



# TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA NEWS

September/December 1993 No. 3-4

## 1993 ATL EXPEDITIONS

The first ATL-sponsored field trips were expeditions to Sumatra and Ecuador. Led by Dr. John B. Heppner, ATL Executive Director and Curator of Lepidoptera at the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, both trips were enjoyed by the tourist participants, and all parties were able to see and sample numerous species of tropical moths and butterflies. Particularly noteworthy in both areas was the impact on the participants of how little remains of the tropical forests. In Sumatra the coastal plain long ago was deforested for rubber trees and oil palms, but a few remnant rainforest trees remain: one case is a giant tree, about 45 meters high, next to the main road from Medan to Siantar, the last reminder of what was once a dense rainforest of incredible diversity. Good sites remain in Sumatra, but every year one must go further afield to find them. Likewise, in Ecuador, most of the western lowlands have been converted to oil palm plantations, and only isolated remnants of forest remain, like at Tinalandia. ATL expeditions for 1994 include Taiwan, Malaysia, and Chile.

### SUMATRA, July 15-31, 1993

The two-week expedition to Sumatra, Indonesia, enticed only two members but their participation resulted in an excellent trip. After meeting at the Los Angeles International Airport, the 12 hour flight was made to Taipei, for a middle-of-the-night stop, then another 5 hours to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for an 8 hour stopover. After a short rest at the airport hotel, courtesy of Malaysian Airlines, the trip continued for another hour to Penang, then another hour to Medan, North Sumatra (or Sumatera Utara). From Medan we drove 2 hours along the main road to the town of Pematang Siantar, through villages and plantations of rubber trees, oil palms, and cacao.

We initially visited Pematang Siantar and made various day trips to nearby hill sites; likewise for night collecting. Numerous species of butterflies were active in the hills, including many pierids (especially *Eurema*), swallowtails such as *Graphium*, and nymphalids of various *Euploea*, *Ypthima*, *Precis*, and *Neptis*. Elevations in the Toba Lake foothills range from about 350-1400 meters. Forests vary from nearly virgin to secondary sites, or remnant original forest. Most of the lowlands around Siantar, however, are agricultural.

After a few days in the Siantar region, we made our way past Lake Toba, an ancient volcanic lake, and proceeded on a week-long trip to the state of West Sumatra. The first stop was at the hill resort of Sipirok. Nearby hot springs and the adjacent forest just above the hotel provided an excellent (*continued on page 3*)

### ECUADOR, December 4-12, 1993

Seven participants joined the expedition leader in Miami for the 5 hour flight to the port city of Guayaquil, then another hour back north to Quito. The capital of Ecuador, Quito, is a high Andean city of about 2 million, at nearly 2900 meters elevation. After an overnight rest in a local hotel, the group proceeded by van to the western foothill resort of Tinalandia, at about 700 meters elevation. This forested remnant of montane tropical forest abounds with insect and other animal life. Much of western Ecuador is now converted to oil palm plantations, but the foothills of the Andes still offer some excellent forest remnants, such as at Tinalandia and nearby steeper slopes. The trip to Tinalandia is a spectacular descent from the 3600 meter pass south of Quito, down the canyons towards the town of Santo Domingo de los Colorados, west of Tinalandia. The hotel of Tinalandia rests on a small plateau above a beautiful river valley east of Santo Domingo. A number of rustic bungalows are scattered on the slopes and near the main entrance, offering space for up to about 60 guests. The lodge offers full course meals and an excellent cuisine, varying from European to local dishes.

Tina Garzon, now nearly 90, helped found Tinalandia with her late husband. She is a Russian emigré from the 1917 revolution, moving to Ecuador from her native Odessa in the 1930's. Sixty years ago the trip from Quito to Tinalandia took 3 days on horseback and there were no roads. Today, the main road allows the distance to be covered in 3 hours. (*continued on page 3*)

# TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA NEWS

Editor: J. B. Heppner

Published by the  
Association for Tropical Lepidoptera, Inc.

