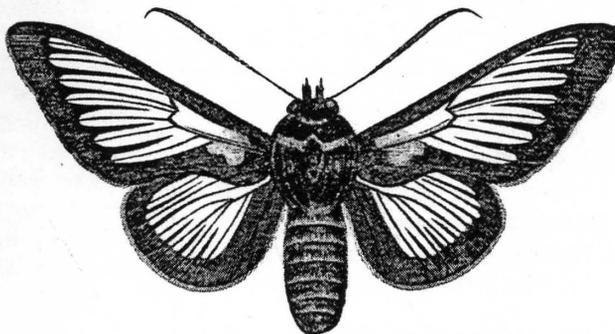


ASSOCIATION FOR TROPICAL LEPIDOPTERA

June 2007

NOTES



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Jon D. Turner

I recently traveled to northern Ecuador with Tom Emmel, Keith Willmott, and Ian Segebarth, to explore areas for a possible field station. Not missing an opportunity to search for riodinids, Keith, Ian and I joined local residents as we walked over rain soaked trails near streams and steep slopes. I was also trying out my new top of the line Gore-Tex, knee-high, snake-proof boots, while Keith and the locals all wore standard issue rubber boots. Despite my "high tech" new boots, I was the one slipping and falling along the trail, while the others were not having as much difficulty with the more pliable, narrow-tread soles.

Nevertheless, I persisted the following morning, hoping for an improvement in the boots' functionality. I approached a narrow foot bridge, just over 2 meters above a rocky creek bed. Although it was sufficiently wide to ordinarily traverse without problems, the overnight rain plus the film of vegetation significantly reduced the traction. About midway across the bridge, my left foot slipped and I grabbed the wooden side rail to rebalance. Unfortunately, the side rail broke and I was suddenly falling head first into the rocks. In the milliseconds before impact, I realized that I could not get my hands out to break my fall. The visual picture of that moment is forever imprinted in my memory. The abrupt stop was jarring and immediately painful, primarily at the base of my nose and forehead area, as the momentum carried my torso over. I subsequently landed on my back, but I did not lose consciousness. My reflex response after landing was to place my hands up to the locality of pain, feeling the characteristic crunch of a fracture as I pushed on the nasal bridge, then looking at my blood covered hands. My mind raced through the differential diagnosis of all the bad things that might have occurred. There was considerable blood coming from the nasal passages, but at that point I could not exclude large lacerations.

Ian was photographing butterflies only a short distance away and was able to give me prompt assistance. With his help, I was able to stand and slowly made my way back to the vehicle. Subsequently, my injury was found to be limited to a comminuted nasal fracture and a small laceration. I feel extremely fortunate to not have sustained more serious head injuries, such as an orbital fracture, eye damage, concussion, spinal cord damage or even death.

This experience reinforces at least two lessons we all understand but sometimes ignore.

1. *Tailor your equipment to the situation.* The Gore-Tex, knee-high, snake-proof boots may be quite suitable for the swamp areas of northwest Alabama and the hills of southern middle Tennessee, but were not suitable for that particular Ecuadorian rainforest. Despite prior visits to the rainforest, I ignored the warning signs of previous day's difficulties and the examples set by experienced locals and fellow travelers. The thick, impliable soles with widely spaced studs did not provide adequate traction. Inexpensive rubber boots would have been a far better choice.

2. *Always use the buddy system.* Even with rubber soled boots I could still have fallen and needed assistance. For many of us, a solo walk through the rain forest is desirable and can be therapeutic. Although most such expeditions are uneventful, there are many dangers. The buddy system for forest treks may help to reduce the complications if an emergency occurs, and could be lifesaving. Two-way radio communication is an option which allows for emergency contact while preserving solitude. If you must go solo, at least provide a reliable friend the itinerary. If I had been more seriously injured, early assistance would have been critical.

I will certainly be more attentive to these lessons in the future.

