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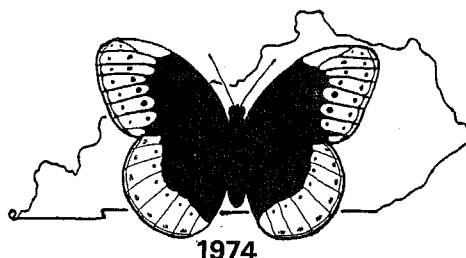
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# KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

Newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 2: JUNE 1990

BARRY S. NICHOLS, Editor  
7004 Ethan Allen Way,  
Louisville, KY, USA 40272



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## EDITORS' NOTES

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In order to remedy some of the problems associated with issue 16:1 I have switched to a different printer and chosen an opaque paper with more sizing. The paper used for this issue is 100% recycled from waste paper, unbleached and acid free. Since it is unbleached, the clays and inks from the waste paper are incorporated into the new paper giving it an off-white color. The manufacturing of this paper uses less water, fewer chemicals and produces one tenth as much solid waste.

In the last issue there was a note about supporting the American Association For Zoological Nomenclature (AAZN). We received only one donation. If some of you were thinking about doing so please send your donation by July 14. If there is an insufficient number of responses, monies will be refunded or go towards the production of the newsletter (in concurrence with the member's wishes).

I received nothing for inclusion into the newsletter by the deadline of April 21 set in the last issue. This has caused a four week delay for this issue. Unfortunately, there is no back-log of articles from which to generate the newsletter. Please take the time to write and submit articles. Most of you have collecting trip stories, unusual finds, rearing tips, etc. of which you could write.

You may notice a change in the way species are now listed in the newsletter. When possible, each species will be followed by the number designated for it in the Check List Of The Lepidoptera Of America North Of Mexico (MONA).

For those of you using computers, please send your articles on disk in ASCII format.

I will gladly provide you with a disk and a mailer. This is not required but it would help a great deal. Again, I welcome any articles, complaints or suggestions. Please submit your contributions for 16:3 by July 31, 1990.

I plan to write an index for the Kentucky Lepidopterist from the first issue to the present. I will begin work on the index in a few weeks. I plan on using LOTUS 123, version 2.0 to do the initial sorting and then import the text into WORD PERFECT 5.0. Any suggestions on format or alternative computer programs would be greatly appreciated. I hope to have the index completed in time for the fall meeting.

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## DERMATITIS FROM MOTH CONTACT

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According to the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (May 9, 1990), last fall on the island of Cozumel, Mexico, there was an outbreak of dermatitis among hotel employees. During interviews with test groups, the Secretariat of Health from the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) found several persons believed they had acquired their symptoms after contact with moths. Great numbers of moths had been seen during October and November but were absent at the time of notification on December 5.

A second outbreak occurred during the first week in January. During this time great numbers of moths were once again seen. Tests using some of these moths were conducted by FETP. A saturniid moth, Hylesia alinda Druce was found to cause dermatitis on human test subjects.

In the past, outbreaks of dermatitis associated with members of the genus Hylesia have been reported from Mexico, Peru and Venezuela. Two such outbreaks in Mexico were associated with large increases in Hylesia



populations. They were believed to have resulted from greatly decreased populations of parasites after natural disasters (volcanic eruption in 1982 and hurricane in 1988).

Control measures suggested by FETP included the use of insecticide in hotel border areas, yellow insect-repelling bulbs and trapping. Another outbreak is expected when the next generation of the moth emerges. They believe it will take a year for parasite populations to increase to the point where the *H. alinda* population is returned to normal.

**A BETTER SESIID TRAP**

by Leroy C. Koehn

Sesiid moths were difficult to collect prior to the use of pheromones. With the use of pheromones it became rather easy to attract them. At the time, pheromones were placed on a piece of fabric or rubber band and pinned to the collector's clothing or net rim. However, most sesiid, when flying, resemble wasps. Their wasp-like appearance and rapid flight confused many collectors. By the time a collector realized they were sesiid, they were gone.

The advent of the STICKY TRAP (Baggett 1986) made collecting even easier. The pheromones attracted moths which became entangled in the stickum. Removing the fragile moths was difficult. Once removed they had to be cleaned with solvent before mounting. The phrase "I'm stuck on sesiid" took on a whole new meaning.

