



TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA NEWS

No. 2 June 1989

TO OUR READERS:

The "Neotropical Lepidoptera News" has adopted a new name, "Tropical Lepidoptera News." This new name better reflects a more general content covering all tropical and subtropical areas of the world, as part of the new Association for Tropical Lepidoptera. The new Association will guide and support Lepidoptera projects in the tropics and subtropics, areas of the world harboring the greatest diversity of life on this planet.

News of current major projects, such as the "Atlas of Neotropical Lepidoptera," will be noted as before. Subscribers who already have received the first number of the "News" will continue receiving this newsletter until the fourth issue is mailed, at which time the next \$5 dues will be called for to cover four more issues. As more of you respond with news notes and other information, up to 4 issues per year may be scheduled.

The Association will also publish a new scientific magazine and research journal, entitled "Tropical Lepidoptera," to be issued semi-annually to begin with in 1990. The new journal will enable more color illustrations to be published and in a larger format (8 1/2 x 11 in.) than currently available among other journals. Although additional fees are involved with subscription to "Tropical Lepidoptera", the Board of Directors of the new Association feel that everyone interested in a quality publication and in added support for research on tropical and subtropical Lepidoptera will want to become a subscriber.

In addition to covering expenses in publishing "Tropical Lepidoptera", subscriber fees will in part go to further support various projects on tropical and subtropical Lepidoptera. Grants will be made to researchers upon application to the Board of Directors of the Association, following careful review and approval by the Board and dependent on what funds will be available in the future. Thus subscribers will not only receive a special journal for tropical Lepidoptera, but through their dues also help support research on the many species involved. Projects to be funded will not be restricted to the two current major projects but to many smaller ones as well.

One problem the editor of this newsletter has run into is the lack of response from readers, students and researchers regarding news notes, research notes, book reviews, opinions, etc., for the newsletter. It is hoped that future issues can report on many such items following better response from readers, so let us hear from you about your work or recent collecting trips to tropical areas, or whatever else interests you. Let this newsletter be a forum for your ideas and discoveries of immediate interest, since the "News" can become more frequent as more material is sent for publication.

J. B. Heppner
Editor

ATLAS OF NEOTROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA

After a long period of research on the checklist of Neotropical species, authors have gotten about 80% of the checklist completed now. Part 2, covering Pyraloidea to Tortricioidea, is virtually complete and is expected for publication in 1990. Part 5, Noctuoidea, and Part 4, Geometroidea to Sphingoidea, should follow soon thereafter. Part 3, Papilionoidea, will probably be the last part of the checklist ready, followed by the index.

Meanwhile, various actual Atlas parts are being readied by several authors. Although the basic text format remains relatively unchanged from original plans, the editor has decided upon issuing the Atlas as species pages in booklet form, which can then also be maintained looseleaf as new pages may be issued following future revisions. Each page will cover one species, with large illustrations of both wing surfaces, mostly in color for many species, and with illustrations of other morphological characters and immature stages where known. Most species will unfortunately not have any information on biology or hosts, since this is not known for most Neotropical species.

A general introduction to the Atlas, Volume 1, is being worked on and will cover the families known for the Neotropics and keys for their identification, as well as other information and a color synopsis of the fauna.

Volume 124, the Bibliography of Butterflies, is also ready now other than the completion of a comprehensive subject index. Publication is also expected in 1990.

LEPIDOPTERA OF TAIWAN

This project was begun in 1981 and since 1982 has been directed by Dr. John B. Heppner, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, Florida. The Smithsonian Institution originally was asked to study the feasibility of a Lepidoptera survey for Taiwan, and following an initial overview by Dr. J. F. G. Clarke, the first field studies were made by Dr. Don R. Davis in 1981. Heppner made subsequent surveys every year since 1982 except for 1986-87, and will continue field work until 1990.

The project now involves over 30 authors from various nations, but particularly from Japan, to describe and summarize the Taiwan fauna of Lepidoptera.

The project has been supported by the Smithsonian Institution and the National Science Foundation, Washington, the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, and the Taiwan Museum and National Science Council, Taipei.

In 1990 the Taiwan Museum will publish the first volume of the planned book series on the Lepidoptera fauna. This first part will comprise a general introduction for Taiwan Lepidoptera and keys to families, plus a checklist to described species and about 160 color plates showing a sample of the Lepidoptera fauna. The illustrations will figure about 1200 species of moths and butterflies of Taiwan. Text will be in English and Chinese, possibly also Japanese.