JAPANESE TEA HOUSE

Long before moths or butterflies were actively collected, in fact in 1160, the Tsuen Teahouse opened for business, and this year marks its anniversary of 847 years in operation. Undoubtedly, this is the world's oldest continuously operated private business, and in the same location and operated by the same family for 20 generations. The Tsuen family has operated this tea house for all these years, through wars, uprisings, tempests, earthquakes, and other events, as noted in the monthly *Japan Journal*. Luckily, it was built in an area not of great military or political importance, in the small town of Uji, on the well-traveled road between Nara and Kyoto, the former main cities of Japan.

On the 2006 ATL Japan Expedition, we were nearby Uji during part of our travels around Nara, but not close enough to stop by. The photo (courtesy of *Japan Journal*) shows the present front of the tea house, rather enlarged from what it must have looked like in the year 1160 and now crowded in [cont. p. 3]

ATL NOTES

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Assoc. Editor: Thomas C. Emmel
Webmaster: Nancy Turner

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June 2007

No. 2

TO OUR READERS

We had a new issue of *Tropical Lepidoptera*, issued March 30, and two more now printed and being mailed to members. One problem for our foreign members is the new postal rate structure that went into effect May 14: this has eliminated surface shipping and imposed airmail rates. Thus, the postal rates outside the USA have nearly tripled in cost. As a consequence, ATL will have to bundle new issues to get maximum shipping weight for the cost involved. We are looking into other arrangements for shipping as well, but foreign members will be faced with a higher postal surcharge, which is beyond our control. Likewise, the airmail rates also have increased from the previous airmail rates. Shipping costs overseas slowly are getting higher than the value of an issue of the journals.

J. B. Heppner
Editor

ATL ANNUAL MEETING - 2007

5-7 October 2007: Gainesville, Florida (joint meeting with the Southern Lepidopterists' Society). Contact Dr. Emmel (tceemel@flmnh.ufl.edu).

NOTE: a post-meeting trip to the lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas, may be organized for 8-12 Oct. The trip site would be next to the Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge, near Pharr, Texas. If interested, please contact Dr. Heppner (jbhatl@aol.com) as soon as possible for details.

NOTES CHANGES

We are looking at changing this newsletter to e-mail posting so members can receive faster ATL news service. To do so we need to know how many of you wish to continue a printed version and we need your e-mail addresses. Please send e-mails and responses to our webmaster, Nancy Turner (jnjmj@aol.com), and copy to Peter Eliazar, Secy. (pjeatl@gmail.com).

ATL EXPEDITIONS

2007

PERU, 2-11/17 November 2007. Full.

2008

GUATEMALA, 19 Jan - 2 Feb 2008. We go to eastern Guatemala where it remains wet in early winter. We visit sites near Poptún (for Belizian pineland hill fauna), Quetzal cloud forest, and near the Gulf Coast of Guatemala. Extensions beyond the main trip days are possible.

VIETNAM, 17-31 May 2008. Northern Vietnam will be visited, with stops at various forest sites in the Hanoi region. Sampling in Halong Bay from a chartered boat is anticipated, as well. Many butterflies and moths found in southern China are also in northern Vietnam, so the fauna is very rich.

PANAMA, 26 Jul - 9 Aug 2008. We go to the western highland areas of Panama, staying at mountain lodges with excellent montane forest. Most sites are over 1600m elevation. Some of the best forest areas in Panama remain in this region near the border with Costa Rica.

MALAWI, 1-14 Dec 2008. The southcentral African nation of Malawi will be visited at the beginning of the rainy season. Sites both in southern and northern Malawi are scheduled. Malawi is a friendly nation with numbers of national reserves and other forested areas, plus African savanna areas. Lake Malawi extends along most of the eastern border and Mozambique.

NOTE: ATL trips allow members and friends to participate with research scientists on field expeditions to various regions of the world. Participants can fly in from various cities and meet at the destination city. Members from Europe can join a trip by flying a route that is convenient for them. Each participant books their own flights from recommended routes, so insurance and airline mileage can be obtained, while in-country arrangements are organized for maximum use of our time in the field on these expeditions.

