



TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA NEWS

March/June 1994 No. 1-2

EUGENE G. MUNROE, President

Our new ATL President has had a long and distinguished career at the Canadian National Collection, Agriculture Canada, Ottawa, Canada. He is a world-renown specialist of the Pyralidae, with a remarkably long list of research papers, monographs, and new descriptions. He has completed Pyralidae parts for the MONA (*Moths of America North of Mexico*) series and written extensively on the family for South America and the Orient. He just completed a major work on the Neotropical Pyralidae, being a complete catalog of the described species (including Crambidae of authors) and the first generic rearrangement since Hampson, about 80 years ago. This last work by Munroe has involved extensive research over the past 5 years, with examination of types at a number of museums, and a complete generic and subfamily shuffling. The catalog will be published later this year in the series, *Atlas of Neotropical Lepidoptera: Pt. 2, Pyraloidea to Tortricoidea*.

It is gratifying that our membership has given this honor to Dr. Munroe by their vote. A presidential column is expected in the next newsletter.

1994 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1994 annual meeting in Gainesville, April 8-10, had a moderate attendance this year, with about 30 persons participating. The group photo missed the press deadline this year but will be included in the next newsletter issue.

Members attending the meeting listened to several talks, including illustrated lectures on trips to Africa and Sumatra. The annual Photo Contest entrants were on display. Refreshments and the Saturday banquet were enjoyed by all. Further notes in the next issue.

NEWS?

Your editor would like to see less of his name on news items and more of your names. If you have any newsletter items or announcements, please submit them to the editor.

MISSING MEMBERS

The lost members listed in the last issue of the newsletter remain lost for the most part, but two ATL members kindly offered information regarding Richard E. Whitman. It seems that this name is an alias for R. Dickinson, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "spy." We would be glad to have the USFWS subscribe to ATL publications; no need to use subterfuge and hide identities.

PROJECT PONCEANUS

Tom Emmel and his crew of students have been busily rearing Schaus swallowtails (under permit) since the great Florida hurricane of 1992. This spring, hundreds of larvae pupated in a special rearing laboratory in Gainesville, providing ample new individuals to restock devastated areas in the Florida Keys. The main restocking will be on Elliott Key (in Biscayne National Park), but north Key Largo will also be restocked, since there are ample food plants there as well.

This conservation project for the Schaus swallowtail had collateral aspects to hurricane damaged habitats and such creatures as various tree snails. In the autumn of 1992, hundreds of tree snails were rescued from certain death in de-leaved hammocks of the Miami area. These were also taken to Gainesville for safekeeping and rearing, and now also are ready for release in the regrown hammock canopy of south Florida. Had they remained unattended in 1992, the heat of the sun would have dehydrated most of these fragile snails.

Dr. Emmel is expecting to present an illustrated report on these subjects in the near future. One aspect still under study is the survival of Schaus swallowtails following their release now in the spring of 1994.

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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).

EXPEDITIONS: Taiwan/Malaysia/Chile – cancelled due to lack of interest. Let us know to what areas you would like trips organized for discount travel?

TO OUR READERS

This year marks the 5th Anniversary for *Tropical Lepidoptera*. It is hard to believe that already volume 5 is in progress. Many members have expressed their pleasure with *TL* since 1990. They have praised the quality of the journal, both in the color photographs and in the content. An index has just been completed of all the species figured in Vol. 3-4 and it is remarkable how many different species are involved (see your copy with your journal package). The range of articles has allowed *TL* to present its desired balance of popular articles along with the more technical articles. It seems most of our members are very satisfied with *TL*.

Members will note an enlarged group for the Advisory Council in our masthead and in the journal masthead. A diverse group of members have agreed to serve on the Advisory Council, mainly to augment expertise on the Holarctic fauna, as well as to replace one deceased member and two resignations. We will try to maintain about 50 council members who will be available to offer advice to potential authors and to advise the society as the need arises.

In 1994, we are launching the new *Holarctic Lepidoptera* journal, to be issued once a year in September. The area of interest for *HL* will be the northern hemisphere fauna north of tropical zones. The first issue no doubt will become a collectors item since it will have a 60 page full-color article on European butterflies by George Krizek, Paul Opler, and L. Havel. Since fewer members have elected to subscribe to *HL*, the new issue will doubtless also quickly be out of print, so get your issue before they are all gone. An array of articles will be published in the first issue, thus offering a similar mix of articles for northern areas as we have done for tropical and southern hemisphere areas.

