed no butterflies.

Three years later, September 12, 2008, to be exact, Hurricane Ike, a strong Category 2 storm with winds of 110 miles per hours, made a direct hit to Galveston Island, just across the Louisiana/Texas border from Cameron Parish. Once again, the parish was awash. Murky, salty water covered the town of Cameron itself with 12 feet of water that remained for about two weeks. In fact, *"Ike"* drove water inland for 30 miles, causing more extensive flooding than *"Rita."* When the water finally receded, a thin film of white brine encrusting everything. And because the following winter and spring were particularly dry, the desiccating salt was not washed away until the summer. With such a hellish double whammy, *Anthocharis midea* had little chance. My visit to the area in March of 2009 uncovered no

specimens at all. What trees were still standing were leafless, as if spring had not arrived. And what was most deflating of all, an eerie silence and stillness enveloped the entire coastal area, including Peveto Woods Sanctuary, a migratory bird and butterfly sanctuary owned and maintained by Baton Rouge Audubon Society (see http://www.pbase.com/pattonpix/cameron_post_ike for photos.) No chirps or songs from birds, no splashes from fish, turtles, snakes or alligators; not even a single bark from a dog broke the lull. I felt as if I were in some gigantic vacuum.

In the past, I have marveled at the regenerative powers of nature. But now I am of the opinion that time no longer is a friend of this fragile and unique corner of Louisiana. Consider the hard evidence: At no time in history have the coastal cheniers been so denuded of their tree-dependent cover. Combine this with the ominous facts that (1) Louisiana's coast is continually subsiding and eroding and (2) the Gulf waters are continually rising, and one surely has to acknowledge that the cheniers are gradually eroding, grain by grain, and being returned to the sea and exposing the low-lying marsh to the full impact of future hurricanes. Is there sufficient time for the chenier woodlands to regenerate enough suitable habitat to support the wrested Falcate Orangetip? And is there a population of orangetips still holding on in eastern Texas that can recolonize the cheniers if indeed their woodlands are restored?

Good questions. Only time will tell.

Acknowledgements

I adapted this article from my *"Butterfly Wrangling in Louisiana"* published in *Natural History* magazine, May (Vol. 104, No. 5, pages 36-42) 1995. On April 1, 1996, the original article was awarded the *"Annual Award of Recognition for Natural History Essay in 1995"* by the John Burroughs Association at a luncheon at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. My thanks to the editors of *Natural History* for allowing me to adapt the original essay for *Southern Lepidopterists' News*.

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DEFINITIONS:

Ecotone - a transitional zone between two adjacent communities, containing species characteristic of both as well as other species occurring only within the zone.

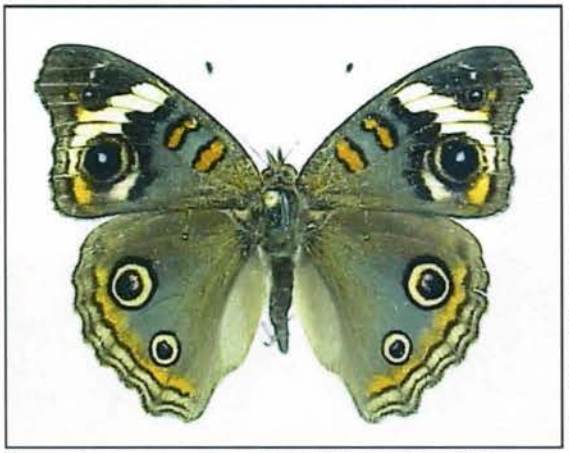
Pocosin - a low, flat, swampy region in savannas of the southeast United States.

Savanna (savannah) - a treeless plain or a grassland characterized by scattered trees, especially in tropical or subtropical regions having seasonal rains.

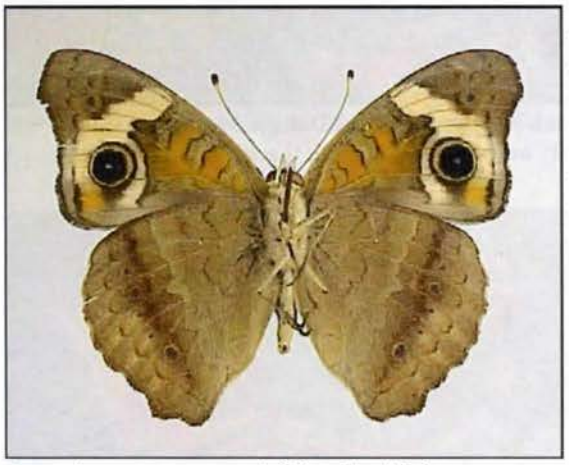
AMAZING BLUE BUCKEYE FOUND IN MISSION, TEXAS

BY

ED KNUDSON & CHARLES BORDELON



***Junonia evarete x coenia*? Hidalgo Co., TX, Mission, 23-X-2009, E. Knudson**



***Junonia evarete x coenia*? (underside)**

***Junonia evarete x coenia*? Enhanced by side lighting (upperside)**

For south Texas butterfly rarities, the fall of 2009 has so far proven to be rather below average, when compared to the past several years. We attribute this to the very dry summer conditions, and El Nino year that prevailed in the weather pattern throughout most of the state.

During October 18-24 , the authors visited a well-known stand of *Eupatorium odoratum* (Crucita), along the railroad track in south Mission, near the village of Madero. The Crucita was in full bloom and covered with butterflies, nearly all of which were common species. Amongst these were a modest number of Buckeyes, which included *Junonia coenia*, *J. evarete*, and probable hybrids of the two species. The blue individual, which appears to us to be a possible hybrid, was spotted by the authors several times and also by at least three other lepidopterists who were also working the same stand. It was extremely wary and eluded all attempts at capture, or even a good photo, until it finally was stalked and captured by the senior author on Oct. 23.

The specimen is a male, which appears to have features of both *J. coenia* and *J. evarete*. As shown in the figure, it has broad, confluent median patches of metallic blue on median area of both wings. When it was sitting in full sun, the blue glowed like a neon sign. Such blue patches on south Texas Buckeyes is rare, but hardly unknown. In the few other specimens we have seen from the area, the blue is confined to the hindwing only.

This is the first we have seen that has such lavish blue on both wings. D'Abrera (1987), illustrates one example from Brazil, which shares this character. According to Andrew Warren (pers. comm.), similar blue Buckeyes are rarely seen north of Colombia.

The significance of this find is unclear. We assume that it is a genetic trait that is rarely expressed in North American populations. Bluish, or even purplish, has been noted in other individuals taken in the same location. Most all of the specimens taken exhibit traits of both *J. coenia* and *J. evarete*.

We note that the occasionally common *J. evarete nigrosuffusa* was uncommon to rare, whereas *J. coenia* became rather common in the immediate area. The resulting mix of traits between the two suggests that these may have been the result of a hybrid brood, because all appeared in a one-week window.

We wish to point out that some controversy still exists as to the proper application of the specific names *J. evarete* (Cramer) and *J. genoveva* (Cramer) as applied to Texas populations. We use *J. evarete*, since this is the taxon associated with the subspecies *J. evarete nigrosuffusa* (Barnes & McDunnough) by Pelham (2008); the predominate ssp. in southern Texas.

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL IN THE McGUIRE CENTER DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SLS IN GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA (SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2009) PHOTOGRAPHS SENT IN BY TOM NEAL

Tom Neal and Megan Neal sitting at the SL Society table waiting for customers.

Tom Neal, Megan Neal and Debbie Matthews Lott (butterfly on blouse) manning the SL Society table.

Debbie Matthews Lott showing two visitors a caterpillar (*Samia cynthia* reared from eggs.) .

Terry Lott, Tom Neal, and Megan Neal manning the SLS Society table and talking to visitors.

Debbie Matthews Lott showing caterpillars to visitors at the SLS Society table.

Young visitor showing fascination with a caterpillar.

Fascination?

Better than a doll?

Bob Belmont and Charlie Covell at the Butterfly Festival.

Tom said that the little blonde girl in the photographs *"...was totally fascinated and I had to give her a caterpillar to take along. Her mom says that's all she plays with at home? So much for dolls."*

Tom also mentioned that Bob Belmont donated his Geometrid collection to the McGuire Center at this meeting.

