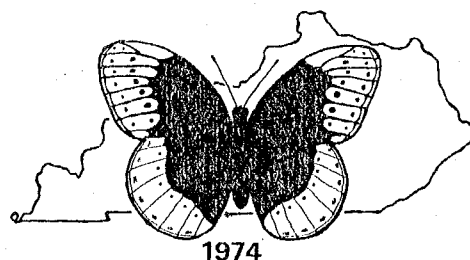


KENTUCKY LEPIDOPTERIST

NEWSLETTER OF
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Kentucky Lepidopterists



VOL. 9, NO. 4

C. V. COVELL JR., EDITOR
R.A. HENDERSON, ASSOC. EDITOR

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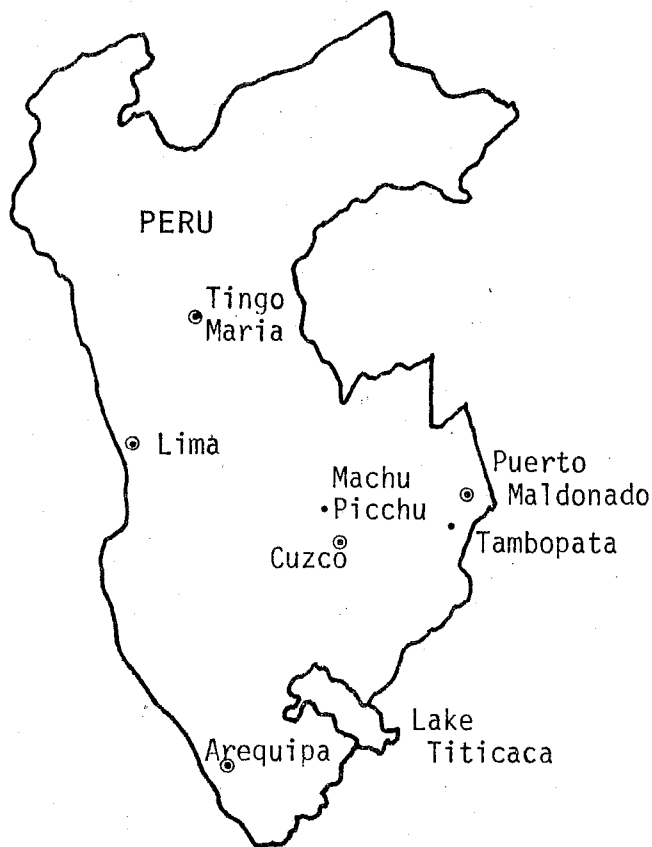
INFORMATION ABOUT 10TH ANNUAL MEETING

The featured speaker at our Annual Meeting this year will be Dr. David Ahrenholz of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dave is a member of our Society, and his special interest in Lepidoptera takes the form of close-up photography of butterflies and moths in nature. The quality of his work is reflected in the fact that 61 of his photos of North American butterflies were chosen to appear in Bob Pyle's The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies. I really got to know Dave well on the 1981 "Emmel Flying Circus" trip to the Dominican Republic, and have enjoyed being with him in the field since that time in Peru and Ecuador, most recently on the October trip to Tambopata Reserve (see account in right column). He spends long hours over baits of various kinds (some a bit unsavory to man but yummy to butterflies), lining up his heavy camera to get that perfect shot. He will show us some of his best pictures, and tell us of his techniques and experiences pursuing this fascinating aspect of lepidopterology.

The meeting begins Friday evening, Nov. 18, at the Covells' home with the annual party in the basement recreation room. Those coming can get off I-264 (Watterson Expressway) at the northbound Bardstown Rd. exit, go north to the 2nd stoplight (at Gardiner Lane Shopping Center), and turn right on Brighton Dr. The Covells are at 2333, on the left, where Montrose intersects with Brighton (stone house with ball-shaped yew bushes at sidewalk and beside steps; just look for the cars!). You might want to bring some snacks or some such addition to the fare, if you wish. Drinks will be provided by the Society.

On Sat., Nov. 19, we will meet at the ento-
(turn to pg. 2)

FANTASTIC TAMBOPATA!



If you read your NEWS of the Lepidopterists' Society, 1983 #4, you will be familiar with the Tambopata Natural Reserve in the upper Amazon basin near Puerto Maldonado, Peru. In his article, "How many butterfly species in your back yard?" Dr. Gerardo Lamas reported 865 butterfly species from this small but highly diverse habitat area of about 5 square km (only 2 square km actually sampled). Recently it was my great pleasure to visit this locality. I would like to tell you about it.

On the night of Oct. 8, Stan Nicolay and Dan Bogar met me at the AeroPeru counter at Miami
(turn to pg. 2)

ANNUAL MEETING (cont.)

mology lab (Room 321) in the Life Sciences Bldg., our usual meeting place, at 10:30 A.M. to look at the collection, identify specimens, talk, exchange, etc. The meeting will begin at 1:00 P.M. with a short business session to elect officers, make field trip plans for 1984, and transact other business. Then we will hear the speakers, with Dave Ahrenholz's presentation being the feature. As in the past, everyone is invited to participate by giving a slide show, short scientific talk, "show and tell" presentation, or whatever you wish. We have always been able to fit these in, and I hope you will share with the rest of us what you have been doing in Lepidoptera.

