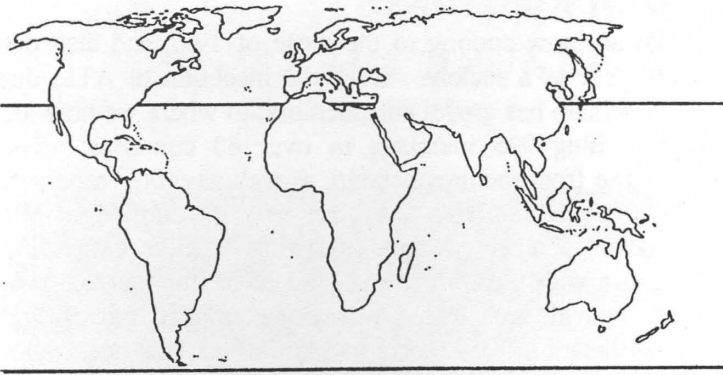


TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA NEWS

September/December 1992 No. 3-4



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

(read at the Annual Meeting, April 11, 1992, Gainesville, Florida)

Many of you were probably astonished that an ordinary amateur taxonomist was elected President of our Association, whereas there are among us so many distinguished personalities of whom the scientific titles would much more justify such an honor. But as unmerited as it is, this distinction is not at all immaterial to me and it gives me a great pleasure in that it somewhat justifies my will to serve Entomology and my devotion to the study of some insects of which I have been passionately fond of from childhood. My only regret is that the circumstances did not allow me to attend the present meeting, but you can be sure that I am joining you in my thoughts. It gives me a great pleasure to seize this opportunity to manifest my complete adherence to all the goals of our Association, those being the promotion of the study of the tropical lepidopterous fauna, the protection of the latter, and the defence of systematics.

About 40 years ago, when retaken by my childhood passion that remained dormant during World War II, I decided to start a small collection of Saturniidae. I was mostly interested in rearing them. I fondly thought that everything about the family was long ago known, except the early stages, and I was not at all aware that I should have to enter upon a study of these moths. However, I very soon realized the fate that awaited me when I began trying to identify the wild specimens that I was able to get from collectors, in addition to the most commonly reared silkmoths. Of course, I could not yet suspect that this study, even restricted to the Neotropical fauna, would lead me to eventually describe almost 200 new species in a family that then included about 700 American species — the latter figure resulting from a revision of the nomenclature that was then encumbered with about the same number of synonyms and unavailable names.

Saturniidae, on account of their showy aspect, are certainly, along with Sphingidae, the most intensively collected and studied exotic Heterocera. From the above statistics, one can form an opinion about what remains to be discovered in the tropics in less attractive groups, without even mentioning the Microlepidoptera. An example of the results of an intensive surveying of tropical countries is given by a Madagascar survey, where the number of known heterocerous species has risen from 1450 before World War II to about 4100 in 1989, as a result of the work that was done in the field and in the laboratory by a large team of

taxonomists under the guidance of Paul Viette and R. Paulian, Paris, France.

We are thus very far from the completion of even only a decent catalog of the tropical lepidopterous fauna, but it does not seem unrealizable at the price of an obstinate and well coordinated work with the necessary financial support. However, it could become utopian if the community of nations that are concerned did not urgently make the necessary actions to put an end to the aggressions of which flora and fauna are suffering already for too many years. Without waiting any longer, the anarchic tapping of the elements of the biosphere has to be stopped, especially that of the primary forested areas that are the most immediately threatened. It is unfortunately possible that many organisms will be extinct prior to their discovery.

Two collecting trips to Ecuador, with only an eight year interval, have convinced me of the rapidity and the scale of the damage, and consequently of the urgency, to save the remaining biodiversity. The mechanics of this biodiversity are everywhere evident, and no time remains to react. Discussing the different solutions to these problems would be the main purpose of this address. It can however be suggested that, in addition to founding more national parks and reserves of the biosphere and enlarging existing ones, a long term action should be undertaken for local participation for the rationalization of the relationships between man and Nature.