Publication Office: c/o Florida State Collection of Arthropods  
P. O. Box 141210, Gainesville, FL 32614-1210, USA  
Telephone: (904) 372-3505 x139 FAX: (904) 995-2301

Frequency: Quarterly (March, June, September, December)

The Association for Tropical Lepidoptera, Inc., is a non-profit corporation for the study and conservation of tropical and subtropical Lepidoptera of the world. Contributions are tax-deductible.

## ASSOCIATION FOR TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vitor O. Becker (Brazil)	Gerardo Lamas (Peru)
Don R. Davis (USA)	Claude Lemaire (France)
Boyce A. Drummond, III (USA)	Olaf H. H. Mielke (Brazil)
Peter J. Eliazar (USA)	Eugene G. Munroe (Canada)
Thomas C. Emmel (USA)	

Chairman and Executive Director: J. B. Heppner

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

Yutaka Arita (Japan)	Lawrence E. Gilbert (USA)
G. S. Arora (India)	Lowell N. Harris (USA)
Hans Bänziger (Thailand)	Daniel H. Janzen (USA)
H. S. Barlow (Malaysia)	Torben B. Larsen (Denmark)
Emilio Berio (Italy)	Jorge Llorente B. (Mexico)
Ronald Boender (USA)	Scott E. Miller (USA)
C. B. Cottrell (Zimbabwe)	Denis F. Owen (England)
Charles V. Covell, Jr. (USA)	Josef Razowski (Poland)
U. Dall'Asta (Belgium)	Arthur M. Shapiro (USA)
Philip J. DeVries (USA)	M. Alma Solis (USA)
Edward W. Diehl (Indonesia)	Hsiau-Yue Wang (Taiwan)
Julian P. Donahue (USA)	Allen M. Young (USA)

**TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA SEPARATES:** Past journal articles can be purchased: \$1 first page and 25¢ for each additional page. Specify author, volume, and page numbers when ordering. Members may also buy additional journal issues: \$10 each (1990-92), \$15 each (1993).

## ATL EXPEDITIONS

1994	May 22-Jun 12:	Taiwan
	Jun 12-30:	Malaysia
	Dec 3-18:	Chile
1995	Jan 8-19:	Taiwan Butterfly Valleys
	Mar: [tentative]	Samoa/Fiji
	Jun: [tentative]	Thailand
	Aug: [tentative]	Honduras
	Nov: [tentative]	Rondonia, Brazil

**HOLBROOK TRAVEL EXPEDITIONS:** various Lepidoptera trips led by Dr. T. C. Emmel; brochures available.

## TO OUR READERS

With the close of 1993, our fourth year of publishing *Tropical Lepidoptera* can be celebrated. ATL membership finally passed the 1000 mark during 1993, standing at 1065 by the end of December.

The year also had the first announcement of a new color journal for the north temperate regions of the world, to be called *Holarctic Lepidoptera*, starting September 1994. At the end of December, over 350 members had already agreed to subscribe to this new journal, so we can all look forward to this next year. George Krizek, of Washington, DC, has already promised to submit a color photo-article on over 300 species of European butterflies for the first issue of *Holarctic Lepidoptera*, so it should be quite a first issue! With enough members taking both journals, the society stands to gain added financial support even with the expense of a further issue per year.

A number of members agreed to join the Advisory Council to add expertise for Holarctic regions starting in 1994. Production deadlines will also be advanced starting in 1994, so we can have the journals ready for mailing on the cover dates instead of lagging behind as has been the case.

I want to again thank the many members who have sent in additional monies as contributions. We have also received large donations expressly for conservation work in Rondonia. Additionally, our list of life members increased during the year, although we did not achieve our goal of 100 new life members. The life members are certainly thanked for their support of the society; they receive all publications (except books) free of additional charge and get airmail service for journals if sent outside of North America.

J. B. Heppner  
Executive Director

## ELECTION RESULTS (105 ballots received)

The 1993 election results have been tabulated as follows:  
President: E. G. Munroe - 62 votes                      H. Inoue - 41 votes  
- also 1 abstention and 1 write-in vote for P. DeVries.  
Vice-President: T. C. Emmel - 104 votes  
- also 1 write-in vote for R. Calvo.  
Secretary/Treasurer: J. B. Heppner - 104 votes  
- also 1 write-in vote for D. Cappelli.