Earlier this spring, Hermann Flacshka of Decatur, GA, introduced me to the MULTI-PHER series of pheromone traps (Figs. 1 & 2). I purchased several of the MULTI-PHER 1 series of traps and all three of the pheromone lures available. I began using them in my yard this spring. In less than 10 days I had taken nine species of sesiid. This was accomplished in the concrete and asphalt world of Coral Springs, FL! I'm looking forward to trying them in the Hammocks and Keys! The traps and pheromones can be

obtained from; GREAT LAKES IPM, 10220 Church Rd. NE, Vestburg, MI 48891. Write for a catalog. For less than \$50.00, you can purchase three traps and all three pheromones.

LITERATURE CITED

Baggett, Dave. 1986. Easy-To-Make Pheromone Traps For Sesiids. Southern Lepidopterists' News. 8:10.

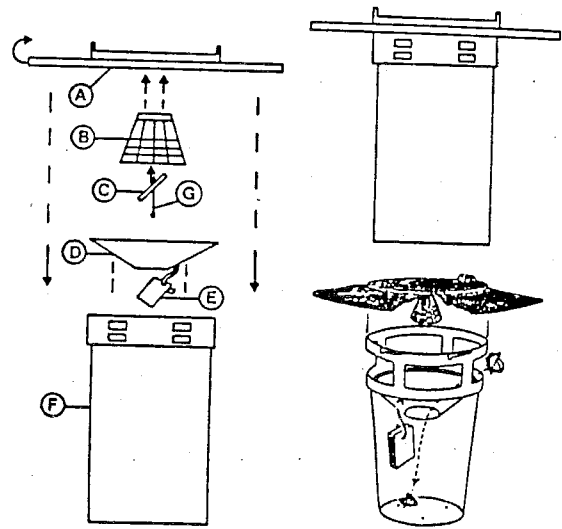


Fig. 1. The Multi-Pher series trap. A. Lid with tabs for hanging. B. Pheromone cage which inserts into the lid. The pheromone is pinned inside the cage. C. Pheromone lure. D. Funnel with vapona attached. E. Holding container which is held in the lid. The moth is lured to the trap by the pheromone and becomes trapped. The vapona is heavier than air and remains effective in the container without affecting the pheromone. The vapona quickly and easily knocks down the moths.

**MAKING PICKS FOR SPREADING LEPIDOPTERA** by Charles V. Covell, jr.

When you want to spread butterflies and moths, it is necessary to pull their wings into the desired position prior to fastening paper or using threads over the wings to

hold them in place. Insect pins work well for this purpose, providing that the specimens are rather large. However, unless you have learned to use size 0 to 000 pins for small Lepidoptera, another more satisfactory device is needed.

I learned to make the "spreading picks" described below when I visited Dr. J. G. Franclemont at Cornell University in 1963. I credit him with the initial design. You may wish to vary it, as I have done on some occasions. But here is the basic procedure.

To make these picks you need a supply of minuten nadeln, the tiny headless pins used for mounting microlepidoptera. "Minutens" come in 2 sizes, the thinner .15 mm diameter, and the thicker .20 mm diameter. For strength, the latter is probably the better choice for most applications. Strong forceps, such as pinning forceps, or fine pliers need to be handy. And you need a box of kitchen matches and a sharp knife or razor blade (single edge recommended) with which to cut them.

First select as many match sticks as you intend to prepare. At least 4 are necessary; 8 better. Be sure the wood is perfectly straight in grain in matches selected, as they will not break easily during trimming.

Next, begin to whittle down the match sticks as thin as you can while still leaving enough diameter to hold a minuten. Length can be that of the match stick (after burning off the chemicals), or shorter. I prefer a length about that of the stick behind the combustibles. Whittling can be done with the sharp knife, an Exacto knife, or a razor blade. You might wish to try fine sandpaper to assist you in this part of the task.

Having prepared the wooden handles as described above, you must next prepare the minutens. You want to push the blunt end of the pin up into one end of the stick so that no more than about 1-2 mm of pin projects from the stick. To do this, you must wick off about 2-3 mm of the blunt end of the pin

before inserting it. You can hold the blunt end firmly in the strong forceps or pliers and wick it back and forth until it breaks; or you can use strong, sharp tin snips to cut the pin. I use the former method.

Finally, grasp the minuten close to the blunt end with forceps or pliers and push it straight and firmly up into the soft wood of the shaved-down match stick until it is well seated with just the 1-2 mm of sharp end projecting. This done, the pick is ready for long service and the tip will not bend unless you press it strongly against the pinning board or some other hard object. The minuten, being so thin, will leave holes in the wings of Lepidoptera that are generally invisible. And such a pick is a must for moving the wings of micros without damaging them.