Defense of systematics is indivisible from the objectives of our Association. Coming from a country where biology of organisms is an undervalued science, I was very much impressed, during my two visits to the Florida State Collection of Arthropods to see on the walls a poster on which the research staff is listed under the

[continued on page 4]

by Claude Lemaire



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TRAVEL NOTICES

1993 ATL Expeditions:

Jul 16 - Aug 1: [tentative] North Sumatra, Indonesia
Dec 4-12: [tentative] Ecuador

1993 Holbrook Travel Lepidoptera Expeditions:

May 8-13: Bolivia
Jun 6-20: Rondonia, Brazil
Aug 6-22: [tentative] Madagascar
Aug 8-22: Rondonia, Brazil
Oct 3-17: Rondonia, Brazil

1994 ATL Expeditions:

Feb: [tentative] Taiwan (butterfly valleys)
Nov: [tentative] Chile

TO OUR READERS

We are now coming to the close of 1992 and also our third year as a society. Since the inception of ATL, our membership has grown considerably, to where we now are approaching 925 members in over 60 countries. The response from the membership, as well as other readers of *Tropical Lepidoptera*, has been very encouraging. We continue to receive letters from time to time expressing pleasure with the format and content of our journal. We hope you all are pleased with our continued growth and development of the society and its publications. Our current TL issue will be ready this year before Christmas, and all members in good standing will be receiving their issue soon; remember that life members will receive their copies immediately by first class mail (air mail to life members outside of North America). Some of our other publications have been delayed, and we hope you will be patient, but two of our 1992 supplements did get finished and the Taiwan catalog is also ready.

The previous issue of the *News* noted our financial report and other statistics. We have had additional life memberships during 1992 and also a number of contributions of various amounts, which greatly helps the society to maintain the standards of our journal. There also has been considerable support for rainforest conservation, currently only in Rondonia, with a recent donation of \$50,000: Dr. Emmel is handling all such donations. ATL support of such nature reserves as in Rondonia will allow future amateurs and scientists alike to study and collect samples of the remarkable fauna that abounds in these forests.

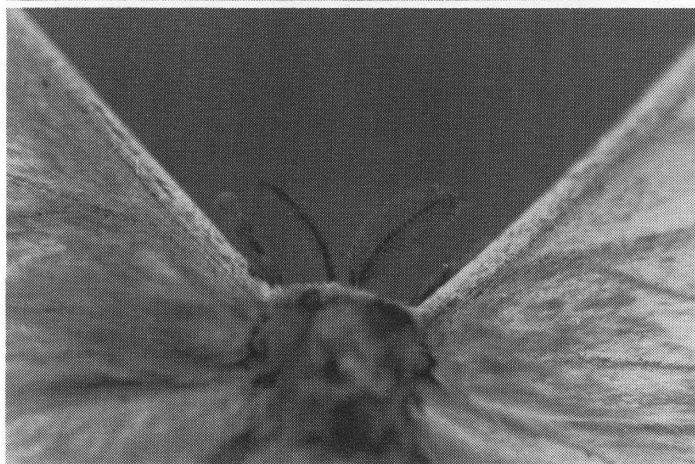
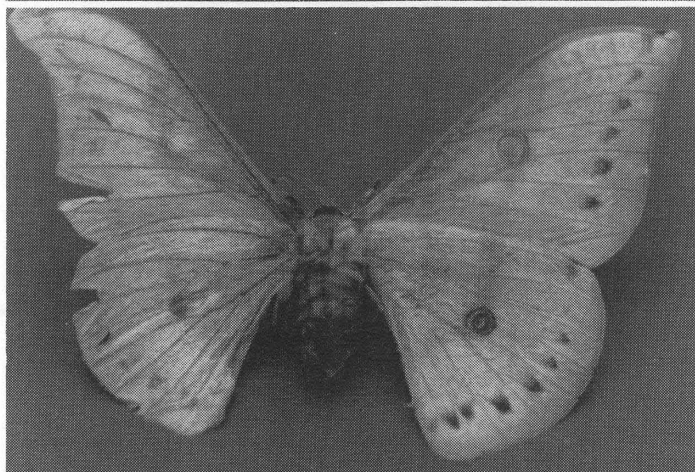
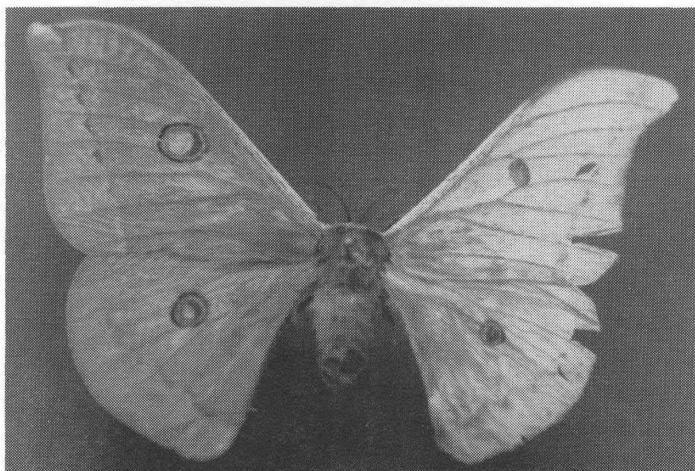
We still need contributions to support our journal, but with the dues increase for 1993 and the new author charges, we should be in better shape for the foreseeable future. It has not been easy beginning a color journal during a worldwide depression! Your support has made the difference.