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A VERY PECULIAR WHITE PEACOCK, *ANARTIA JATROPHAE*

BY

JOHN V. CALHOUN

On 6 September 2009, Joe DiPasquale photographed a bizarre-looking butterfly in his yard in Punta Gorda, Charlotte County, Florida. Having never seen anything like it, Joe sent me the images for identification. Portrayed in his photos is the most aberrant White Peacock (*Anartia jatrophae*) that I have ever seen (Figs. 1-2). Rarely do we encounter such extreme aberrations; even fewer are captured or photographed. Thanks, Joe, for sharing your incredible find!

Figs. 1-2. Dorsal and ventral aspects of an aberrant *A. jatrophae* (Photographs: Joe DiPasquale).

(John V. Calhoun, 977 Wicks Dr., Palm Harbor, FL 34684)

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SLS MEETING IN GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA (SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2009) AND THE ACCOMPANYING FIELD TRIP

PHOTOGRAPHS SENT IN BY JEFF SLOTTEN

Irving Finkelstein and James Adams at Jeff Slotten's home. James is preparing his talk on his laptop.

Irving Finkelstein joining in the conversation with Tom Emmel and Marc Minno at the banquet

Charlie Covell presiding over the door prize awards with helpers Annie Lott, Megan Neal and Sam Neal

Joe Riddlebarger and Don Stillwaugh

Joe Riddlebarger and Don Stillwaugh discussing business

John Calhoun, Andrew Warren, and Marc Minno

James Adams, Marc Minno (hidden) and Brian Scholtens

Ian Segebarth and Tom Emmel

Group Photograph of ATL and SLS members - 2009

Field trip, September 25, 2009, led by Jeff Slotten at Goethe State Forest

Field trip attendees: Lary Reeves, Matthew D. Thom, and Sharon Clemmensen

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ACHERDOA FERRARIA WALKER, 1865 (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE) IN LOUISIANA

BY

VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

Fig. 1. Adult ***Acherdoa ferraria*** Walker: **a.** male, **b.** female.

Adults of the small dark brown noctuid moth ***Acherdoa ferraria*** Walker (Fig. 1) have been captured in all months of the year (Fig. 2) in three parishes in southeast Louisiana (Fig. 3). This species was dubbed the *"chocolate moth"* by Covell (1984). Covell also reported ***ferraria*** to range North Carolina to Florida and west to Mississippi and to fly March through September, and in southern Florida flying in all months. Heppner (2003) included Louisiana in the range for this species, probably based on earlier specimens captured by this author and deposited in the Florida State Collection of Arthropods. The foodplant is unrecorded and little else appears to be known about this species. The type locality for ***ferraria*** is Florida.

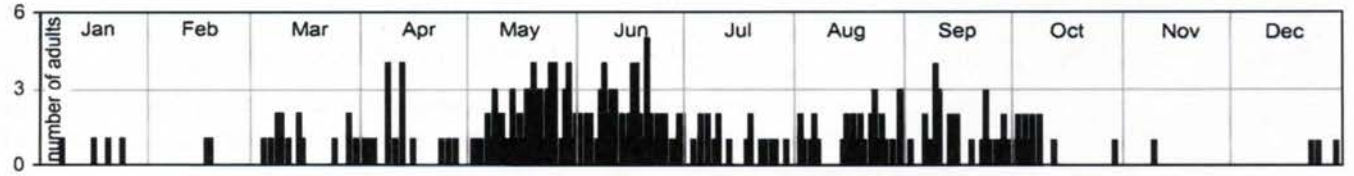

Fig. 2. Adult ***Acherdoa ferraria*** captured in southeast Louisiana. n = 249.

Fig. 3. Parish records by this author.

A. ferraria is usually encountered as singletons in my ultraviolet light traps and never in any great quantities. In Louisiana, at the Abita Springs study site, ***ferraria*** appears to have at least seven annual broods.

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MOTTLED DUSKYWINGS (*ERYNNIS MARTIALIS*) FOUND IN OLD - GROWTH LONGLEAF PINE WOODLANDS

BY

DEAN K. JUE[1], SALLY S. JUE[2], DAVID HARDER[3], AND VIRGINIA CRAIG[4]

Fig. 1. Mottled Duskywing, 3 June 2007, Wade Tract, Thomas County, GA

Fig. 2. Mottled Duskywing, 9 August 2009, Wade Tract, Thomas County, GA

Fig. 3. Ventral view of Mottled Duskywing, 9 August 2009, Wade Tract, Thomas County, GA

The Wade Tract Preserve is a 200-acre old-growth longleaf pine forest managed by Tall Timbers Research Station surrounded by hunting estate lands near Thomasville, Georgia. One of the primary goals of the Preserve is to serve as an example of an old-growth longleaf pine-wiregrass woodland for research purposes (TTRS, 2009).

Because of the Preserve's close proximity to our home town of Tallahassee, Florida, we began a multi-year butterfly research project to develop a picture of what the butterfly fauna might have been for the longleaf pine woodlands when the European settlers first arrived here. We have been conducting monthly surveys, except for December and January, since April 2007. The results of these surveys will be analyzed soon and submitted to a scientific journal for publication.

While conducting these butterfly surveys, we found the Mottled Duskywing (*Erynnis martialis*) on the Preserve. Out of 30 surveys through October 2009, we observed the Mottled Duskywing on six occasions. Adults were seen on 3 June 2007 (5 individuals), 26 August 2007 (2 individuals), 16 March 2008 (2 individuals), 18 May 2008 (1 individual), 9 August 2009 (8 individuals), and 20 September 2009 (1 individual) (Figs. 1 through 3). These dates are consistent with the species having up to three broods in Georgia (Harris, 1972).

The host plant for the Mottled Duskywing, New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), is widely distributed in the ground cover on the Preserve. This plant is fire-adapted and can become a dominant species with frequent fires (USDA, NRCS, 2009). In August 2009, a female Mottled Duskywing was observed ovipositing on the leaves of *C. americanus* (Fig. 4, page 167).

Literature Review on Mottled Duskywings

Our discovery of Mottled Duskywings at the Wade Tract Preserve led us to investigate the relationship between this butterfly species and its described habitat.

Several standard references for butterflies and publications on *Erynnis* (Burns, 1964; Harris, 1972; Howe, 1975) actually provide no description of habitat for the Mottled Duskywing. Most other butterfly field guides list its habitat as open woodlands (*e.g.,* Cech, 2005; Daniels, 2004; Glassberg, 2000; Brock and Kaufman, 2003; Pyle, 1981; Scott, 1986). The only field guides that specifically mention pines in the habitat description for Mottled Duskywings are Glassberg (2000) (*"hilly pine-oak woodlands or barrens"*), Cech (2005) (*"pine barrens"*), and Minno (2005) (*"sandhills"*, which have a longleaf pine canopy).

Historically, longleaf pine-wiregrass woodland such as that found at the

Fig. 4. Egg of Mottled Duskywing on *Ceanothus americanus*, 9 August 2009, Wade Tract, Thomas County, GA

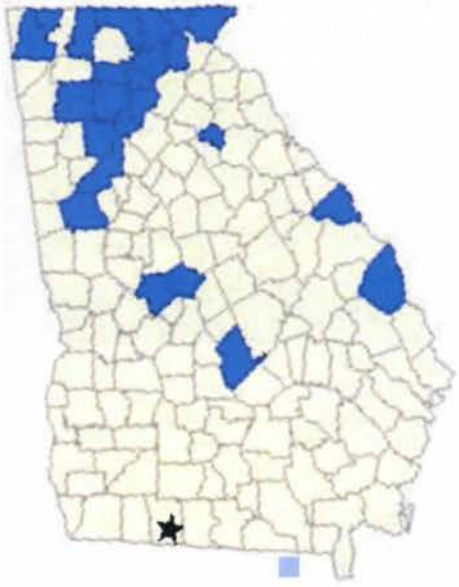

Fig. 5. Documented records of *Erynnis martialis* on the BAMONA site (Opler, 2009) as of November 23, 2009. The star shows the approximate location of the Wade Tract in Thomas County, Georgia.