J. B. Heppner
Executive Director

NOTES

1. **1995 Annual Meeting:** April 21-23, in Gainesville.

2. **1995 Annual Photo Contest**

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

3. **Butterfly Valleys of Taiwan**

Rescheduled for January 1995. Winter is the only time this unique phenomenon can be seen; being similar to the Monarchs' overwintering in Mexico.

DONATIONS

The many members who this past year have added small or large donations to their membership dues, are gratefully thanked. The expense of color printing with a still relatively low membership needs your continued additional support, unless we are to raise the subscription rates.

ANNUAL REPORT 1993

MEMBERSHIP (December 31, 1993)

	Total	USA	Other Nations (70)
Life Members	38	15	23
Benefactors	2	2	--
Patrons	3	2	1
Sustaining Members	32	23	9
Regular Members	908	476	432
Basic Members	46	30	16
Exchanges	47	4	43
Members resigned	1	1	--
Died	2	1	1
TOTAL	1076	552	524

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

ASSETS	1993
Current Assets	
Net Funds (cash Dec 31)	13,007
Foreign Currency Dues	3,731
Publications Stock ¹	228,760
Endowments	2,000
Computer/Office Equipment	8,605
Total Current Assets	256,103
Other Assets	
Memberships Due	15,400
Life Memberships Due	7,750
Payments Due	11,929
Page Charges Due	11,097
Total Other Assets	46,176
Total Assets	\$ 302,279
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Printing Invoices	32,241
Supplies/misc.	1,008
Total Current Liabilities	33,249
Other Liabilities	
Notes Due	10,000
Total Other Liabilities	--
Total Liabilities	43,249
BALANCE	\$ 259,030

RECEIPTS	1993
Cash (from previous year)	4,711.68
Member Dues	36,322.92
Life Memberships	14,000.00
Newsletter Dues (Basic)	165.00
Foreign Currency Dues	2,448.05
Grants	15,699.25
ATL Expeditions	17,430.35
Contributions	2,044.77
Conservation Donations	62,491.50
Publication Sales	5,520.30
Program Services (page charges)	10,601.58
Interest	644.20
Annual Meeting	619.50
Notes	5,000.00
Misc.	27.88
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 177,726.98
EXPENDITURES	
Conservation Projects	62,491.50
Research Projects	893.30
Research Grants (grant supported)	13,134.98
ATL Expeditions	16,071.20
Tropical Lepidoptera Printing ²	48,956.20
Newsletter Printing ²	337.65
Photographic Costs	320.35
Book Stocks	2,815.68
Postage ³	7,881.23
Fees	240.76
Office Equipment	679.17
Supplies	2,735.51
Research Equipment/Supplies (grant supported)	847.79
Advertising	2,225.05
Interest (notes/debts)	1,758.98
Annual Meeting	1,198.90
Misc.	131.42
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 162,719.67
BALANCE	\$ 15,007.31

The annual report presented here should be viewed with the understanding that the bulk of ATL assets involve face values for back stocks of publications, not cash. Thus, your continued donations are still needed to maintain the high quality of ATL journals.

Membership neared 1100 this past year, but is now increasing at a rather slow rate. Your help in bringing even one new member each into our society would be of benefit to keep journal subscription rates stable. Surprisingly, only about 27% of Lepidopterists' Society members and 8% of Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica members are also members of ATL.

1. Book value of back stock (reduced as issues are sent to members).
2. Includes invoices carried over from previous year as received from printer.
3. Includes postage for advertising.