J. B. Heppner
Executive Director

NOTES

1. The **1993 Annual Meeting** is set for April 2-4, in Gainesville. It will be our annual symposium on the tropical diversity of worldwide Lepidoptera. Contributors please contact Dr. Emmel in regard to presenting papers or slide talks.
2. **1993 Annual Photo Contest:** send in your entries for the annual photo contest. Winners will again have their photographs published in the May 1993 issue of *Tropical Lepidoptera*. In addition, \$480 in prizes will be awarded.
3. **Author charges for *Tropical Lepidoptera*:** page charges have been increased to \$15 per page, and color charges are \$55 for small figures, \$70 for half page figures, and \$95 for full page plates. Reprint costs remain the same at \$8 per page for the each lot of 50 reprints. These increases are substantial but still represent a bargain compared to other journals, where as many as 3 of their small pages, at perhaps \$35 per page, will fit onto one TL page, and where color can cost as much as \$350 per figure! It costs the society an average of \$185 per page to print TL.

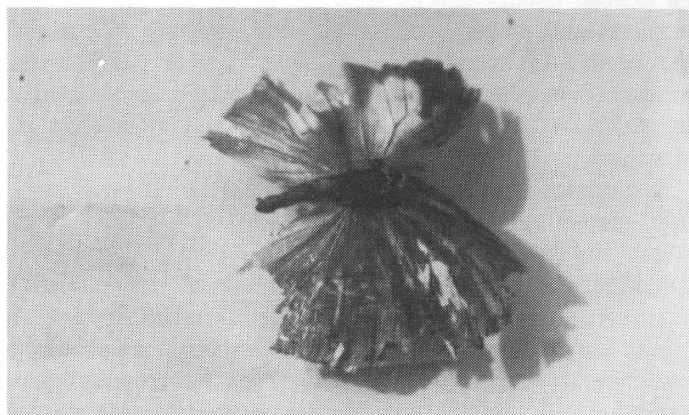
**GYNANDROMORPH OF
ANTHERAEA BRUNEI**
(SATURNIIDAE)



A gynandromorph specimen of *Antheraea brunei* Allen & Holloway, captured at Kampong Kapok mangrove swamp, 5 Jul 1992, by G. Ping. Figures show dorsal and ventral views, and a closeup of the antennae (♀ left, ♂ right).

G. Ping, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

**GYNANDROMORPH
OF INDIAN SUNBEAM,
CURETIS THETIS**
(LYCAENIDAE)



While working on the butterfly collection at the Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay, India, a gynandromorph specimen of the lycaenid *Curetis thetis* (Drury), the Indian sunbeam butterfly, was found. The specimen was collected by Mr. T. Gray on 14 Dec 1958, near Ghodbunder Road, Bombay. The specimen is very tattered but still shows the white patch on the left forewing, typical of the female, and the orange replacement of the right forewing, typical of the male.

N. Chaturvedi, Bombay, India

OBITUARIES

José ("Pepe") V. Herrera-G. (1913-1992)

One of our Advisory Council members, Prof. José Herrera, of Santiago, Chile, died January 29, 1992. He was well-known for his work on south temperate butterflies, in particular such groups as Chilean Pieridae and Nymphalidae. He was a Professor at the University of Chile, Santiago, from 1946-81, then joining the Academia Superior de Ciencias Pedagógicas de Santiago, where he later was on the board of directors. He founded their Entomological Center in 1984. He was known by all his friends and colleagues as "Pepe", always an enthusiastic member of any meeting or conversation. An extensive biography has been written by C. D. MacNeill (*J. Lepid. Soc.*, 46(3):248-254).

M. Richard ("Mel") Lundgren (1913-1992)

Fellow ATL member Richard Lundgren, of Twain Harte, California, died August 1, 1992. Born in Portland, Oregon, he went to school in California, finishing with a degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He was a science teacher in the Oakland, California, schools for 33 years before retiring to teach in the South Pacific, as well as pursue his entomology hobby. He volunteered in the insect collections at the Oakland Museum, Oakland, and the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco. He was a 38-year part-time resident of Twain Harte, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada.

[continuation of Presidential Address]

term "taxonomists." Such a proud listing to serve our discipline and the official recognition of its scientific value, are well contrasted with the state of systematics in too many countries where taxonomists have to hide behind more fashionable appellations to get posts and money.

However, everybody knows that good systematics is fundamental to good biology and that it is the indispensable auxiliary of many research programs in medicine and agronomy. At present, the number of specialists being able to give the necessary identifications is ridiculously low, from which come the increasing number of scientific papers that are founded on inadequate taxonomy.