Wade Tract Preserve was the dominant upland forest type of the southeastern United States, ranging from Virginia to eastern Texas. These woodlands were dominated by longleaf pine, but the most ecologically important vegetation was the ground cover of wiregrass and herbs which would burn every 2 - 3 years during the warm growing season (Chafin, 2007).

Almost all of the longleaf pine-wiregrass woodlands have been lost due to conversion to pine plantations, agriculture, and urban and rural development. Today, less than 5% remain and only a small percentage of those are managed with prescribed fire that approximates natural conditions (TTRS, 2009).

A review of the literature provides interesting information about the Mottled Duskywing in Georgia. It was not until Burns'(1964) monumental work on the *Erynnis* genus that *Ceanothus americanus* was finally identified as the host plant for Mottled Duskywing caterpillars. Burns looked at voucher specimens from only five Georgia counties (Coweta, Dekalb, Fulton, Rabun, and Richmond), all of which are in the northern half of the state. Harris' (1972) volume added three more counties with voucher specimens to the list (Lumpkin, Screven, and White), but all of these counties are at least 100 miles north of where we have seen Mottled Duskywings in Thomas County. The Butterflies and Moths of North America web site (Opler, *et. al.*, 2009) shows documented Georgia records for Mottled Duskywing in the same counties listed by Burns and Harris, plus additional county records from the mountain region of extreme northern Georgia. The McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity at the University of Florida has a specimen for *E. martialis* from Bibb County (J. Daniels, pers. comm.), a distance of 120 miles from Thomas County.

Harris (1972) describes the Mottled Duskywing as *"a common species throughout the state."* This assertion is not supported by the small number of documented records for this species in Georgia (Fig. 5). Several recent butterfly guides describe the Mottled Duskywing as an uncommon to rare butterfly (Brock and Kaufman, 2003) and as one that is never particularly common in most of its range (Cech, 2005).

If one accepts Harris' assertion that Mottled Duskywings were once common throughout Georgia, one may ask *"What happened?"* Our surveys at the Wade Tract Preserve point to one possible answer. In the southeastern states, the preferred open woodland habitats of Mottled Duskywings may have been longleaf pine-wiregrass communities with good populations of *Ceanothus americanus* because of frequent fires. Because this was the dominant upland forest type of the southeastern U.S., Mottled Duskywings would have been common. As longleaf pine woodlands were converted to other uses or the *Ceanothus* became overgrown due to fire exclusion, Mottled Duskywing populations were forced into increasingly more marginal and fragmented habitats with fewer and fewer host plants. This led to long-term population declines and ultimately to the disappearance of the butterfly from most areas where it was once common, mirroring the disappearance of high-quality old-growth longleaf pine-wiregrass woodlands in the southeastern states.

Although it may be difficult to prove or disprove our speculation, we will utilize the knowledge gained from the Wade Tract Preserve butterfly surveys to target searches for populations of Motttled Duskywing in other high-quality longleaf pine-wiregrass woodlands with relatively undisturbed ground cover that support the butterfly's host plant. We plan to begin this effort in 2010 on some of the large hunting plantation lands near the Wade Tract Preserve. We have already searched for Mottled Duskywings in the Florida counties just south of Thomas County, Georgia, on some of the larger conservation easements and other conservation lands with longleaf pine woodlands. But all of the areas surveyed thus far have had highly disturbed ground cover and/or little evidence of *Ceanothus americanus*. Perhaps sites with intact ground cover will be more productive.

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USDA, NRCS, 2009. *The PLANTS* Database (http://plants.usda.gov, 20 November 2009). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

[1]Dean K. Jue, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 1018 Thomasville Rd., Suite 200-C, Tallahassee, FL 32303

[2]Sally S. Jue, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 1018 Thomasville Rd., Suite 200-C, Tallahassee, FL 32303

[3]David Harder, 2304 Columbia Ct., Apt. C, Tallahassee, FL 32304

[4]Virginia Craig, 1883 Halstead Blvd., Apt. 702, Tallahassee, FL 32309

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REFERENCE TO *"BUTTERFLY"* IN CLASSICAL LITERATURE EXCERPTS FROM: THE WIFE (CHAPTER III)

A SHORT STORY BY ANTON CHEKHOV

Author's lepidopteran error or an error in language translation - Russian to English? ***"...like a butterfly to a flame?"***

"Dismissing Alexey, I put out the light and drew the bedclothes over my head."

"After all, why am I so troubled?" I thought. "What force draws me to the starving peasants like a butterfly to a flame? I don't know them, I don't understand them; I have never seen them and I don't like them. Why this uneasiness?"

Source: http://www.classicreader.com/book/1594/3/

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AGRIOPODES FALLAX (HERRICH - SCHAFFER, 1854) (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE) IN LOUISIANA

BY

VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

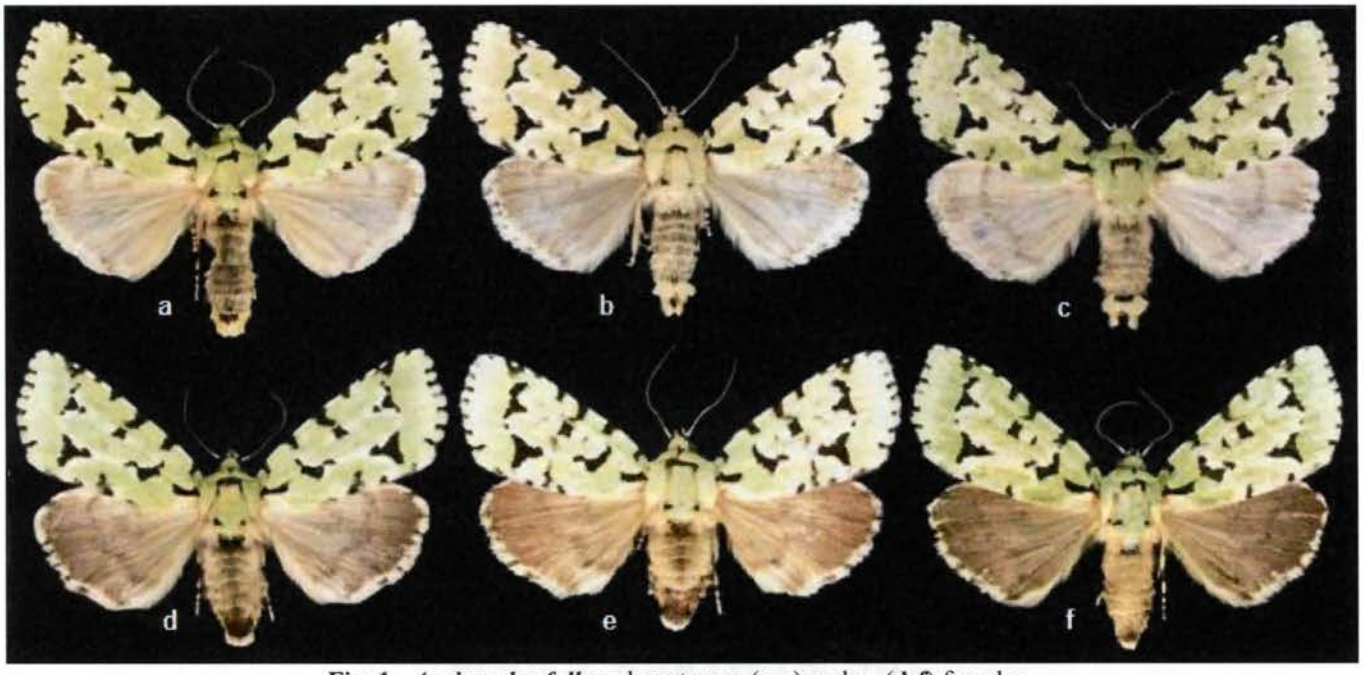

Fig. 1. ***Agriopodes fallax*** phenotypes: (**a-c**) males, (**d-f**) females.