## NOTES

1. **1994 Annual Meeting:** April 8-10, in Gainesville. It will be our usual annual symposium on the tropical diversity of Lepidoptera worldwide. Please submit proposed talks.

### 2. 1994 Annual Photo Contest

You are welcome to enter up to 5 photographs (8x10 inches) in each of three categories: butterflies, moths, and immatures. Prizes total \$480; winners are published in *Tropical Lepidoptera*.

### 3. Butterfly Valleys of Taiwan

Due to lack of interest by anyone, the January 1994 trip had to be cancelled. We will offer this trip again in January 1995.



*(Sumatra Expedition, continued)*

area to observe and sample butterflies and day-flying moths. Elevations here varied from about 1000 meters at the hotel to about 1100 meters by the hot springs. Across the Sipirok Valley, nearby hills offered another excellent forest location at 1100-1295 meters elevation.

After two days, the trip proceeded to Bukittinggi, West Sumatra. Along the way, several excellent mountain sites were sampled and also the Equator was crossed. Bukittinggi is an interesting town, now considerably directed to tourist interests. From Bukittinggi we made various day-trips to nearby mountain and canyon sites with the help of a local guide. One day was also spent on a longer tour to the nearby mountains and Lake Maninjau, at 865 meters elevation, then on to see the Indian Ocean. The drive from Bukittinggi to Lake Maninjau is most interesting since after climbing from town to a mountain pass, one then makes a very precipitous drop of about 300 meters to the lake shore, with spectacular views along the way. Some of the most interesting butterflies were found near Huluir, north of Payakumbuh, at about 1000 meters.

On July 26 we made our way back for another two days at Sipirok, since the drive from Bukittinggi to Siantar takes nearly two days. Going back to Lake Toba, the road follows the large Toru River, after getting over the hills north of Sipirok. We stopped for a day at Lake Toba, enjoying the view of the lake and distant volcanos, with night collecting at a nearby mountain pass at 1400 meters elevation.

The expedition in total allowed participants to sample over 100 species of Sumatran butterflies, and many more species of moths, making the long flight back to Los Angeles worthwhile.

*(Ecuador Expedition, continued)*

Watching butterflies and sampling interesting species is an incredible adventure in a rainforest such as at Tinalandia, and likewise for moths. The butterfly fauna is about 800 species at Tinalandia and the moths surely number close to 5,000 species. Many of the moths are still undescribed, particularly the smaller species. A future journal article by Tom Emmel will list the butterflies thus far recorded for Tinalandia. This December expedition was still only moderately productive for butterflies, even though the seasonal rains had not yet begun, but moth numbers were very high, as usual.

Sergio Platanoff, manager of Tinalandia, was exceptional in making all needed arrangements for this tour, including taking groups on day-trips to nearby locations such as Palenque, and high in the Andes to view Cotopaxi volcano where one drives to about 4,500 meters. When Cotopaxi was visited in 1992, we had a snow storm at the mountain hut at the end of the road!

Miguel Moreno, Director of the Museo Ecuatoriana de Historia Natural, in Quito, kindly facilitated all official papers for this tour in Ecuador. He directs an excellent new museum, and their insect collection continues to grow.

Our last night in Ecuador found us again in Quito, where a pleasant evening was spent experiencing local Andean music in the setting of an excellent restaurant. The tour group, which included a couple from Austria, a man and his son from France, and three persons from the USA, in addition to the leader, thoroughly enjoyed the trip, notwithstanding some nasty mosquitoes that bit three of them in the eyelid, causing some swelling. Such are the hazards of visiting the tropics, but at least discomfort nowadays is mild compared to the time of Bates and Darwin.