Other variations include using sealing wax to mount minutens in the end of very thin glass tubing (capillary tubes, or slightly larger). These picks work, but are heavier than the wooden ones and thus cannot as easily be left temporarily placed through wings into the spreading board wood during the setting process.

We would like to hear your variations and ideas on this topic.

#### NEWS AND NOTES

E.W. Classey, Ltd. has overstocks in the BUTTERFLIES OF THE WORLD series by Bernard D'Abbrera and have offered them at a reduced price. ORIENTAL REGION PART 2: NYMPHALIDAE, SATYRIDAE, AMATHUSIIDAE is reduced from L 125 to L 75. NEOTROPICAL REGION PART 1: PAPILIONIDAE & PIERIDAE is reduced from L 97 to L 75. They are brand new copies. They also have some copies of the out-of-print AFRO-TROPICAL REGION at L 140. Payment must accompany order. Write E.W. Classey Ltd., P.O. Box 93, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7DR ENGLAND.

The latest fascicle in THE MOTHS OF AMERICA NORTH OF MEXICO series is currently

being offered. Fascicle 15.3: Pyraloidea: Pyralidae, Phycitinae (part) by H. H. Neunzig is 165 pages long, with 5 colored plates, 2 monochrome plates, and 69 text figures. It is currently being offered at the prepublication price of \$45.00. Shipping for US and Canadian orders is \$2.00 per copy, \$3.50 for overseas orders. The offer expires July 1, 1990 when the price will be \$55.00 plus S & H. Write The Wedge Entomological Research Foundation, c/o National Museum of Natural History, MRC-127, Washington, DC 20560 USA.

The Ohio Lepidopterists publish a quarterly newsletter (The Ohio Lepidopterist). Annual dues are \$7.50 for regular members and \$4.00 for full time students (See field trips section for activities). For information write Roger A. Zebold at 675-B Sprague Rd., Wilmington, OH 45177.

The Southern Lepidopterists' Society publishes a quarterly newsletter (Southern Lepidopterists' News). Annual dues are \$10.00. For more information write the Tom Neal, Secretary Treasurer, 3820 N.W. 16th Place, Gainesville, FL 32605.

The Southern Lepidopterists will hold a field meeting at Clemson University Forest near Clemson, SC. The area is on the edge of the Piedmont near the Blue Ridge Escarpment. The diverse butterfly fauna includes Appalachian and Coastal Plain species. It is scheduled for the weekend of July 27, 28 and 29. Friday, July 27 they will provide an opportunity to view the collection at Clemson University. Saturday morning at 8:30, they will meet at Wildcat Creek Picnic Shelter in Clemson Forest to form collecting parties. They will have a cookout that afternoon and discuss night collecting spots. For more information contact Charlie Watson by phone at (803) 653-7102 (home) or (803) 656-0428 (work).

Don't forget the 41st annual Lepidopterists' Society meeting being held June 14-17 at the Milwaukee Public Museum. For information contact Dr. Allen Young or Susan Borkin, Invertebrate Zoology Section,

Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee, WI 53233, or call (414) 278-2758.

We now have \$404.00 in the identification fund. Additional donors since the last newsletter are Don Ennis, Barry Nichols, and J.B. Ziegler.

The 17th annual meeting will be held at the University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, during the weekend of November 16-17, 1990. More details will be given in the next newsletter. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

The Environmental Protection Agency has moved to ban the chemical R-11 from insect repellants after deeming it unsafe for human use. This chemical was present in many repellants including DEEP WOODS OFF. Spokesmen for companies producing the repellants said they have already changed the formula. This may be a good time to dispose of old repellants and buy new cans.

Additions to the list of Kentucky lepidoptera resulted when Eupithecia (Geometridae) specimens were returned by Mr. Klaus Bolte. He kindly identified a large lot of Eupithecia from Kentucky, Ohio, and the West. New additions to the Kentucky list include:

#### GEOMETRIDAE

- 6450 Glena cognataria (Hbn.) -female, Tunnel Ridge Road, Powell Co., May 21, 1988, C.V. Covell Jr.
- 7526 Eupithecia russeliata Swett -Big Black Mountain, Harlan Co., July 11, 1987, C.V. Covell Jr.
- 7543 E. annulata (Hulst) -Red River Gorge, Tunnel Ridge Road, Powell Co., March 11, 1989, D.J. Wright.

#### NOCTUIDAE

- 8412 Melanomma auricinctaria Grt. -Markland Dam, Gallatin Co., June 7, 1990, L.D. Gibson.

The Kentucky species list now stands at 2,270 species, many of which have resulted from you who have made lepidopterology your avocation.