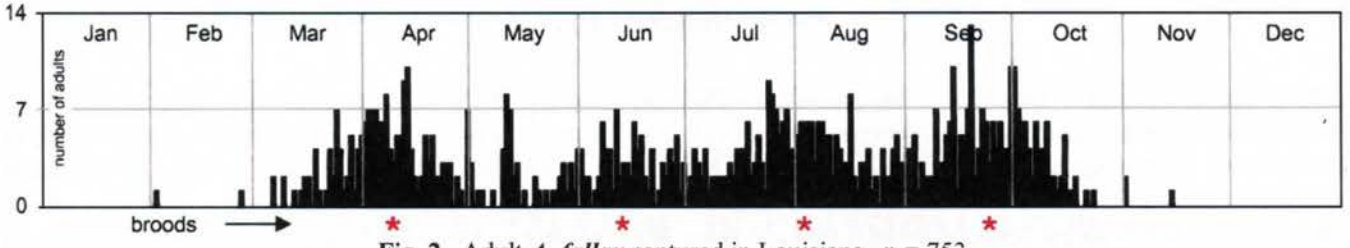

Fig. 2. Adult ***A. fallax*** captured in Louisiana. n = 753.

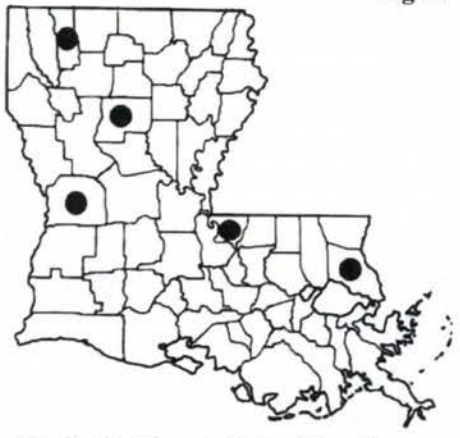

Fig. 3. Parish records by this author.

The medium-size noctuid moth ***Agriopodes fallax*** (Herrich-Schaffer) (Fig. 1) is listed by Heppner (2003) to occur in eastern North America: Nova Scotia to Florida and Wisconsin to Texas in the months February to December in Florida. The upper forewing ground color of ***fallax*** appears as varying subtle shades of pastel green, interspersed with black blotches of varying sizes and shapes, occurring in six or more locations along the coastal margin and as a basal dash, additional blotches across forewing and along inner margin as well as outer margin fringe between veins. The upper hindwings of males are whitish, tinged with light brown, the same on females appearing much darker approaching grey or gray-brown. The hindwings of both males and females exhibit black fringe between veins as on forewings. Both sexes exhibit faint hindwing postmedial lines.

In Louisiana, adults of ***fallax*** have been collected in five parishes across the state (Fig. 3), from February through mid November in what appears to be at least four annual broods, first brood peaking early April, second peaking early June with remaining broods peaking at about 52-day intervals (Fig. 2). The species is fairly common at the Abita Springs study site in St. Tammany Parish, where ***Viburnum*** foodplants are abundant. ***A. fallax*** was not listed as occurring in Louisiana by von Reizenstein (1863), nor Chapin and Callahan (1967). This species was

reported by Rockburne & Lafontaine (1976) from Ontario and Quebec, and Covell (1984) reported it *"throughout our area (eastern North America) but uncommon"*. Heitzman & Heitzman (1987) listed ***fallax*** to have several generations from early April to late September in Missouri. Knudson & Bordelon (1999) listed ***fallax*** in their Lepidoptera of Texas checklist. Kons & R.J. Borth (2006) listed ***fallax*** in their lepidoptera study of northern Florida.

Most of the authors mentioned here state that the foodplants of ***fallax*** are species of ***Viburnum*** (arrow wood).

Literature Cited

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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.

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Kons Jr., H.L. & R.J. Borth, 2006. *Contributions to a study of the diversity, distribution, habitat association, and phenology of the Lepidoptera of Northern Florida.* 229 pp. Privately printed.

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THE MYSTERIOUS MIMIC

BY

JOE RIDDLEBARGER

During one of our many journeys to St. Augustine, Florida, my wife and I took the time on August 28, 2005, to visit the Lightner Museum (www.lightnermuseum.org). The museum is part of the former Hotel Alcazar built in the Spanish Renaissance style in 1887 by Henry M. Flagler. In 1946 Chicago publisher Otto C. Lightner purchased the building to house his extensive collection of Victoriana. He later donated it to the City of St. Augustine. In the Natural Science Wing I noticed three Riker mounts containing butterflies hanging high up on one of the columns. The frames were labeled Florida Butterflies, North American Butterflies and South American Butterflies. I snapped a few poorly focused, dark photos with the intention of reviewing them later for any unusual specimens. Later turned into four years later. While reviewing the pictures one evening with a Florida butterfly guide in hand, I was astonished to see what were labeled as a male (dorsal) and a female (ventral) *Hypolimnas misippus*! (see photograph) I decided that on my next visit to St. Augustine I would go back to the museum to look at the specimens again and take better photos using my Nikon D50.

So on January 2, 2009, I revisited the museum and took several more photos. The mounts were positioned so far up on the column that I had to hold the camera up above my head and snap shots until I got one aimed in the right direction. Before I left the museum I asked to speak to the curator to see if he had any information about who had donated the specimens and

where the donator had obtained them. The curator took my email address and promised to look into the matter. Not hearing anything by February 9, I called the museum to get the curator's email address. The next day I received an email with the following information from Barry W. Myers, Jr.

> *"The particular collection of butterflies which are on display in our Natural Science Wing which you are inquiring about were donated to the museum in 1975 by Mr. Noel W. Reakes. Mr. Reakes had made a study of entomology from childhood and was his life long passion. A native of Quebec Canada he formed the St. Lambert Natural History Club of that city making salable articles with the specimens, many of which he raised from the egg or caterpillar stage. The collection presented to the Lightner had been acquired from dealers or collectors during 1935-36 in India, South America, Queensland, Australia and North America (Florida in particular). Beyond that I have no other information which would shed light on when they were gathered."*

I began a search of the internet for information on Mr. Reakes and the St. Lambert Natural History Club. I also contacted several officers and records keepers with The Lepidopterists' Society hoping that at some time in the past Mr. Reakes had been a member. There were no records of him every being a member. My next hope was to contact John Calhoun who is noted for his passion for the history of Lepidoptera. On March 30, 2009, I emailed John to let him know what I had found and asked if he could fill in any of the blanks. John wrote back with the news that David Wright was about to publish an article about the Mimic in an upcoming issue of the Southern Lepidopterists' News. He also reminded me of the article by Marc Minno in So. Lep News, Vol. 30, No. 3 concerning the sighting of the Mimic in November 2007 in Marquesas Keys and provided additional historic information about the Mimic in the southern states. I forwarded jpgs of the photos to John for his scrutiny which turned out to add even more mystery to the origin of the specimens. The so called female turned out to be male specimen of an Old World Danaus. Many others were also mislabeled and not from the part of the world from where they were listed. I have tried numerous times to search the internet for relatives of Mr. Reakes or any record of his club in St. Lambert. If anyone has any information on this man or his club I would be very grateful if you would share it with me. As for now the origin of this specimen of *Hypolimnas misippus* remains an unsolved mystery.

Joe Riddlebarger; E-Mail: alyfab@earthlink.net)

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REFERENCE TO *"BUTTERFLY"* IN CLASSICAL LITERATURE EXCERPTS FROM: CHAMPAGNE - A WAYFARER'S STORY

A SHORT STORY BY ANTON CHEKHOV

"IN the year in which my story begins I had a job at a little station on one of our southwestern railways..."

"I remember my wife and I saw the New Year in. We sat at table, chewed lazily, and heard the deaf telegraph clerk monotonously tapping on his apparatus in the next room...:"

"In spite of the boredom which was consuming me, we were preparing to see the New Year in with exceptional festiveness, and were awaiting midnight with some impatience. The fact is, we had in reserve two bottles of champagne, the real thing, with the label of Veuve Clicquot; this treasure I had won the previous autumn in a bet with the station-master of D. when I was drinking with him at a christening. It sometimes happens during a lesson in mathematics, when the very air is still with boredom, a butterfly flutters into the class-room; the boys toss their heads and begin watching its flight with interest, as though they saw before them not a butterfly but something new and strange; in the same way ordinary champagne, chancing to come into our dreary station, roused us. We sat in silence looking alternately at the clock and at the bottles."