The Association for Tropical Lepidoptera, Inc., is a non-profit organization for the support of research on the biology, systematics, and conservation of tropical and subtropical Lepidoptera of the world. Funding for the Association helps to support research projects, field studies, and publications on tropical and subtropical Lepidoptera. The Association was organized in 1989 in Florida as a tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c)3 of the IRS Code and is a publicly supported organization as defined in Sections 170(b)(1)(vi) and 509(a). Contributions are tax deductible in the United States.

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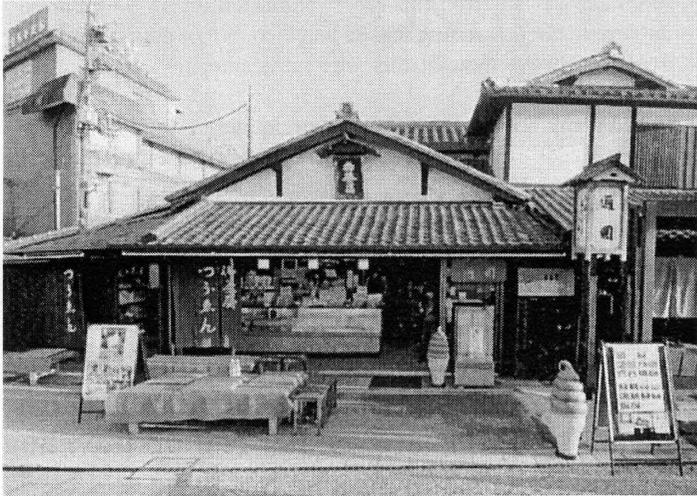
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Membership: contact Peter Eliazar, Secy., pjeatl@gmail.com

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29 June 2007



[cont. from p. 1] among larger buildings. Besides this old tea house, there are many other unusual things to see in Japan. In 2006, we kept mostly to natural areas but did stop to visit Matsumoto Castle. This occurrence was due to the circumstance of being idle for a couple of hours while we were in town to get one of our student assistants to the hospital to remove a moth that had flown into his ear the night before! Such are the hazards of moth collecting.

We also visited a "beetle shop" while in Matsumoto City, where large and special beetles are sold live to be kept as pets: this is very popular in Japan and exceptionally large specimens are highly prized and expensive. Butterflies and moths are not kept this way, and the beetles live longer anyway. However, dragonflies are most revered in Japan, and another name for Japan is "land of the dragonfly". Butterflies are also honored elements of native fauna.

J. B. Heppner
Gainesville, FL

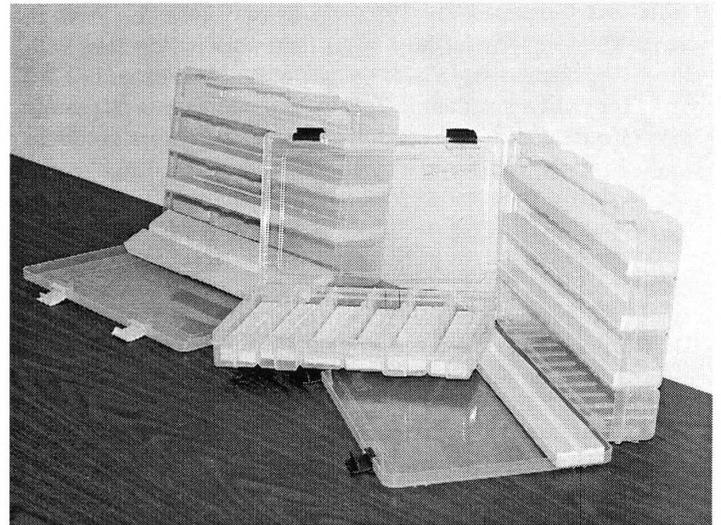
FOR THE COLLECTOR

Spreading moths and butterflies in the field has always been a struggle of how to carry boards, how to pack them, how to store them with specimens mounted for drying, and how to protect them with the specimens when moving around from site to site by car. Having tried many methods over the years, an easy way was devised when I noticed the practicability of using fishing tackle boxes to house field boards. In the USA, these plastic boxes can easily be obtained in three convenient sizes: one about 7x10 inches, another about 14 inches long, and the largest also 14 inches long but almost twice as wide as the other two. Thus, one can accommodate small spreading boards in these boxes for specimens with wingspans from micros up to 3 inches.

