

ASSOCIATION FOR TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA

NOTES

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“Conociendo las Mariposas Autóctonas” Project in Argentina

The Paraná rainforest in Misiones province, Argentina, is an ecosystem with one of the highest biodiversities in the country, characterized by a large number of endemic species that are placed as high priority for conservation.

As with the rest of terrestrial vertebrates and invertebrates, fragmentation and destruction of habitats are the main threats to the butterflies, which undoubtedly leads to a gradual reduction in the number of individuals within populations.

The Temaikén Foundation is a non-profit organization that carries out conservation projects in order to preserve and provide information about native flora and fauna, to reinforce conservation achievements and ensure awareness of threats to biodiversity. Education and research play a leading role in achieving these tasks.

promoted the appreciation of butterflies. Our team has been educating the public about the factors that contribute to demise of butterfly populations and the measures needed for their conservation.

The training course for rangers, which took place in San Pedro in 2005, was aimed mainly at providing the necessary materials and knowledge for the classification and identification of common local butterfly species and their host plants. We hope that this contributed to understanding of the importance of entomofauna by the residents of these areas and created some environmental awareness in local people.

The course “Knowing native butterflies,” which mostly targeted school teachers, was given in several locations of Misiones province and at the Temaikén Biopark, (Buenos Aires province). In a second stage of the same course, we visited classrooms to instruct the kids, jointly with their teachers, (who



Fig. 1. Second phase of the course “Knowing native butterflies”: Science Fair students showing their artwork on butterfly life cycle. Oberá, Misiones.

The goal of our project “Conservation of Native Butterflies” that takes place in Misiones province, is developing a comprehensive strategy for conservation through education, research, and identification of priority areas for conservation.

With the aim of promoting value for biodiversity and as part of the Temaikén Foundation mission, we carry out conservation actions in a mutual cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Ecology, Renewable Natural Resources and Tourism of the Misiones province.

Training courses:

Since 2005 we have been working alongside forest rangers and teachers, conducting training courses, through which we



Fig. 2. School on the outskirts of Oberá: introducing common butterfly species of Misiones using educational materials published by Temaikén Foundation.

have completed the workshop training, about the basics of butterfly diversity and biology, with special emphasis on the process of metamorphosis. We see educating children as the key to the future of community-based conservation.



Fig. 3. Student showing his artwork. Oberá, Misiones.



Fig. 4. *Caligo illioneus pampeiro* is one of the species that flies and reproduces at the butterfly garden of Temaikén Foundation.



Fig. 5. The foundation published a teachers' manual for conducting butterfly-related activities in the classroom and provides the manual and training to teachers free of charge.



Fig. 6. Teachers during one of the Temaikén training courses learning to identify butterflies.



Fig. 7. Osununú Nature Reserve overlooking Paraná River near San Ignacio, Misiones.

Butterfly garden:

From October to March, adult butterflies of eight different species are released at an enclosed butterfly garden of the Temaikén Biopark. Individual visitors and school groups can also witness life cycles of these butterflies, since all stages are exhibited.

In our butterfly garden, studies are carried out in an attempt to standardize reproduction techniques for different species, aiming to increase the birth and survival rate of native butterflies. To maintain these cycles during the whole year, we continue improving our plant propagation techniques.

Investigation:

At present there is little research being conducted on biology of butterflies in Argentina, despite the fact that there is a wealth of information available on butterfly taxonomy for the region.

Our aim is to contribute towards understanding of butterfly species distribution and of their population dynamics in Misiones Province and to apply these data to our conservation efforts.

Paola Favre
Temaikén Foundation, Argentina

Association for Tropical Lepidoptera Annual Meeting, 2008

The 2008 annual meeting of the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera was held June 24-27, in Starkville, MS, in conjunction with the Lepidopterists' Society and the Southern Lepidopterists' Society (SLS).

Jackie Miller served as coordinator for the ATL contributions to the meeting, and also made an interesting presentation on "Biodiversity of the Castniinae." Tom Emmel presented on "The Butterfly Fauna of Madagascar: Biodiversity, Endemism, and Habitats." There were many other presentations by the members of all three societies.

The annual treasurer's report, which is summarized below, was presented at the ATL business meeting. All figures are from July 1, 2007 to June 23, 2008.

Income	\$28,315.18	
	\$20,315.18	Dues and Book Sales
	\$8,000.00	Loan to Publication Fund
Expenses	\$27,349.79	
	\$12,636.29	Printing
	\$13,144.14	Postage
	\$ 1,569.36	General Expenses
Net	\$ 965.39	

Officers for 2008 include President Ulf Eitschberger, VP Tom Emmel, Secretary-Treasurer Peter Eliazar. This year we will elect four board members for six year terms. Peter Eliazar, Tom Emmel, and Olaf Mielke are up for reelection with new member Keith R. Willmott.

Under Andrei Sourakov's leadership as editor, *Tropical Lepidoptera*, now *Tropical Lepidoptera Research*, has caught up with delayed publications. The first issue of *Tropical Lepidoptera Research* was available for distribution to prospective members, and was very well received.

The future plans for ATL publications were discussed, including the newsletter and electronic publication of special editions of *Holarctic Lepidoptera*. The last issue of *Holarctic Lepidoptera* (Vol. 12 (1-2)), was published in August 2008 on-line (available at www.troplep.org for free downloading). It contains a 150-page article by George T. Austin and Patrick J. L. Leary "Larval Hostplants of Butterflies in Nevada," featuring 20 years of observations in the field, 14 color plates, and 40 black-and-white drawings. Paper copies of this work are also available (see the ATL website for details).