Source: http://www.ibiblio.org/eldritch/ac/chm.htm

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MAGUSA DIVARICATA (GROTE, 1874) (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE) IN LOUISIANA

BY

VERNON ANTOINE BROU JR.

Fig. 1. ***Magusa divaricata*** phenotypes: males (**c,d,f**), females (**a,b,e,g,h**). (Specimen size ratio preserved.)

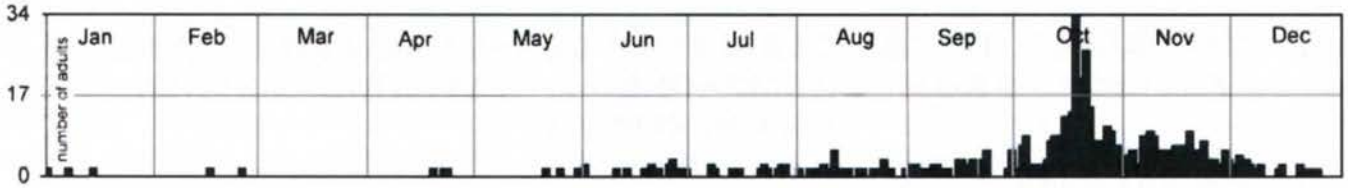

Fig. 2. Adult ***Magusa divaricata*** captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi NE of Abita springs, Louisiana. n = 514.

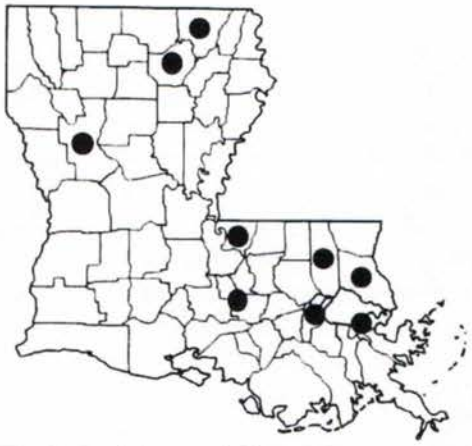

Fig. 3. Parish records for ***M. divaricata.***

In prior literature concerning Louisiana noctuidae, Chapin and Callahan (1967) reported ***Magusa orbifera*** (Walker, 1857) to occur in the vicinity of Baton Rouge Louisiana. No species of ***Magusa*** was recorded by other Louisiana researchers: Hine (1904) and (1906), Jung (1950), nor Oliver and Chapin (1981).

Lafontaine *et al.* (2009), reviewed the genus ***Magusa*** Walker and recognized a third widely distributed species, ***Magusa divaricata*** (Grote, 1874) (Fig. 1), was incorrectly synonymized with the Caribbean species ***Magusa orbifera*** and reestablished ***divaricata*** as a valid species name for the population which is resident in Central and South America and migrates northward into the United States and southern Canada.

Covell's (1984) listing of ***Magusa orbifera*** therefore refers to ***M.***

divaricata, except for the possibility of ***orbifera*** also found in peninsular Florida. Lafontaine *et al.* (2009) state that ***orbifera*** is confined to the Caribbean Islands and adjacent southern Florida. These author's examined ***orbifera*** from a host of Caribbean Islands, and within the United States from Dade and Munroe Counties, Florida.

Previously published accounts for ***M. orbifera*** throughout North America, including Canada, namely: Chapin and Callahan (1967), Rockburne and Lafontaine (1976), Knudson and Bordelon (1999) and Heppner, J.B. 2003, and others not mentioned here, most probably refer to ***M. divaricata***. These ***Magusa*** records with the exception of those from southern Florida are now assumed to be ***M. divaricata***, though Lafontaine *et al.* (2009) clearly state *"(**divaricata**) occurs in the same range of (color and maculation) forms as **orbifera**, and the two species can only be identified with certainty by the genital characters."* These author's state the two mentioned species differ in size, with ***orbifera*** having a forewing length varying from 13-17 mm, and ***divaricata*** having a forewing length varying from 16-22 mm.

The investigation by Lafontaine *et al.* (2009) also includes analysis of a third species which Hayes (1975) reported as an endemic species to the Galapagos Islands, ***Magusa erema*** Hayes, and a review and discussion of the genus ***Sasunaga*** Warren, the counterpart of ***Magusa*** in Southeast Asia. Readers of this revisionary work on ***Magusa*** and ***Sasunaga*** are provided with excellent images of a series of adults and dissected male and female genitalia of the various species.

The dates of capture showing that about 75% of the adults of ***divaricata*** captured nearly year-round in Louisiana using ultraviolet light traps, were taken during the months of October and November (Fig. 2). My parish records are illustrated in Fig. 3.

I thank J.D. Lafontaine for invaluable assistance and helpful comments concerning this manuscript. My findings here were also referenced in the study by Lafontaine *et al.* (2009).

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Chapin, J.B. and P.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.

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

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Steve Hall sends in this photograph of *Orgyia antiqua* which was found by Jodi Casher on August 27, 2009, in the Great Balsam Mountains of Haywood County, North Carolina. It is a **STATE RECORD!** [See The State Report for more information - page 179.]

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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2009

Beginning Bank Balance at SunTrust Bank January 1, 2009:	$4896.83
Bank Fees:	$ 4.00
Interest Earned:	$ 0.00
Deposits (All are donations and membership dues):	$4877.81
Expenses:	
Postal Supplies Through Year	$ 27.25
Printing Vol.30, #4	$ 725.88
Postage Vol.30, #4	$ 280.29
Printing Vol.31, #1	$ 701.41
Postage Vol.31, #1	$ 304.16
Printing Vol.31, #2	$ 830.88
Postage Vol.31, #2	$ 365.27
Printing Vol.31, #3	$1031.33
Postage Vol.31, #3	$ 314.89
Ending Bank Balance at SunTrust Bank:	$5189.28

Respectfully submitted: Jeffrey R. Slotten
SLS Treasurer

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SOUTHERN LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY 2009 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Joe Riddlebarger called the Southern Lepidopterists' Society (SLS) Business Meeting to order at 4:48 PM on Saturday September 26, 2009, at the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity in Gainesville, Florida. Members who signed in at the Business Meeting were:

James Adams	John Hyatt	Bill Russell
Terry Arbogast	Deborah Matthews Lott	Brian Scholtens
Bob Belmont	Marc Minno	Jeff Slotten
Charlie Covell	Tom Neal	Don Stillwaugh
Irving L. Finkelstein	Joe Riddlebarger	J.D. Turner

The meeting began with a short discussion of plans for next year's meeting. It was generally agreed that holding a joint meeting of SLS and Association for Tropical Lepidoptera (ATL) is a good fit as it boosts attendance. Officers of SLS and staff at the McGuire Center will discuss further plans for the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Next on the agenda was the Abbot Award. Since there is still just one nominee, no award for 2009 could be given according to the conventions of the award as laid out in the SLS Constitution. Joe made a plea for more nominations, reminding the membership that those nominated must be willing to accept the award. A question arose from the membership about the parameters of the award. James Adams responded that a nominee should have *"made a significant contribution advancing the knowledge of Lepidoptera of the Southeast."* Brian Scholtens was immediately nominated, he agreed to accept and that nomination was quickly seconded. Chairman Joe read a passage from the Constitution concerning the award. The annually repeated question of *"who are the past recipients?"* was met with the response that they are posted on the SLS website as a link. Joe provided a

hardcopy of the list for perusal and Charlie Covell read it aloud. The award was last presented in 2005. Bo Sullivan was nominated subject to his agreement. The question of a posthumous nomination arose and indeed there is no wording in the Constitution which would disallow such a nomination.