---

## U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE AND THE LACEY ACT

J. B. Heppner

A future ATL newsletter article will go into this subject in more detail but a summary of current problems should be noted at this time, particularly for the interest of our members outside of the USA. Events in 1993 have been brought about in large part due to the indictment of three collectors in California and Arizona on charges of poaching protected butterflies and larvae in U.S. national parks. This case prompted the USFWS in 1993 to become an aggressive bureaucracy in the search for illegal butterfly specimens, much as U.S. drug agents search for narcotics. In their zeal to protect endangered butterflies, illegal collecting, and all wildlife laws, both in the USA and elsewhere, the enforcement agents of the USFWS have taken an extremely strict and bureaucratic approach to U.S. wildlife laws, particularly the 1900 Lacey Act and its 1981 revisions.

Although basically well-meaning, agents of the USFWS have gone to extremes in their interpretation of the Lacey Act, even though the law specifically provides exemptions for dead specimens for scientific and museum study. The leadership at the USFWS, or the US Congress, will probably modify the rules of interpretation of the Lacey Act, since current enforcement activities are nearing the point of interfering with agricultural and medical research, as well as taxonomy and field studies involving insects and other animals and plants.

Much of the problem with such bureaucratic interpretation as witnessed now with the USFWS, stems from ignorance of insect biology and the lack of input from the scientific community during the law-making process. The efforts of various conservation organizations was largely behind revision in the Lacey Act, mainly involving the need to protect mammals, birds and other large animals, as well as plants. What typically is then done in such cases is to include all organisms, without

knowledge of the ultimate effects of such laws. The reproductive biology of insects is so vastly different from mammals and birds, that moderate sampling of insects has never been shown to significantly affect any insect species; what has always caused the danger of possible extinction for insects is loss of habitat, not collecting. The only cases where insect species were endangered from collecting involved species already on their last leg due to a reduced habitat, and overzealous collectors could eliminate a small local population in a restricted habitat.

The USFWS, in the investigation of the alleged poachers, also itself broke laws, by taking legally collected specimens from other collectors without search warrants, and engaging in such acts of intimidation as midnight visits to interrogate collectors and even nighttime SWAT team raids, much as is done in the case of heavily armed narcotics dealers. And, this involves butterfly collectors! Clearly, tactics are involved that are against the U.S. Constitution, such as illegal search and seizure.

The overzealous enforcement of parts of such laws as the Lacey Act in the USA has evolved now to the point that it requires a permit to do scientific study of mosquitoes in some areas of the USA, yet it is perfectly acceptable to swat and spray the same mosquitoes by campers and other tourists (there are some extremely rare mosquito species, as well as common ones). The flawed bureaucracy can also be seen near the edge of lunacy in the USA, when the USFWS handles an illegally collected specimen, now in a museum, by prosecuting the "specimen" itself (!) and then depositing the seized specimen back to the same museum (this has happened in at least one case involving an eagle feather at a major museum in Illinois).

Needless to say, the USFWS enforcement agents remind us more and more of Nazi brownshirts, or the former Soviet KGB.

## DATES OF PUBLICATION

### TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA:

Dates of publication are recorded from date-stamped copies at the library of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Florida Department of Agriculture, Gainesville, Florida. Due to delays in the mail, other libraries and members receive copies at later dates than the official dates listed below.

Issue	Cover Date	Publication Date
<b>1990</b>		
Volume 1 No. 1	May 1990	17 Dec 1990
No. 2	Nov 1990	31 Dec 1990
<b>1991</b>		
Volume 2 No. 1	May 1991	28 Aug 1991
No. 2	Nov 1991	31 Dec 1991
Suppl. 1	Nov 1991	16 Dec 1991
<b>1992</b>		
Volume 3 No. 1	May 1992	11 Jun 1992
No. 2	Nov 1992	18 Dec 1992
Suppl. 1	May 1992	29 Jun 1992
Suppl. 2	Oct 1992	28 Dec 1992
<b>1993</b>		
Volume 4 No. 1	May 1993	30 Aug 1993
No. 2	Nov 1993	27 Dec 1993
Suppl. 1	May 1993	1 Jun 1993
Suppl. 2	Jun 1993	30 Aug 1993
Suppl. 3	Jul 1993	[1994]
Suppl. 4	Aug 1993	28 Sep 1993

## PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Manuscripts must be in hand by the following dates for possible inclusion in the next journal issue. However, due to many submissions and lack of sufficient funds for printing added journal space, manuscripts may require delays to future issues. In 1994, we will need to keep issues to a maximum of 88 pages each.