After the meeting, those who wish to will go together to Masterson's Restaurant near the campus for dinner. Their delicious food is always a great finale to a highly stimulating day. Heitzman's bakery doughnuts during the meeting also add a gustatory dimension hard to beat.

We also plan to have a DOOR PRIZE raffle at the end of the meeting. I have a few things for door prizes, including a fold-up net from BioQuip Products (plus catalogs to give anyone who wishes them). However, I would like to ask you to bring a door prize if you are so inclined. We will also ask for a \$3 donation to help defray costs of the meeting; however, that is not required.

This year there will be some books and perhaps other equipment for sale (used) at the meeting. If you wish to sell or swap things, bring them along. See you at my house! -CVC

KENTUCKY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Your Editor is also hosting the Ky. Academy of Science at U. of Louisville Nov. 11-12, beginning at noon on Friday. Registration is at Strickler Hall lounge. A tour of the Lepidoptera collection will be held from 1-2 that day. All of you are invited to attend the sessions which include talks on insects on Fri. afternoon in 101 Life Sciences Bldg., 1-3 PM.

PART OF FLORENCE COLLECTION
DONATED TO UNIV. OF LOUISVILLE.

Jevetta Florence recently donated about 11,000 specimens, mostly papered, of her late husband Greg's collection to the U. of Louisville Collection. We are very grateful to her. -CVC

TAMBOPATA TRIP (cont.)

International Airport, and at 2:30 AM on the 9th we were en route to Lima, Peru. Arriving Lima, we spent the day shopping and looking around, and spent the night at the Hotel Gran Bolivar. Next morning we flew early to the White City - Arequipa - nestling in the shadow of the volcanic Mt. Misti with its snowy cap. We were greeted with a rose and a kiss from lovely young Peruviennes and by Gerardo, because we were attending the 9th Latin American Congress of Zoology. I was to participate in the 2nd Symposium on Neotropical Lepidoptera headed by Gerardo as Convener. The special topic was "Andean Lepidoptera." After getting settled in our hotel, we registered for the Congress, then looked around this old and quaint city, visiting a monastery and some shops. Next morning was the Symposium, at which I gave a talk on "Status of our knowledge of the neotropical Sterrhinae (Geometridae). Other speakers included Dr. M.S. Mani of India (talk read for him in absentia), Dr. Ebbe Schmidt-Nielsen of Australia; Dr. Art Shapiro of U. of Calif., Davis; Dr. Mike Adams of England; Dr. Henri Descimon of France; Dr. Curtis Callaghan and Dr. Olaf H.H. Mielke of Brasil; and D. Hudson of Peru. Other talks in the Congress on Lepidoptera were by Mirna Casagrande of Brazil on the life cycle of Agrias claudina claudianus, and a team from Argentina on the bagworm, Oiketicus platensis. I enjoyed meeting these colleagues and others from various countries, and we had a fine time on the night of Oct. 11, watching a show of folk dancing and music.

But our net fingers were getting itchy. Art Shapiro and Henri Descimon reported poor collecting in the barren altiplano areas near the city, so we did not try to collect while at Arequipa. We left Wed. Oct. 12, Stan and I going to Cuzco with Olaf Mielke and Mirna Casagrande. Dan Bogar and Curt Callaghan flew to Puerto Maldonado to get right into the tropical collecting area. Those of us going to Cuzco landed and got to a hotel; then we hired a van with driver to take us out of town to an agricultural experiment station where we collected many Colias flav-eola Bl., 3 species of blues, 1 satyrid, and a few skippers including Hylephila phyleus. It was breezy and the altitude made the going a bit gaspy; but it was an interesting place, laced with tiny irrigation ditches, and I got about 50 specimens that afternoon. That night I attended an folk music show. A great steak dinner cost about \$4.00. (to next pg.)

TAMBOPATA TRIP

Next morning, Oct. 13, Stan, Olaf, Mirna, and I went early to the Cuzco train station, where we boarded the train for the 4-hour trip down the Valley of the Urubamba to Machu Pichu - the Lost City of the Incas. The train went forward then backward 3 times getting out of Cuzco, as it zigzagged up switchbacks in the hills. Peruvian campestral life passed before our eyes as we rode, arriving at the small train station at the foot of the peaks enclosing Machu Pichu at about 11 AM. We took buses to the top, and toured the ruins for about 2 hours. Then we rode down about an hour before the train was to leave, and did some collecting along the Urubamba River near the train station. An Owl Butterfly was in the tiny post office shack. We caught a fairly small number of butterflies, but a Battus madyes Doubleday subspecies was the largest species and the genus Actinote was represented by several species both there and in the ruins proper (where collecting was not permitted). After running the gauntlet (unsuccessfully, in my case) of vendadores selling curios around the train station, we returned to Cuzco and had a repeat of the steak dinner. Next morning we all 4 enplaned for Puerto Maldonado and la selva.