The election of Board Members for 2010 was next on the agenda. Joe began by thanking Deborah Matthews Lott, Terry Lott, Bret Boyd and Charlie Covell for serving on the Nominating Committee. The following slate of seven officers which comprises the SLS Board of Directors was submitted to the attending membership:

Chairman – Brian G. Scholtens
Secretary – Donald M. Stillwaugh
Member-at-Large – Tom Neal
NEWS editor – J. Barry Lombardini
Treasurer – Jeffrey R. Slotten
Membership Coordinator – Marc Minno
Website Manager – Dave Morgan

Joe opened up the floor for further nominations. As there were none, a motion to approve the slate was made and quickly seconded. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

The issue of State Coordinators is to be reviewed every two years. A member commented that the Florida reports, in particular, had recently dropped off. The response was that if not much information is sent in by the membership, not much can be published. The submission of records by the general membership is highly encouraged in order to expand this important aspect of the SLS. The suggestion was made to supplement *"collection data"* with *"observational data."* The incoming Board will take up this issue.

Next, Jeff Slotten gave the Treasurer's Report. He reported a balance of $5622.69 as of August 31, 2009. Paid memberships remain about even with 164 active members. Production and mailing of NEWS, as usual, constituted the bulk of the expenses. He stated that production costs have increased greatly as our former printer went out of business. He also indicated that income garnered from membership dues now falls far short of the publication and mailing costs of NEWS. Jeff pointed out that the organization is solvent only by generous donations.

An extended discussion of our bleak financial future ensued. Maintaining the high quality of NEWS seemed to be a unanimous feeling among the membership in attendance and Barry Lombardini was praised for the fine job he does at this. The suggestion to publish only three issues was quickly opposed as all were reminded that NEWS is a quarterly as stated in the SLS Constitution. Other cost-reducing suggestions included an electronic option for members in lieu of receiving a hardcopy, page charges for article submission and page charges for color pictures. The general conclusion seemed to be that we should scale down the size of each NEWS issue whilst maintaining the high quality.

The discussion veered to membership dues issues. The possibility of raising dues came up and was quickly followed by a concern about the timing of such an action in a poor economy. It was agreed that we would not raise dues this year. The idea to promote Life Memberships was met with a reminder of the legal obligations incurred by such categories, namely to provide issues of NEWS to those members for life. It was mentioned that The Lepidopterists' Society (TLS) feels that the extra revenue generated is not worth the financial liability. Concerns about the timing of the dues notice arose and again the Constitution was cited as Article 9 states that it is to appear in the last issue of each volume. After a brief discussion of changing the timing of the notice, it was agreed to leave it as it is.

The final item on the agenda was the status of the 501(c)(3) application for SLS to become a tax-exempt organization. Joe stated that the first step, obtaining an Employer ID Number from the IRS, has been accomplished. The next step involves the application itself and in order to do that properly he suggested that minor changes need to be made to Articles 10 and 12 of the SLS Constitution. Joe read the following proposed changes to the membership –

Article 12: Dissolution

Para. 1.2

2. All remaining assets shall be transferred, assigned, and paid over to an educational or scientific organization which qualifies as being operated exclusively for educational or scientific purposes and is considered

exempt as defined by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or correspondingly provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Laws).

Joe mentioned that these changes paraphrase TLS wording. The main attribute being the avoidance of designating a particular organization whose tax exempt status may change.

Article 10: Policies

Add: 8. The Southern Lepidopterists' Society shall not carry on the following kinds of activities; participation in political campaigns of candidates for local, state, or federal office; provide compensation to board members, officers, key management employees, or insiders; further non-exempt purposes that benefit private interests; operate as a trade or business that is not related to its exempt purpose(s); engage in activities that are illegal or violate fundamental public policy; lobbying of legislative activities; carry on any other activities specifically prohibited under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

This additional statement is intended to prevent any activities which would jeopardize 501(c)(3) status.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the changes to Articles 10 & 12. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

The next steps in the process are to deliver the FEIN number letter to the Treasurer and then to have two SLS officers sign the newly amended SLS Constitution. The signed copy will be sent in with the 501(c)(3) application and a photocopy will be archived with the Treasurer. The final issue will involve the official mailing address of SLS. The suggestion was made to contact Tom Emmel in regards to having the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity serve as a permanent address for SLS.

Joe's call for further New Business was met with Marc Minno's concern of the future of SLS field trips. Marc stated that collecting trips to Osceola National Forest have become much more cumbersome in terms of obtaining necessary permits. He posited that an out of state Annual Meeting in 2010 might allow for smoother field trip scheduling. He bemoaned the lack of recent Field Workshop participation. No consensus was agreed upon and the 2010 SLS Officers will take up the matter.

Without any further topics to discuss, the membership praised Chairman Joe Riddlebarger for his noteworthy leadership over the past two years. The fine job by Deborah Matthews Lott and the staff at the McGuire Center of planning and hosting the Annual Meeting was also acknowledged with a round of applause.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Don Stillwaugh
SLS Secretary

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REPORTS OF STATE COORDINATORS

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

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

Florida: Charles V. Covell Jr., 207 NE 9th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601, E-Mail: covell@louisville.edu

Charlie sends in the following 4th quarter report for Florida:

Nancy Jack reported sighting two *Composia fidelisimma* (Arctiidae) on Sept. 14 at Barrier Island Sactuary in Melbourne Beach.

Covell reported the following butterflies for the Gainesville area. First, his *"backyard firsts of the year"* list

ended with 32 species, as follow:

1. *Phoebis philea*	Jan. 4, female on Pentas and Cassia
2. *Phoebis sennae*	Jan. 10, flying in our front yard
3. *Atlides halesus*	March 19, nectaring on Viburnum
4. *Parhassius m-album*	March 26, nectaring on Virbunum
5. *Epargyreus clarus*	March 29, resting on holly bush
6. *Papilio troilus*	March 29, nectaring on Pentas
7. *Battus polydamas*	March 29, nectaring on Pentas
8. *Vanessa atalanta*	March 29, nectaring on Viburnum
9. *Papilio polyxenes asterius*	March 29, flying in front yard
10. *Junonia coenia*	March 30, nectaring on Viburnum
11. *Danaus plexippus*	April 27, flying over our back yard
12. *Papilio glaucus*	April 27, flying over our back yard
13. *Heraclides cresphontes*	May 10, flying over our back yard
14. *Agraulis vanillae*	May 10, flying over driveway
15. *Leptotes cassius*	May 17, flying in our front yard
16. *Papilio palamedes*	June 18, flying in back yard
17. *Erynnis horatius*	June 22, resting in pergola foliage
18. *Erynnis baptisiae*	June 25, on blue flower in front (name?)
19. *Strymon melinus*	July 12, at end of our driveway
20. *Limenitis arthemis astyanax*	July 20, flying around our bird feeder
21. *Urbanus proteus*	August 2, on lantana in front yard
22. *Calycopis cecrops*	August 8, near the ground in back yard
23. *Euphyes vestris*	August 20, on a bush in the front yard
24. *Lerema accius*	August 20, in same location as *vestris*
25. *Heliconius charithonia*	August 20, flying in back yard
26. *Pyrgus oileus*	September 28, flying around front lawn
27. *Phoebis agarithe*	September 28, female flying in back yard
28. *Eurema lisa*	October 4, flying and sitting in back yard
29. *Eurema nicippe*	October 12, flying in the back yard.
30. *Urbanus dorantes*	October 29, on flowers in the front yard
31. *Limenitis archippus*	October 29, on Pentas in the back yard
32. *Calpodes ethlius*	November 29, resting on our lemon tree

Overall records from the Gainesville (Alachua County) area since September 1 are as follows (I was away from Nov. 8 – 22):

Butterflies:

Epargyreus clarus:	Sept. 4,
Urbanus proteus:	Sept. 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 29, 30, Oct. 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, Nov. 4, 5, 6
Urbanus dorantes:	Oct. 21, 23, 25, 29, Nov. 4
Erynnis horatius:	Sept. 7
Calpodes ethlius:	Nov. 4, 5, 6, 29
Lerema accius:	Sept. 24, Oct. 16, 23, Nov. 6
Hylephila phyleus:	Sept. 1, 4, 5, 9, Oct. 3, 8, 9, 16, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27, Nov. 4, 7
Atalopedes campestris:	Sept. 9
Polites vibex:	Sept. 4
Ancyloxipha numitor:	Sept. 7, 15, Oct. 24, 28, Nov. 7
Pyrgus oileus:	Sept. 7, Oct. 22
Panoquina ocola:	Sept. 4, 7, 9, Oct. 8, 16, 21
Battus polydamas:	Sept. 7, 10, 24, Oct. 1, 8, 12, 16, 21, 22, 23, 30, Nov. 4 (larvae)
Heraclides cresphontes:	Sept. 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 23, Oct. 4, 9, 13
Papilio polyxenes asterius:	Oct. 31
Papilio glaucus:	Sept. 7, Oct. 1, 12, 13
Papilio troilus:	Sept. 1, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15
Papilio palamedes:	Sept. 1, 4, 9, 15, Oct. 4, Nov. 7
Phoebis sennae:	Sept. 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 30, Oct. 1, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 31, Nov. 4, 7, 26, 29, 30, Dec. 2
Phoebis philea:	Nov. 6
Eurema nicippe:	Sept. 4, 5, 7, Oct. 9, 10, 12, 13, 21, 22, Nov. 4, 6, 7, Dec. 2

Eurema lisa:	Oct. 4, 10, 12, 16, 31, Nov. 4
Eurema daira:	Sept. 7, Oct. 9
Parhassius m-album:	Oct. 21, 23 (all on sweet almond bush)
Atlides halesus:	Sept. 24, Oct. 5 (2 seen), 6, 8, 14, 16, 21, 22, 29, 30 (all were seen nectaring on Sweet almond bush behind the McGuire Center)
Callophrys gryneus sweadneri:	Oct. 9 (on sweet almond bush)
Hemiargus ceraunus:	Nov. 4, 6
Leptotes cassius:	Sept.13, Oct. 1, 13
Libytheana carinenta:	Sept. 5
Vanessa virginiensis:	Oct. 30
Vanessa atalanta:	Oct. 22
Phyciodes tharos:	Oct. 9
Phyciodes phaon:	Sept. 4, Oct. 21, 22, 23, 25, Nov. 4
Junonia coenia:	Sept. 30, Oct. 8, 9, 10, 16, 27, 31, Nov. 4
Limenitis archippus form *"floridensis:"*	Sept. 1, 2, 29, 30, Oct. 29
Limenitis arthemis astyanax:	Sept. 30
Agraulis vanillae:	Sept. 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 24, 29, 30, Oct. 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 20, 21, 22, 3, 24, 27, 28, 31, Nov. 4, 5, 7, 29
Heliconius charithonia:	Sept. 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 24, 29, 30, Oct. 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, Nov. 4, 5, 23, 26, 29
Hermeuptychia sosybius:	Sept. 4, Oct. 16
Danaus plexippus:	Sept. 4, 7, 13, 24, 30, Oct. 1, 4, 8, 9, 14, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, Nov. 4, 5, 7

Moths:

Arctiidae:

Syntomeida epilais:	Sept. 1, 15, Oct. 21, 29 (10 seen), 30, Nov. 4 (all of these were sighted nectaring on sweet almond bush)

Sphingidae:

Xylophanes tersa:	Sept. 11
Agrius cingulatus:	Sept. 30

Jeff Slotten sends in the following report: *Papaipema appassionata* in Liberty County, Florida, collected November 14, 2009. It was a solitary female at a light at Sumatra along Rd 67. *"This is always a good record for the southeast."*

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

The contributors include James Adams (JA or no notation), Irving Finkelstein (IF), and Eleaner Adams (ERA). 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 2009 unless otherwise specified.

At this time, the late fall/early winter geometrids are flying in good numbers, particularly *Erranis tiliaria*. Most other moth activity involves overwintering adult diapausers (*Metaxaglaea, Hypena scabra, etc.*). Very few *Lithophane* or *Eupsilia* have been seen (yet).

Carbondale, exit 326 off I-75, Whitfield Co.:
NOCTUIDAE: *Catocala robinsoni*, Oct. 15 & 16, *Agnorisma bollii*, Oct. 16. **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Paleacrita merricata*, Nov. 18 (VERY EARLY, normally an early spring moth).

Taylor's Ridge line, Co. rd. 250, N of hwy. 136, 5 mi. W of Villanow, Walker Co, JA, IF, ERA, Patrick Adams:
SATURNIIDAE: *Hemileuca maia*, Nov. 8 & 15 in good numbers. My 12-yr old son Patrick was excited after catching his first Buck Moth!

Salacoa Rd at Salacoa Creek, 5 mi. ESE of Fairmount, NE corner of Bartow Co.:
Sept. 12-13:
NOCTUIDAE: *Catocala cara, Grammia virgo, Papaipema polymniae* (many), *Dichagyris* (*Loxagrotis*) *grotei.*

Oct. 8-9:
LASIOCAMPIDAE: *Tolype velleda.* **NOCTUIDAE**: *Schinia arcigera* (LATE), *Papaipema polymniae* (still), *Lithophane* species (looks like a dark *patefacta*) . **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Cymatophora approximaria* (many).
Oct. 30-31:
NOCTUIDAE: *Catocala maestosa, Papaipema eupatorii, Metaxaglaea inulta.*

Monroe Co., Georgia, Oct. 10, Terry Johnson:
GEOMETRIDAE: *Digrammia continuata* (COUNTY).

Woodbine, Camden County, nectaring on *Bidens*, 21 Sep 2009, Pierre Howard:
HESPERIIDAE: *Euphyes pilatka.* Pierre says *"I was very glad to finally locate a Palatka in Georgia. It is one huge skipper! Round trip from home [Atlanta]: 690 miles."*

Tattnall Co., Ohoopee dunes habitat, 1 mi N of hwy. 153 along Handy Kennedy Rd., 1.5 mi. E of Ohoopee River, Sept. 24, JA and IF:
ARCTIINAE (in the NOCTUIDAE): *Virbia aurantiaca.* **NOCTUIDAE**: *Dysgonia similis, Lesmone hinna, Epidromia rotundata* (COUNTY), *Agriopodes fallax, Rhodoecia aurantiago* (COUNTY), *Schinia sp. nov.* (ridiculously abundant), *S. nundina, S. sordida, S. nubila, Chytonix sensilis, Elaphria fuscimacula, Sideridis ruisa* (RARE), *Leucania incognita.* **GEOMETRIDAE**: *Macaria distribuaria, Euchlaena madusaria, E. deplanaria.* **CRAMBIDAE**: *Pyrausta acrionalis.* **TORTRICIDAE**: *Eucosma mobilensis, Phaneta annetteana.* **GELECHIIDAE**: *Dichomeris imitata.*

Brunswick, Glynn Co., GA, third week in November, Mike Chapman:
PIERIDAE: *Ascia monuste* (first of the year!). **NYMPHALIDAE**: *Heliconius charitonius* in good numbers. **HESPERIIDAE**: *Calpodes ethlius.*

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

Mississippi: Rick Patterson, 400 Winona Rd., Vicksburg, MS 39180, E-Mail: rpatte42@aol.com

The following Mississippi records are reported by Ricky:

30 July 2009, Vicksburg, Warren County, *Parrhasius m-album.*
11 August 2009, Vicksburg, Warren County, *Chlosyne nycteis* emerged from several larva found on Ragweed.
6 August 2009, Vicksburg, Warren County, *Mitoura gryneus gryneus.*
23 August 2009, Warren County, *Poanes zabulon, Poanes yehl.*
19 September 2009, 6.2 miles west of McHenry, Stone County, Little Biloxi WMA, *Schinia parmeliana.*
23 October 2009, Vicksburg, Warren County, *Papaipema rutila.*
5 & 8 November 2009, Vicksburg, Warren County, *Papaipema* new sp #4.

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

Steve sends in the following report with the comment that *"only a few records for moth species were submitted for the fall period. However, one represents a quite spectacular range extension."*

LYMANTRIIDAE:
Orgyia antiqua. A larva (see photograph on page 173) was found by Jodi Casher on August 27 while blueberry picking in the Great Balsam Mountains, Haywood County (**STATE**). This Holoarctic species, confirmed by Dave Wagner, has not been reported in the eastern United States south of Scranton, Pennsylvania. It joins a short list of other leps found at elevations greater than 5,500 ft in the Southern Appalachians whose closest known populations outside this region are several hundred miles to the north.