The plastic gridwork inside each box (all are long compartments) is far enough apart that an insect pin will fit and can be used for both specimens and to hold down the wing paper strips; one just has to push the pins through the foam far enough to fit inside the box. This procedure is easier with micro-moths pinned with minuten pins, but for larger moths one must push pins through the foam so far that half the pin protrudes through the bottom of each foam board. The foam is so soft, however, that this is easily done. It looks strange to have boards in the middle of each slot, held there by pins, but it works well enough and pins are as easily removed as they are pushed in, or one can use two foam boards to make a thicker board.

The good aspects of these boxes is that they are very lightweight and very cheap (as low as \$2.50 for the small box), but also strong enough to withstand considerable handling. They also come with plastic working hinges and hinged front snaps (not bent plastic), so

their lifetime of use should be very long. What is done, as illustrated in the figure of the three sizes, is to cut up construction foam into appropriate sized boards. In the USA, one can obtain a lightweight and cheap blue styrofoam used by builders for housing insulation. This material is softer and smoother than other styrofoams, cuts easily, and gives a smooth surface for spreading. Sold in 4x8 foot sheets (1/2 inch thick) for only about \$8, one sheet can provide enough foam for dozens of boards. With boards cut to correct size, one makes angled razor cuts in the middle of each board to provide a body groove for the specimens to be spread. Such foam spreading boards will need replacement faster than wooden boards, since pins have to be inserted through the boards and this quickly fills them with holes, but since the cost and construction is little trouble, new boards can be made as replacements are needed. If such foam is lacking in other countries, the fine plastozote foam could also be used but would be harder to get the pins through and out again.



Once boards and boxes are prepared, it is a simple matter to spread specimens in the field. They can equally be used in the lab, of course. The loose-fitting lids allow enough air circulation so specimens can dry out even with the lids closed. Of course, ants and dermestids are not kept out by such loose lids, so a fumigant needs to be used to keep pests away as specimens are drying.

J. B. Heppner
Gainesville, FL

Dr. Laszlo Gozmány (1921-2006)

The well-known Hungarian researcher of microlepidoptera, Dr. László Gozmány, died in Budapest, 5 Dec 2006. He was 85 and active with his research until his last days. Until his retirement some years ago, Dr. Gozmany had long been curator of the Lepidoptera at the Hungarian Natural History Museum in Budapest.

Dr. Gozmany was born in 1921 and first studied languages and law. After WW2, he had some administrative posts until 1948 and then was involved in a zoological expedition that prompted his appointment as Lepidoptera curator upon his return. He studied for a biology degree thereafter and received his doctorate degree from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Since then, he published numerous papers and books on Lepidoptera, as well as a highly regarded and amazing 7-language dictionary of European animal names. During his tenure as Lepidoptera curator, he significantly increased the museum collections into one of the larger collections in Europe, particularly for the micro-moths. Dr. Gozmany was a specialist on several families of the Gelechioidea, in particular the Holcopogonidae and Symmocidae, which include species primarily

in drier areas of Eurasia and also occur in numbers in Hungary.