The plane taxied up to a small building in which people milled about and where moths covered the screened windows. The rains had recently begun, but the day was hot and steamy. We rode in a cramped van to the Turistas Hotel at the edge of town, and noticed that the streets were all dirt only, and the main motorized transportation there was motorcycle. After getting established and having a meal, the 4 of us went to the other side of town and crossed the Madre de Dios River by boat (\$.20 each way) to walk the dirt highway toward Brazil, only 60 km away. Collecting was only fair; but I caught some interesting larger butterflies. Dan Bogar and Curt Callaghan were registered at the hotel, but had gone up the Tambopata River to an Indian village known as El Infierno, where collecting in virgin jungle was possible. They slept on fiber mats on the ground under an Indian's stilted house while there. I caught some moths that night, and next day we went again across the Madre de Dios for a full day of collecting. Stan found a very small patch of uncut jungle, and did very well collecting hairstreaks. I stayed close to the landing, where there was a small drink stand. I tanked up on 9 soft drinks and beers between collecting periods that day. I got over 100 specimens of a great variety of butterflies, including some nice ones at a mud puddle club near the drink stand.

Sunday morning Dave Ahrenholz and Gerardo Lamas arrived from Lima, and Dan Bogar joined us for the 4-hour boat trip up the Tambopata River to the Explorers' Inn at the edge of the Tambopata Reserve. Curt Callaghan had to go to Colombia. Our group was rounded out by Francis Raab, retired Univ. of Arizona philosophy professor who has a home in the jungle of Brazil. When we edged to the river bank at Tambopata, we were greeted with a big mud puddle club of about 200 butterflies of different groups: Pierids, Papilio and Parides, Adelpha spp., large Baeotis spp., D. julia, Heliconius dido, and others. After settling into our quarters (comfortable, though spartan; no hot water, and electricity only until 9 at night), I got into a soccer game with the staff (mostly Peruvian, but also Didier the French manager of the place, and Nigel Stork, British colleague of Dr. Terry Irwin of the Smithsonian, who is doing a canopy ecology study there). Meals were in the tent-like lodge building, and were quite good. A perfect blend of primitive and comfortable features. Macaws screeched in the trees, flocks of parrots squawked overhead, and howler monkeys made strange noises from the surrounding jungle. Osa, the orphan baby giant anteater, was sort of a pest, as she liked to climb your leg if you stood still on your porch too long. Trails through the jungle and down along the river made collecting quite accessible.

In the following days, we got off early and collected as long as the sun hit the jungle trails and clearings. Each day we showed Gerardo our catch, and he selected species new to the list. I got about 20 new ones during my week there, and Stan told me that the count topped 1,000 species by the end of the second week there (I left alone on 23 Oct. to get back to Louisville, job, family, and the real world). My catch included some gorgeous hairstreaks and metalmarks, and the big prize: an Agrias sardanapalus! It had circled my sweaty body in the jungle, and I missed on my first sweep of the net. Later it returned, and this time I got it. Stan and Dave caught some, too, plus many other species Dave will show in his slide show, and I will show you as pinned specimens. My most fantastic trip!

NEWS AND NOTES

New members: Frank Bolin, 1971 New Market Dr., Grove City, OHIO 43123
John Rigenbach, 6757 Blue Jay Lane, Melbourne Village, FL 32901
Don Wright, 3349 Morrison Ave., Cincinnati, OHIO 45220

A big welcome to you!

New addresses: Richard A. Anderson, 113 Sisler Dr., Ft. Bragg, NC 28307
Paul A. Cwikla, Dept. of Entomology, Ohio State Univ., Columbus, OHIO 43210.

Dr. Bob Robbins of the Smithsonian has been in Panama recently, along with Dr. Jack Clarke, preparing the Gordon Small Collection for its move to the Smithsonian in Washington.

New books: Dr. Frederick H. Rindge recently published A Generic Revision of the New World Nacophorini (Lepid., Geometridae). Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 175 (2). 1983. Available from the AMNH at \$8.25 per copy.

J.N. Eliot and A. Kawazoe, 1983. Blue Butterflies of the Lycaenopsis Group. 309 p., illus. in color & black and white. British Mus. \$56 from BioQuip.

My phone numbers in case you can call to let me know you are coming to the Annual Meeting, are: Office: AC 502, 588-5942 (or 6771 for Biology Dept. to leave message).
Home: AC 502, 456-6122. CVC

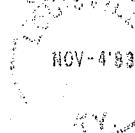
Membership in the Society is open to anyone interested in any aspect of lepidopterology. Dues of \$3 per year may be sent to the Editor, or to the Treasurer, Blaine Early, Dept. of Biology, Cumberland College, Williamsburg, KY 40769.

The Kentucky species count is now 2,079 Lepidoptera species, of which 550 are Noctuidae.

Kentucky Lepidopterist
Society of Ky. Lepidopterists
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