Members were encouraged to submit contributions suitable for the newsletter as well as articles for peer review and publication in *Tropical Lepidoptera Research*.

Next ATL meeting

The Lepidopterists' Society and ATL will meet in Chetumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico, June 16-20, 2009, in conjunction with ELEN III. Program, registration and hotel information will be available on the web site: <http://w2.ecosur-qroo.mx/ElenIII/indexingles.htm>

Next year's meeting should give ATL additional membership opportunities. Attending members will benefit from the scientific program and there are several opportunities for post meeting field trips (see website information above).

Finally, I would encourage those who are able financially to consider ATL for donations to conservation projects, ATL endowment fund or to help in the ATL general publications fund. All donations are tax deductible for U.S. residents.

The ATL website has been updated and can now accept credit card payment of dues and donations, using PayPal.

Jon D. Turner, ATL Executive Director
Ardmore, Tennessee

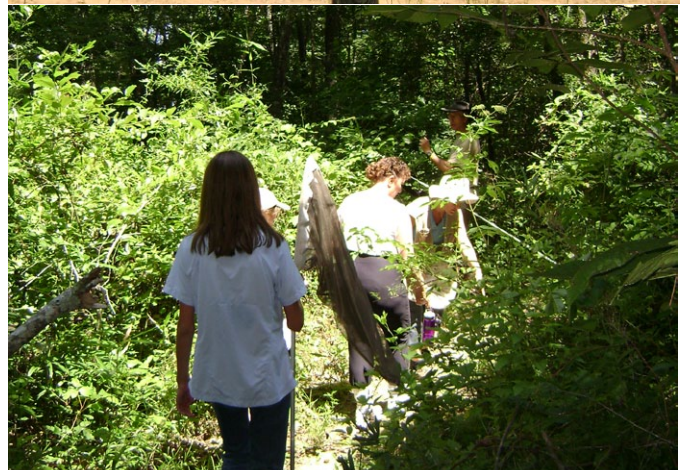


Fig. 1-3: The 2008 ATL Meeting: Banquet;
Crawfish boil at R. Brown's house;
Field trip to Morgan Hill Prairie.
photos by Jackie Miller and Debbie Mathews.

Two Conferences on Tropical Andean Butterflies



The Tropical Andean Butterfly Diversity Project (TABDP) (www.andeanbutterflies.org, www.mariposasandinas.org) organized a workshop and conference on tropical Andean butterflies in Urubamba, Cuzco, Peru, in September 2008. The workshop "Priorities in the Research and Conservation of Andean Butterflies" brought together 15 experts from Andean countries, USA and Europe to discuss the analysis and publication of data resulting from the 3-year TABDP project, which has been funded by the United Kingdom's Darwin Initiative.

Topics under discussion included a report from Andean coordinators on the project's activities, achievements, problems and recommendations; the content of the final project publication; methods for selection of priority areas for research and conservation; results to date for the IUCN Red List assessment and description of methods used, including ecological niche modelling; feedback from participants on current IUCN assessments, including compilation of additional locality data; compilation of databases and preliminary data

verification; agreement of timetable and responsibilities for contributions to the final project publication; ideas for future projects and potential sources of funding. The project aims to complete a publication entitled "Regional Strategy for Butterfly Research and Conservation in the Tropical Andes" by mid-2009, to which faunistic and taxonomic researchers will be invited to contribute.

Immediately following the workshop was the first "International Conference on Andean Butterflies," funded in part by Conservation International. A total of 120 participants registered at the conference, from 12 countries, including 87 from the five tropical Andean countries, the great majority being students. There were 50 talks and c. 20 posters presented, with prizes for the best poster, best undergraduate and best graduate student talk.

Keith R. Willmott
Florida Museum of Natural History

New butterfly website covers species from Alaska to Panama



Together with coauthors Kim Davis, Jonathan Pelham and Mike Stangeland and with many advisors, we have started a new website: **Butterfliesofamerica.com**, that aims to provide comprehensive coverage of all butterfly species, subspecies, and distinctive unnamed populations from arctic America through Panama and the Caribbean.

The scope of the website is to provide collections of photos for every taxon. These will be of pinned specimens (including types), live adults, immature stages, larval foodplants, and habitats. In addition, each taxon will have a section devoted to its synonymy (past names of the species, which are no longer valid, but could be found in older literature). The bibliography will list important books and papers that lead users to specific distributional, systematic and ecological information. As the website develops, there are plans to include plates of multiple species for comparing similar taxa.

This is a long-term project, currently without external funding. To date, all work on the site has been accomplished through dedicated individuals donating their own time and resources.

Thus far, over 20,000 images have been posted to the site (donated by over 100 generous and skilled photographers), and we expect this number to exceed 40,000 or more within the next year.

For most users, the following page will be the most useful one on the site, since it includes the interactive listing of all butterflies from Alaska to Panama, including the Caribbean, with a very rough description of their geographic distributions: <http://www.butterfliesofamerica.com/list.htm>

From this page, users can search for taxa, organized by family, subfamily, tribe and genus.

Kim and Mike recently spent three months working in the McGuire Center collections. Assisted by myself and George Austin, they took over 50,000 images of thousands of taxa, many of which have already been added to the site.

Andrew Warren,
Florida Museum of Natural History