In addition to the notes above sent me by Dr. Zsolt Bálint, which I have paraphrased, I can add some of my own. I had the good fortune of personally knowing Dr. Gozmany, meeting him in Budapest first in 1977 when I went there to study types at the Hungarian Museum. In those years, it was still quite an adventure to take the train from Vienna and enter communist Hungary. Later, in 1980, I was able to spend a month on field studies in Hungary, most of the time also accompanied by him: we searched for elusive *Brachodes* moths, to no avail, but over lunch and dinner he was expansive in his knowledge of Hungarian moths and collecting techniques, as well as many other facets of entomological and museum life in Hungary. We had fine general collecting at one of the Hungarian puszta sites not far from Budapest. I still recall his well-studied statement at dinner time that one could always tell how "hot" the goulash was by how many beer bottles were on the tables to cool the tongue with! Later, I had my final visit with him in 1984, when my wife and I repeated my 1980 trip by staying a few days in Budapest while we were on the way for field work in Romania. Both visits were in even years, so with no luck in Romania either in 1980 or 1984, I am still not certain if *Brachodes* moths may perhaps only be out in these areas in odd-years, since these species are known to take two or more years to develop to adults.

Dr. Gozmany was an exceptional field naturalist as well as an expert taxonomist. He was one of the few persons who was able to find colonies of rare moths in Hungary, such as the largest Glyphipterigidae species in Europe which he found even on the outskirts of Budapest. He found *Brachodes* as well, but not when I was there.

Dr. Gozmány had a great sense of humor and perhaps the biggest joke was sort of on himself. He is the only scientist I know of reported to have already died many years before his actual death. Back

in 1983 there was an erroneous report published in the *News of the Lepidopterists' Society* stating that he had died, but of course this was not true. He always thought this was most amusing, if not rather strange.

He had many honors during his career, including the Frivaldszky Memorial Medal (Gold Class) of the Hungarian Entomological Society and the Eötvös Wreath of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. A few years ago, ATL also awarded him the Jakob Hübner Award for his excellence in taxonomic research on Lepidoptera.

J. B. Heppner
Gainesville, FL

Light-brown Apple Moth Found in California

In February 2007, *Epiphyas postvittana* adults (Tortricidae), called the light-brown apple moth in pest literature, was found in northern California. In fact, ATL member Prof. Jerry A. Powell found the first moths at his backyard light sheet in Berkeley. This species has been recorded in Hawaii since 1896, but was never eradicated there over the past 100 years of opportunity, so now it is established in California. It is already widespread in and around the San Francisco Bay area. It originates from Australia, where it does considerable damage to over 250 kinds of fruits, crops, and trees, including grapes. Unless massive eradication is done in California, the pest will likely spread across the continent and eventually into Mexico. It avoids hot humid regions (in Hawaii it is only found in cooler mountain areas), so will possibly not get into the humid tropical areas or lowland southeastern United States, but its spread is hard to predict. It also now occurs in New Caledonia, New Zealand, and southern England, and recently has been reported in France.

J. B. Heppner
Gainesville, FL

ATL BOOK SERIES*

NEOTROPICAL BUTTERFLY CATALOG. NEW - *Atlas of Neotropical Lepidoptera. Checklist: Part 4A.* 464pp. 2004. \$45.00

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Recently published parts include the following (each with at least one plate showing representative adults):

- 2. Agathiphagidae (Heppner). 8pp. \$3
- 10. Anomosetidae (Heppner). 7pp. \$3
- 14. Andesianidae (Davis). 7pp. \$3
- 28. Arrhenophanidae (Davis). 11pp. \$3

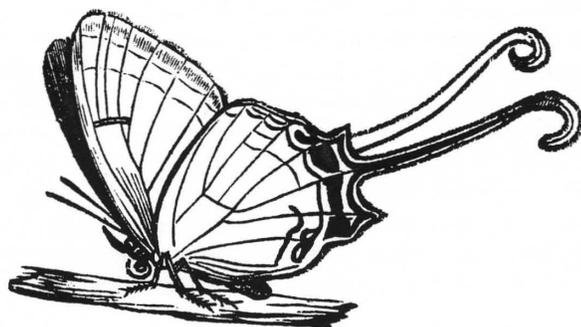
- 44. Scythrididae (Passerin d'Entrèves & Roggero). 85pp. \$20
- 89. Apoprogonidae (Heppner). 7pp. \$3
- 106. Carthaeidae (Heppner). 8pp. \$3

* Note member prices (non-member prices are 300% higher). Shipping is extra.

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