

AMBLYSCHIRTES CAROLINA AND A. REVERSA (HESPERIIDAE)
IN MISSISSIPPI AND GEORGIA¹

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Dos Passos (1964) listed "form *reversa* Jones, 1926" under *Amblyscirtes carolina* (Skinner), 1892. In doing so, he followed Evans (1955). Freeman (1973) wrote "*Carolina* seems to be confined to the North Carolina-Virginia area," and "*Reversa* has long been considered to be a synonym of *carolina* or at most a form. I believe that actually it is a distinct species due to morphological differences . . . There are also slight differences in the genitalia. This species ranges farther south than *carolina* being found in Georgia as well as in the same areas as *carolina*."

This note reports the rearing of *reversa* in Georgia and the occurrence of *carolina* in both Georgia and Mississippi and of *reversa* in Mississippi.

Harris (1972) listed records for both *carolina* and *reversa* from the Piedmont region and for *reversa* from the Georgia coastal plain. Harris mentioned that *reversa* had been reared by John Symmes. In view of the new status assigned to *reversa* by Freeman (1973) and discussions with J. R. Heitzman, I wrote to Mr. Harris, custodian of the collection of the late Mr. Symmes, who was kind enough to obtain and supply more information and to permit the results to be published.

In 1963, from one batch of ova, Symmes reared at least 17 adults of *reversa* that are now in his collection. The locality was Long Island Creek, off Harris Trail, Fulton Co., Georgia. The food plant was *Arundinaria tecta* (Maiden cane). The adults included 7 males that emerged: 8 July (1), 10 July (2), 12 July (1), 17 July (1), 28 July (2); and 10 females: 14 June (1), 25 June (1), 26 June (1), 28 June (3), 30 June (1), 8 July (1), and 10 July (2). The Symmes collection includes 6 wild-caught specimens, from the same locality, as follows: 4 May 1963 (1 ♂), 15 July 1955 (2 ♂♂), 12 May 1959 (1 ♀), 20 May 1961 (1 ♀), and 5 July 1962 (1 ♀). As noted by Harris (1972), *carolina* has been known from Fulton Co. since 1910; the fact that Symmes' rearing produced only *reversa* tends to confirm Freeman's conclusion that *reversa* and *carolina* are not conspecific.

Mather & Mather (1958) knew of only a single specimen of *carolina*

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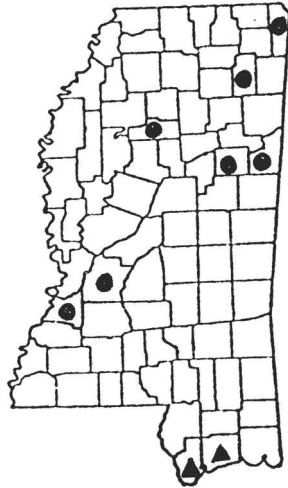


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Amblyscirtes carolina* (●) and *A. reversa* (▲) in Mississippi.

from Mississippi, taken at Brownsville, Hinds Co. on 2 Sept. 1957 by M. & E. Roshore. A second specimen was reported (Mather & Mather, 1959) taken by the same collectors at the same locality on 15 June 1958. Now 25 specimens of *carolina* and 16 of *reversa* are known from Mississippi. The additional records of *carolina* and the records of *reversa* are as follows:

A. carolina Skinner

Claiborne Co.: Rocky Springs, 2 April 67 (1) (M. & E. Roshore), 16 Aug. 70 (1) (B. Mather). Lowndes Co.: Columbus, 10 June 67 (1 ♀) (Macdonald Fulton). Grenada Co.: Grenada, 23 Aug. 70 (2 ♂♂), 17 June 71 (1 ♂) (Charles Bryson). Tishomingo Co.: Haynes Lake, 15 April 72 (1 ♂) (John Bryson); Mt. Woodall, 15 April 72 (1 ♀) (Charles Bryson). Lee Co.: Tombigbee State Park, 1 April 73 (1 ♂) (John Bryson); 5 April 73 (1 ♀) (Charles Bryson); 17 Aug. 73 (1 ♂, 1 ♀) (Ricky Patterson). Oktibbeha Co.: Craig Springs, 31 July 73 (1 ♂), 8 Aug. 73 (4 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀), 9 Aug. 73 (1 ♂, 2 ♀♀) (Charles Bryson); Dorman Lake, 2 Aug. 73 (1 ♂) (Charles Bryson).

A. reversa Jones

Harrison Co.: Biloxi, 14 June 64 (1) (R. & B. Taylor) (determined by J. R. Heitzman); Big Biloxi Recreation Area, 26 Aug. 70 (6), 8 April 71 (2), 9 April 71 (1), 10 April 71 (2) (Rick Kergosien). Hancock Co.: Darwood, 24 June 71 (2 ♂♂, 1 ♀), 8 Aug. 71 (1 ♂) (Rick Kergosien).

These records suggest that, in Mississippi, *reversa* occurs on the Gulf coastal plain and *carolina* in the interior of the state (Fig. 1). *A. reversa*

has been taken in April, June and August; *carolina* in all months April through September, except May.

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