### FIELD NOTES FROM KENTUCKY

by Charles V. Covell, Jr.

Covell made two trips to the Bearcamp Road hollow in Bullitt Co. This site has been a popular spring collecting site for butterflies for nearly ten years. Heavy logging has continued, but many trees have been left standing. This spring began very early, and many of the expected wildflowers were either eliminated by the excessive sun during the previous summer, or had bloomed before the first visit on April 8. On that day, and the next, I recorded Erynnis juvenalis (F.) (MONA 3947), E. icelus (Scudder & Burgess) (3945), E. baptisiae (Fbs.) (3959), Eurytides marcellus (Cram) (4184) (but not so much as last spring), Anthocharis midea (Hbn.) (4207), Pieris virginiana (Edw.) (4196), Celastrina ladon (Cram) (4363), C. ebenina Clench (4364) about as frequent as in past years), Polygonia comma (Harr.) (4421), P. interrogationis (F.) (4420), Nymphalis antiopa (L.) (4432), and Cylopsis gemma (Hbn.) (4573). No Papilio species were seen. They are usually present at this time. Incisalia henrici (G & R) (4326) was missed as well.

I also noted one Chlossiana bellona (F.) (4465) flying across a soccer field in Louisville on April 1, 1990.

### UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS IN KENTUCKY

There will be two butterfly observation and collecting trips soon in conjunction with the Xerces Society's annual July 4th Count. These counts must be made within a month on either side of July 4.

In Oldham Co., near Brownsboro, a count conducted by Charlie Covell has been made for 5 previous years. This year the count will

be held on July 21, 1990. The count begins at the quarry site and spreads to the field, forest, and transitional areas back into the Horner Wildlife Preserve. Moth collection at night is a possibility for those interested. The date of the count has not yet been determined. Contact Charlie Covell at (502) 588-5942 (day), and (502) 456-6122 (home) if you wish to participate. Bring your lunch and join the fun. We have had as many as 35 species reported in past years.

Burt Monroe Jr. will conduct another count trip in the Red River Gorge and Natural Bridge State Park areas on Monday, July 2. He needs at least two teams to help cover the large area of this survey site, which will be sampled for its second survey year. Contact him at (502) 588-6771 (day) or (502) 245-8084.

A Xerces count in Western Kentucky would be an excellent addition to the program. If anyone is interested in starting one, please contact our member Dr. Paul Opler, 5100 Greenview Ct., Ft. Collins, CO 80525. He runs the show and will give details. In any case, all counting team members are asked to contribute \$2.50 when they participate, to help defray the expenses of generating the report after the coordinators submit them.

### UPCOMING OHIO FIELD TRIPS

The Ohio Lepidopterists are sponsoring two field trips in the near future. The collection of microlepidoptera will be emphasized but collectors of all groups are welcome.

The first field trip will be held in the vicinity of the Oak Openings of Lucas Co. Ohio, near Toledo, during the weekend of June 22-24. The area has three of the four endangered Ohio butterflies and several endangered moths. They will meet at 8:00 PM on Friday, June 22 at Pine Ridge Lodge. The lodge is located at the corner of S.R. 64 and Jeffers Road just west of Whitehouse. They

have collecting permits, all you need to do is show up.

They will meet again at the lodge Saturday morning at 10:00 to prepare and discuss the night's catch. Afterwards they will plan Saturday night's collecting. Many of the micros are caught from flowers or swept from vegetation so we will do some daytime collecting. For more information contact Eric Metzler at 1241 Kildale Sq. N, Columbus, OH 43229.

The second field trip will be held at Resthaven Wildlife Area near Castalia in Erie Co., OH. They will meet at 8:00 PM Friday, July 20 at the Wildlife Headquarters. This area has a variety of different habitats including tallgrass prairies, wet prairies, marshes, swamps, woods, and uplands. Many rare noctuids have been collected here.

Saturday morning they will meet again at 10:00 AM at the picnic shelter of the Castalia Village Park. At this time, will discuss the night's haul and finalize plans for collecting that night. Also at 10:00 AM, there will be a special Beginning Member's Field Trip at the picnic shelter. There will be discussions on collecting, equipment, observation and specimen preparation. Please contact Mike Gilligan at (419) 894-6554 (evenings) so he can prepare enough materials for the workshop.

Many members have considerable difficulty in getting species determinations for their specimens. For many groups of Lepidoptera, the descriptions and keys are scattered throughout regional publications. I would ask any members having knowledge of references of poorly known groups, to write articles for the newsletter. I plan to write a bibliography of Chamber's micro papers. I would welcome any help or suggestions. Please contact Barry S. Nichols.