Systematics is too often depicted as belonging to an out of date, aged discipline, whereas it is actually a science of the present and that it will so remain as long as the biodiversity will be threatened, that is as long as man will not become extinct. In this scope, taxonomists making a catalog of the biodiversity, will greatly help to lower the number of species which are doomed to extinction; it also belongs to them, on account of biogeographical data, to decide what areas are the most urgently needing protection.

Opponents to systematics feign to regard taxonomists as collections managers only, without positive scientific duties, simultaneously implying that collections themselves are of minor scientific interest. It is therefore suggested by some to preserve only the types and, at a pinch, a few other specimens. Some Australian botanists (H. T. Clifford, W. Rogers, M. E. Dettman: *Nature*, 346, 16 Aug 1990), in an especially provocative paper, did not hesitate to recommend to pulp, among other specimens, most of those that were used for revisions in the last 30 years, indicating that information about them would remain available in printed form. If new specimens would prove to be necessary, it would only remain to collect them: "if new material does not

exist (because a taxon is extinct), it may be argued that taxonomic treatment is of little merit"! Such irritating gossip has not only a strange musty smell of typology, but it gives evidence about the irresponsibility of the authors and their complete ignorance of modern systematics. However, we should be wrong to believe that they are only isolated remarks and thus underestimate the consequences; that they were published in *Nature* means that unfortunately they may have an echo in other misinformed people. So, vigilance remains imperative.

Some authors feign to ignore that taxonomists do not study one type specimen but a species, the knowledge of which being most improved with the largest series that can be examined, ideally a sample of representatives of the different populations. Errors in the literature are mostly due to insufficient material, and many of the still existing problems could be solved with additional specimens. Reference collections are the implement of taxonomists; they must be not only preserved, but studied and also discerningly perfected by the addition of new specimens under the authority of specialists.

There are many other problems which belong to our every day concern that I should wish to discuss. Maybe an opportunity to do so will come in the near future. I have already two times visited your beautiful and hospitable country and a French adage says "jamais deux sans trois". Be sure that I shall try to not belie the proverb!

To bring this to an end, it is a very great pleasure indeed to render homage to the work that has been accomplished by Dr. John B. Heppner, as Executive Director of the Association, and by the same and Dr. Thomas C. Emmel, as editors of *Tropical Lepidoptera*. This is as interesting in its content as beautiful in its illustrations: we are very proud of this magnificent publication, the editors of which are to be warmly thanked and congratulated.

MEMBERS NOTICES

Torben B. Larsen: 1) Over the next 5 years I plan to write a comprehensive book entitled, *Butterflies of West Africa — Origins, Natural History, Diversity, and Conservation*. Any information, relevant papers, local checklists, location of unpublished collections, etc., would be most welcome and gratefully acknowledged. 2) I have started to work on revisions of three African butterfly genera where any help would be greatly appreciated: *Neptis* (need ♂♂ for dissection), *Ornipholidotos* (need ♂♂ for dissection), and *Pseudaletis* (need specimens or photographs of dorsal and ventral surfaces). Dr. T. B. Larsen, 358 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8PL, UK.

Manuel Ortiz-Garcia: T-shirts available, drawn and colored by hand of any butterfly (unique). Pts. 5000 each postpaid (indicate species desired and shirt size). M. Ortiz-G., Virgen de la Soledad 20-A, 4/D, E-19003 Guadalajara, Spain.

TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA SEPARATES: Articles from *Tropical Lepidoptera* can now be purchased for \$1 for the first page and 25¢ for each additional page. Specify author, volume, and page numbers when ordering. Members may also buy additional copies of *Tropical Lepidoptera* issues for \$10.00 each.

LEPIDOPTERA PHOTO REGISTRY: ATL has received several contributions to the new ATL Photo Registry. Your listing will allow possible use of your valuable photographs in publications, with your authorization. You may have a photo of a biological event, habitat, or species, that no one else has ever photographed. Organize your photo collection now and join us in recording what photos you have. Your possession and use is never interfered with, and your permission is always needed for any use of them.

ATL EXPEDITIONS: Beginning in 1993 ATL will sponsor various Lepidoptera tours (no commercial collecting). Our society will receive a percentage of profits from these trips to enhance our overall goals. Sumatra, in July, and a trip to Ecuador, in early December, will be the first two tours.

ELECTION RESULTS: Voting for three new Board of Directors members closed December 1, 1992, with the following tabulations from 110 ballots sent in: Arita - 52, Davis - 80, Diehl - 46, Drummond - 71, Munroe - 76, and write-ins - 6. Winners are D. R. Davis, B. A. Drummond, and E. G. Munroe, each for a 6 year period. Their terms will begin January 1, 1993, due to the need to replace two former Board members who never joined ATL.

28 December 1992