NOCTUIDAE:

Papaipema araliae. An individual attracted to lights at the visitor center of the Dismal Swamp State Park, Camden County, was observed by J. Edward Corey III, Tony DeSantis, Floyd Williams and Signa Williams on September 15th (**COUNTY**). Although the host plant, *Aralia spinosa*, is common in much of the state, this moth has rarely been reported.

Papaipema marginidens. Also photographed at Dismal Swamp State Park, on October 24th , by Tony DeSantis (**COUNTY**). This species likewise has been reported only a few times in North Carolina, but appears to have a range that spans most of the state, from the Great Smoky Mountains to the southern Coastal Plain.

The following selected butterfly records were submitted by Harry LeGrand. Place names refer to counties unless otherwise stated, and records are not new county reports unless indicated. Records are all from September - November 2009.

PAPILIONIDAE:

Papilio cresphontes, seldom found in the Piedmont, where likely a rare migrant or stray, was one photographed by Oleta Cunningham in Forsyth on October 12.

PIERIDAE:

Phoebis philea, just the second ever record for the state, and first outside of the mountains, was a male seen in flight and perched at a golf course in Wilmington in New Hanover **(COUNTY)**, by Derb Carter on October 21.

Pyrisitia lisa, a very good count for the mountains, where usually rare, was six tallied in Buncombe on September 3 by Gail Lankford and party.

LYCAENIDAE:

Atlides halesus, one was a good find at Jordan Lake in Chatham on September 19, by Will Cook.

NYMPHALIDAE:

Polygonia faunus smythi, after an initial 2009 report in late August at Mount Mitchell State Park in Yancey, the species was seen on three occasions – September 5 (Gail Lankford), September 12 (Dennis Forsythe), and September 25 (Lori Owenby) – during the fall period.

Danaus gilippus, a few reports came from the southern coast, as usual. Singles were seen in Brunswick by Taylor Piephoff on September 4 and at several sites in Carteret – by J. Monroe on September 16 (in Croatan National Forest) and by T. Odell on November 1-4.

HESPERIIDAE:

Hesperia attalus slossonae, rather late for the season was a female seen in Sandhills Game Land in Scotland on October 4, by Harry LeGrand and Will Cook.

Poanes viator, Harry LeGrand followed up on the late August reporting of a far inland colony at Harris Lake County Park in Wake County (Piedmont province); he noted eight individuals there on September 19.

South Carolina: Brian Scholtens, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424, E-Mail: scholtensb@cofc.edu

The following report is sent in by Brian:

Megathymus yuccae (1♂, 1♀), Edgefield County, Sweetwater Rd. @ Horn Creek. Emerged on 23 March 2009. Specimens were taken as pupa on *Yucca filamentosa* on 4 March 2009. (County Record)

Poanes aaroni (1♂, 2♀), Orangeburg County, Hwy 178, E. of North, Bull Swamp, 3 June 2009.

Hesperia meskei (1♂, 1♀), Sumter County, Manchester State Forest, Big Bay Rd, S. end, 8 October 2009. (County Record)

Zerene cesonia (2♂, 1♀), Aiken County, Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve, Oak Ridge Club Rd., 3 June 2009.

Euphyes pilatka (♂ & ♀), Jasper County, Savannah NWR, 8 September 2009. Abundant in compartment near sawgrass.

The above 5 butterflies were collected by B.G. Scholtens.

The following specimens were collected by B.G. Scholtens, T. Smith, and J. Culin in Richland County, Congaree NP, on 7 November 2009 (all are County Records):

Cymatophora approximaria,
Iridopsis defectaria
Glenoides texanaria
Orthonama obstipata
Lithophane viridipallens
(second locality in state)
Chaetaglaea sericea
Metaxaglaea violacea
(second record from state)
Sunira bicolorago
Choephora fungorum
Xestia dilucida
Agrotis ipsilon
Spodoptera eridania
Mythimnia unipuncta
Plathypena scabra
Cisseps fulvicollis
Artace cribraria
Herpetogramm bipunctalis
Atteva punctella

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

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

Ed Knudson sends in the following Texas zone report for September - November, 2009:

Hot and dry weather through most of Texas continued into October, when there were several fronts and tropical systems that brought cooler temperatures and much needed rain to central and south Texas.

The Texas Butterfly Festival, during the 3rd week of October, was considerably scaled down from previous years, due largely to the difficult economic situation we are facing now. Attendance was much lower than usual and little if any official information has been available. In general, butterfly diversity in south Texas was lower than in previous years with few interesting species reported. This could be attributed to the dry conditions preceding the fall season.

Interesting records for the season, so far, are as follows:

HESPERIIDAE:

Large skippers have been very scarce. The most interesting perhaps, is a striking aberration of *Chioides albofasciatus* found in Mission, by Bordelon on Noember 10. This striking specimen will be published soon. *Polygonus leo arizonensis* has been reported several times. *Astraptes anaphus annetta* was taken in Mission, on 14 Nov., by Jerry McWilliams. He also took *Synapte pecta* in Roma on 1 Nov. Among smaller skippers, a new US record was reported by Martin Reid from a specimen photographed last fall. This was identified by Andrew Warren as *Mnasilus allubita.*

PAPILIONIDAE:

Papilio astyalas, P. ornythion, and *Battus polydamas* have been occasionally found in the Mission area during the fall season.

PIERIDAE:

There have been a few other sightings of *Pyrisitia dina* in the Mission area, but no specimens captured to our knowledge. *Aphrissa statira* and *Anteos maerula* have been sighted and collected multiple times. *Ganyra josephina* and *Glutophrissa drusilla tenuis* have been less common than in previous years.

LYCAENIDAE:

In the fall season, hairstreaks have been uncommon, compared to the good summer flight. *Rekoa marius* has been found recently by Mike Rickard.

RIODINIDAE: *Melanis pixe* had been less common than in previous years, until a sudden outbreak in the Mission area in mid-November. There were good numbers of *Apodemia walkeri*, mostly found in the Weslaco

and Brownsville area.

NYMPHALIDAE:

There was a large, but rather local flight of *Chlosyne endeis* in Starr Co., north of Rio Grande City, with about 40 individuals observed around October 19. One was recorded from Hidalgo Co., near Bentsen State Park, a few days later, by Rickard. Other interesting species during the period included *Chlosyne janais, Dynamine dyonis, D. postverta, Hamadryas februa, Hamadryas guatamalena, Adelpha fessonia, Doxocopa laure, Doxocopa pavon, Marpesia petreus, Marpseia chiron,* and *Memphis pithyusa.* A new TX state record, *Phyciodes pallescens* was found by James McDermott Jr. in Mission, TX.

MOTHS:

NOCTUIDAE:

Gonodonta bidens (The first TX specimen in 50+ years), by Knudson & Bordelon, Mission, and *Gonodonta nitidimacula* (New for the US), found by Bordelon & McDermott, in two separate localities in the Mission area on October 29.

Thysania zenobia has been common, as well as *Ophisma tropicalis.*
Acontia jaliscana 4 specimens (both sexes), found in Mission by Bordelon & Knudson in mid October.

SPHINGIDAE:

Eryinnis lassauxii, a late instar larva found by Bordelon in Mission, TX., on Milkweed Vine, which has since pupated. A most bizarre looking caterpillar. This may be the first documentation of breeding in TX for this moth. This, too, will be published later.

SATURNIIDAE:

Rothschildia lebeau found twice in San Manuel, in northern Hidalgo Co., by Bordelon & Knudson; another was collected in Mission by Bordelon..

PYRALIDAE:

Pyrausta pseuderosnealis. The first documentation from extreme south TX of this bug, mainly known from the TX hill country.

SESIIDAE:

The following species collected at pheromones at one locality in Mission, TX, by Bordelon during the fall season:

Zenodoxus rubens bexari
Cissuvora ampelopsis
Paranthrene dollii
Vitacea admiranda
Podosesia aureocincta
Synanthedon rileyana (a new regional record)
Synanthedon sapygaeformis
Alcathoe autumnalis

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

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