#### NOTICES

Wish to EXCHANGE for specimens of Calephelis muticum McAlpine (4391),

particularly females. Can offer numerous species in return. Ronald R. Gattelle, 126 Wells Rd., Goose Creek, SC 29445.

Need live specimens for the North American Celastrina Project being conducted by Harry Pavulaan and myself. We would like ten live adults from various regions in the area. Put live specimens into glassine envelopes in the field, place them in a small container and send express mail (or other means of overnight delivery). We will reimburse mailing costs. Also, if you need more than one collecting trip to collect ten specimens, please send partial shipments. The specimens will be deep frozen on arrival and used for electrophoresis. Please send your specimens to David M. Wright, 124 Heartwood Drive, Lansdale, PA 19446.

I would like to obtain a copy of TREE & SHRUB INSECTS OF THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES by W.G.H. Ives and H.R. Wong. 1988. INFORMATION REPORT NOR-X-292. It was published by the Northern Forestry Centre, Canadian Forestry Service. It is no longer in stock. If anyone knows of a copy please contact Barry S. Nichols, 7004 Ethan Allen Way, Louisville, KY 40272.

Fine bait traps for sale. Normal, cone-type traps and a "tropical" type with a wide lip instead of a cone. They are 3 ft. high, 15 in. in diameter, and have a 22 in. access zipper and a 16 sq. in. plywood base. Those with cones have a cone opening of 4 inches. Cost is \$35.00 (plus \$1.80 shipping). Contact Chris Ward at 1474 Melbourne Dr. SE, Girard, OH 44420, or call (216) 539-5374 for more information.

Many moth collectors commonly run into large numbers of insects of other orders. Many are killed in light traps and discarded later. I would like to try to make this material accessible to workers in other fields. I would personally be interested in specimens of caddisflies, mayflies, and stoneflies. I would gladly provide vials of ethyl alcohol for those willing to collect. If workers in other areas would write me with their requests I will run them in the next

newsletter. Please contact Barry S. Nichols,  
7004 Ethan Allen Way, Louisville, KY 40272.

Collectors using sweep nets near streams or ponds (especially in areas with nettles) will probably catch a number of scorpionflies (MECOPTERA: PANORPIDAE). Again, I would gladly provide vials and alcohol to those willing to collect. Please contact Barry S. Nichols at the address listed above.

Lagrange, KY 40031  
(502) 222-9368

James Unseld  
1037 S. 7th St.,  
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NEW MEMBERS

Carl Cook  
469 Crailhope Rd.,  
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Centro Regional Universitario de Varaguas,  
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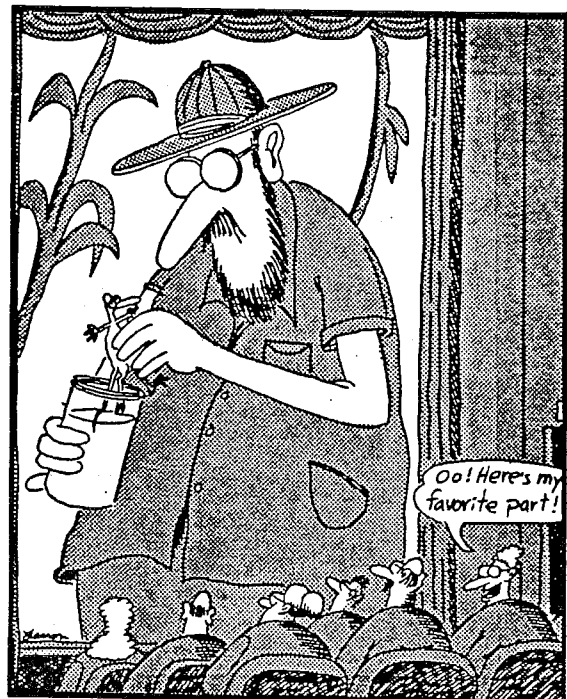
NEW ADDRESSES

Roderick R. Irwin  
Rural Route 3  
Streator, IL 61364

Donald R. Tangren  
205 Cranor Rd.,  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

ERRATA FOR KY LEPIDOPTERIST 16:1

Page 4, 2nd column: 6044 Poeria should be  
6044 Peoria.



Scene from Bring 'Em Back Preserved

The KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST is the quarterly newsletter of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists. Membership dues are \$5.00. Contact: Charles V. Covell, Jr., Treasurer, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40292.

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