Future parts of "Lepidoptera of Taiwan" will provide detailed information and figures for each species.

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ASSOCIATION FOR TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA

The new Association for Tropical Lepidoptera is an organization open to all researchers, students, and others interested in tropical Lepidoptera. Its primary purposes are as follows:

- a) to provide a forum for all persons to discuss and present information, both taxonomic and biological, on tropical Lepidoptera and to provide an avenue for investigators to solicit aid in any project dealing with the tropical Lepidoptera fauna;
- b) to keep collaborators of Lepidoptera projects informed of developments in each project;
- c) to provide more frequent updated information on checklist additions as new species are described (also involving support to maintain a database for tropical Lepidoptera);
- d) to update the literature references list for tropical Lepidoptera with additions as they become available;
- e) to give updates on projects to patrons and other contributors to Lepidoptera research projects;
- f) to provide support for tropical Lepidoptera studies by way of extraordinary contributions any subscribers may wish to make to support research on the biology and systematics of tropical butterflies and moths. Contributions can be designated for specific projects if so requested.

To provide for these goals the Association of Tropical Lepidoptera at this time publishes the "Tropical Lepidoptera Newsletter". The Newsletter is supported by subscriber fees (\$5 per vol.) and is published on an irregular schedule of 4 issues per volume as material becomes available (Vol. 1, No. 1, was released in March 1987; No. 2 is set for June 1989). "Tropical Lepidoptera" will commence in 1990 as a semi-annual scientific journal.

The Association also publishes the results of current research projects: 1) the "Atlas of Neotropical Lepidoptera"; and 2) the "Lepidoptera of Taiwan." Both series are being co-published by Scientific Publishers, Gainesville, for the Association.

Funds for the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera are being handled for the project by the Center for Systematic Entomology, a non-profit corporation for systematic entomology in Gainesville, Florida.

The Board of Directors for the Association is composed of the Executive Director and nine other members, with annual elections for President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. Current Board members are:

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For more information, subscription or donations, or to contribute news items, contact the Executive Director, Dr. J. B. Heppner, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, P. O. Box 1269, Gainesville, Florida 32602 (Tel: 904-372-3505).

TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA

Published by the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera

TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA is a new scientific journal for articles on tropical and subtropical Lepidoptera of the world, covering all phases of study involving Lepidoptera. Regions of interest also include the temperate areas of South America, as well as Africa, Australia and New Zealand; northern limits will include such subtropical areas as Taiwan and central China, the Sahara region, and Florida and northern Mexico. Appropriate articles will include results of original research and notes on all subjects dealing with tropical and subtropical Lepidoptera, including taxonomy and classification, immature stages and biology, ecology, distribution, morphology, and other subjects.

Tropical Lepidoptera will be issued semi-annually beginning in 1990, with quarterly issues possible in the future as needs may warrant. The journal will be fully reviewed. Format will be 8 1/2 x 11 inches (21.5 x 30 cm), offering a large page size for illustrations and double column text. Paper stock will be coated for maximum reproduction of halftone and color figures.

The purpose of the new journal is the same as the goals of the new Association for Tropical Lepidoptera: to foster the discussion and presentation of information on tropical and subtropical Lepidoptera and to provide support for research on the biology and systematics of tropical and subtropical butterflies and moths. Funding from the Association helps to support projects and publications on tropical and subtropical Lepidoptera. Thus, support for studies on tropical and subtropical Lepidoptera, as well as subscription to the new journal, depend on you the reader and supporter of Lepidoptera studies.

The Association for Tropical Lepidoptera is a non-profit organization through its affiliation with the non-profit Center for Systematic Entomology, Inc., Gainesville, Florida. Current membership in the Association is open to all persons interested in tropical or subtropical Lepidoptera: annual dues are \$25 which includes subscription to the newsletter, **Tropical Lepidoptera News** (4 issues per volume), and the semi-annual **Tropical Lepidoptera** journal (those persons wishing not to subscribe to the journal may also join the Association for a minimum of \$5 and receive only the newsletter).

ASSOCIATION FOR TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA

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INTERESTS: (please note all families of interest for
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	Tropical Lepidoptera	20.00	_____
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