

A FLORIDA LEOPARD MOTH WITH MISSING SPOTS (LEPIDOPTERA: ARCTIIDAE)

MARC C. MINNO and ANGELA K. MINNO

Department of Zoology, University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611, USA

"... and my advice to you, Leopard, is to go
into other spots as soon as you can."

Rudyard Kipling (1902, p. 38)

On April 25, 1990, one of us (AKM) found a second instar larva of the Leopard Moth, *Epantheria scribonia* (Stoll), in the weedy yard around our apartment in Gainesville, Florida (Alachua County). We reared the larva on the leaves of white clover (*Trifolium repens* L.) (Leguminosae) and *Youngia japonicum* (L.) D.C. (Compositae). Both of these Old World herbs are commonly naturalized in urban areas of north central Florida (Wunderlin, 1982) and are abundant in the yard. Approximately eight weeks following the discovery of the larva, an adult male sporting an aberrant color pattern emerged.

As shown in the figure, the left side of the aberrant specimen has a normal pattern of bluish-black spots and circles on a white background. The spots along the costal margin and at the end of the discal cell on the right forewing also appear to be normal. Other spots on the right forewing are reduced in size, and several toward the middle of the medial and postmedial rows are entirely absent. Kimball (1965) remarks that there is considerable variation in the size of the spots between individuals of this species in Florida. To find such a contrast in a single specimen is rather striking!

LITERATURE CITED

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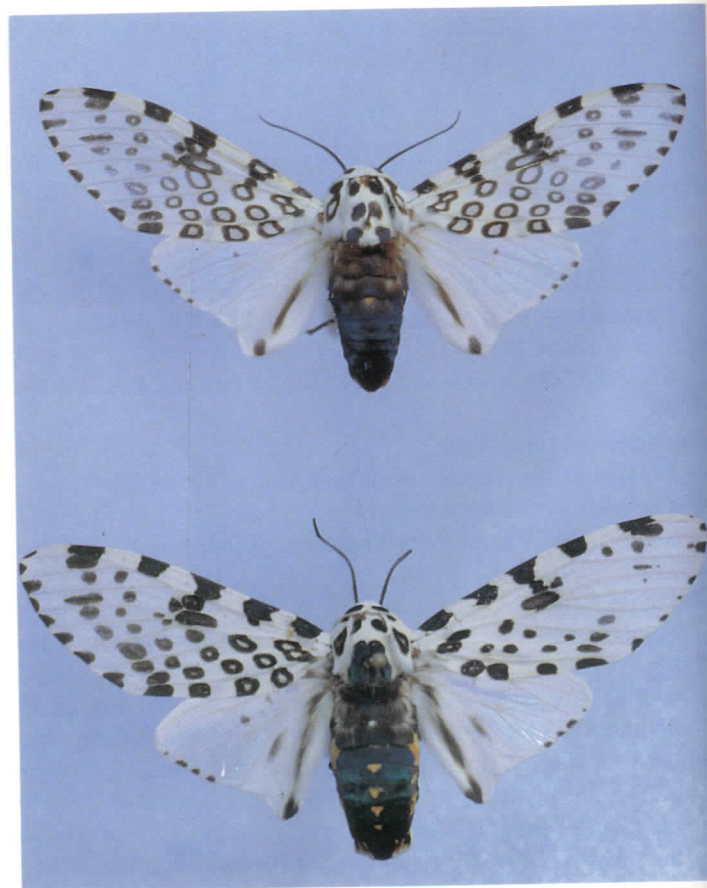
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Males of *Epantheria scribonia* from Florida: a typical, wild-caught individual from Broward County (above) and an aberrant specimen reared from a larva found in Alachua County (below).