NEW JOURNALS AND OLD

Due to the public release of an irrational letter by Arthur Shapiro, originally sent in response to the forthcoming *Holarctic Lepidoptera*, and published in the most recent issue of the *Newsletter* of the Lepidoptera Research Foundation, along with derisive remarks by Rudi Mattoni, it seems appropriate and necessary to make a rebuttal. The basic charges of the Shapiro letter are nothing new: to wit, that the world has enough Lepidoptera journals and never needs any more, that any new journal may extinguish older journals, which are always "better," etc. These fatuous arguments are continually brought forth by the status quo everytime something new is offered. Botany, for example, has a multitude of specialty journals, yet none of the major botanical journals is threatened thereby, nor is there such a political deviousness among botanists as is becoming the pattern among lepidopterists. Countries like Germany and Japan have numerous regional Lepidoptera societies, most of which also have newer small journals, yet no great impact has been realized to the detriment of larger and older journals. There also was little notice paid to the inauguration of these new journals, as opposed to the amazing negativism that *Tropical Lepidoptera*, and now *Holarctic Lepidoptera*, met with among some circles. Shapiro also decries the cost of additional journal subscriptions but fails to mention our modest charges of only \$35 per year for a full-color journal, compared to the real library-budget-breakers — journals printed by for-profit publishers, often costing over \$1,000 per year.

When ATL first organized as a non-profit scientific society and proposed a full-color large-format journal, *Tropical Lepidoptera*, there was vehement opposition from some persons. Had we listened, you would not have seen any of the 9 issues already produced to date. Also missing would be the first Lepidoptera photo contest with substantial prizes. Would lack of all this have been a loss? You need to be the judge of that. However, following all the negative arguments, as noted earlier, and always accompanied by the threat that older journals would cease because of our single new journal, no major Lepidoptera journals have ceased publication. It is difficult to believe that *TL* or *HL* should be the scapegoat were any other journal actually to end publication.

Now, with the start of *Holarctic Lepidoptera*, both Mattoni

J. B. Heppner (editor of the *Journal for Research on the Lepidoptera*) and Shapiro publish a tirade about our new journal. Mattoni states that there is a "crisis" in the study of Lepidoptera, and basically that *HL* is to blame for additional problems. But, problems for whom? He then goes on to discuss the regional Lepidoptera journal *Apollo*, noting how it should become more "important" in the future, and a "new" *European Journal of Entomology*, yet in both cases there are no derogatory comments and no outcry of "crisis" or of too many journals. The outcry seems reserved only for *TL* and *HL*. With Shapiro, we also have such comments as his statement that color photographs are superfluous in a scientific journal and that color nature photographs are "useless". Most ATL members, however, greatly enjoy the aesthetic beauty of the creatures we all are pleased to study, so their presentation in full-color is hardly superfluous or meaningless. Scientific? — Some journals persist in publishing the same basic journal that could have been printed 100 years ago, with little or no color, and often only very technical papers. If butterflies and moths, some of the most colorful creatures on earth, are not fit to be shown in living color, then it is hard to imagine what should be. Shapiro obviously believes that rigorous "scientific" treatises must be as dull and unicolorous as possible. We, at ATL think otherwise.

Tropical Lepidoptera and *Holarctic Lepidoptera* may be near the cutting-edge of modern journals, even if critics such as Shapiro and Mattoni derisively state otherwise, but this judgement really is up to our membership. Our journals attempt to be as precise and scientific as the articles submitted, the editors, and the reviewers permit. ATL uses modern publishing methods and a reasonably priced printer to produce a high quality color journal, while other journals still are using printers who offer nothing more economical than \$600 per page color.

Many of our members have commented on the pleasure they have in reading each new issue of *TL*. I hope this continues; and we will not let negativism deter us. Politicization and deviousness are the sad result of comments such as those of Shapiro and Mattoni. There are many other problems facing the lepidopterist community, especially in the USA, that need addressing, rather than searching for scapegoats for the fate of other journals. A positive attitude and joint efforts will prevent the dire consequences the negativists keep espousing.

OBITUARIES

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

ROBERT E. WAITES

Prof. Waites died October 23, 1993. He was formerly a professor in the Dept. of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. For a number of years since his retirement he was a volunteer at the Florida State Collection of Arthropods. His main interest was the ladybird beetles (Coccinellidae), but he also enjoyed Lepidoptera.

EVERETT C. OLSON

Prof. Olson was a longtime resident of Los Angeles, California. He died November 27, 1993. He amassed a large collection of butterflies, including much tropical material from such places as Taiwan. His collection was donated to the Florida State Collection of Arthropods upon his death and moved there by Dr. Emmel, as he had requested.

MEETINGS

- 1994 **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