<i>Tropical Lepidoptera</i>	May issue:	January 30
	November issue:	June 30
<i>Holarctic Lepidoptera</i>	September issue:	March 30

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

The following members have kindly agreed to serve on the ATL Advisory Council to fill vacancies or augment expertise for the Holarctic Region:

Andrés O. Angulo (Chile)	Fernando R. Navarro (Argentina)
Emmanuel de Bros (Switzerland)	Walter M. Neukirchen (Germany)
Keith S. Brown Jr. (Brazil)	K. T. Park (South Korea)
John S. Dugdale (New Zealand)	Rod Parrott (Canada)
Ulf Eitschberger (Germany)	Amnuey Pinratana (Thailand)
Eric Garraway (Jamaica)	Dalibor Povolný (Czech Rep.)
Dale H. Habeck (USA)	Dieter Stüning (Germany)
H. S. Hussein (Saudi Arabia)	Gerhard Tarmann (Austria)
Hiroshi Inoue (Japan)	Paul Thiaucourt (France)
Roger L. Kitching (Australia)	Jürgen H. R. Thiele (Germany)
George O. Krizek (USA)	Jon D. Turner (USA)
Tosio Kumata (Japan)	Antonio Vives M. (Spain)
Martin Lödl (Austria)	Andres Vojnits (Hungary)
Wolfram Mey (Germany)	P.-O. Wickman (Sweden)
Kauri Mikkola (Finland)	

## NECROLOGY

We are saddened to learn of the deaths of the following members:

### EMILIO BERIO

Dr. Berio was a specialist of Noctuidae at the Museum of Natural History, Genoa, Italy. He died October 28, 1993. He was well-known for his long career studying the Noctuidae, particularly of African and other Old World species. He recently had an article in *Tropical Lepidoptera* describing new species of Noctuidae from Kenya and Tanzania. He was a Charter Member of ATL and also was on the Advisory Council.

### ALBERT SCHWARTZ

Albert Schwartz, of Miami, Florida, died October 18, 1992, after a heart attack following a fall. He authored numerous papers on Caribbean butterflies and is perhaps most remembered for his 1989 book, *The Butterflies of Hispaniola*.

## MEMBER NOTICES

SPANISH BUTTERFLY PHOTOS in exchange for photographs of living butterflies from other parts of the world. Contact: Manuel Ortiz-Garcia, Virgen de la Soledad 20-A, 4 D, E-19003 Guadalajara, Spain.

## MEETINGS

- 1994 Association for Tropical Lepidoptera: April 8-10, Gainesville, Florida, USA.  
Lepidopterists' Society: August 4-7, Pine Mountain, Georgia, USA.  
Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica: September 5-9, Lednice, Czech Republic.
- 1995 Association for Tropical Lepidoptera: April 21-23, Gainesville, Florida, USA.  
3rd International Caribbean Conference of Entomology / Florida Entomological Society: August 6-10, San Jose, Costa Rica
- 1996 Association for Tropical Lepidoptera: April 12-14, Gainesville, Florida, USA.  
XX International Congress of Entomology: August 25-31, Florence, Italy

## LOST MEMBERS (please contact ATL if new addresses are known for the lost members)

BEEBE, Warden - Miami, Florida, USA

DIAZ, Robert L. - Guam

DRUEKE, Rolf M. - Baulkham Hills, NSW, Australia

HONG, Sei-Sun - Daejeon, KOREA

JOHNSON, Samuel A. - Chicago, Illinois, USA

KETTLE, Matthew - Berlin, Germany

LUUHHONEN, Lauri - Vantaa, Finland

NADBOURNE, Ira - Tucson, Arizona, USA

PRADO, Jussara P. - Urbana, Illinois, USA

VOGEL, Megan - Athens, Ohio, USA

WHITMAN, Richard E. - Middleton, Wisconsin, USA

January 20, 1994