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LYCAEIDES MELISSA (LYCAENIDAE) IN TEXAS: CONFIRMATION OF AN OLD RECORD

On 14 July 1974, the authors took a good series of adult Lycaeides melissa melissa (Edwards) at two locations in the Texas Panhandle. The locations were a dry creek bed at Estelline, Hall Co., and a gully along Texas Hwy. 207 just north of Tule Canyon, Briscoe Co. Adults were closely associated at both locations with Glycyrrhiza lepidota Pursh. (Leguminosae), and a female was observed to oviposit upon this plant. This plant is recorded as a larval foodplant for the species in Emmel and Emmel (1973, The Butterflies of Southern California. Los Angeles). No attempt was made at this time to collect ovae or search for larvae. It was at first thought that the captures represented a new state record. However, the authors subsequently learned from Roy O. Kendall that a specimen of melissa had been taken in Tule Canyon in June 1876 (!) by Lt. Thomas M. Woodruff (Strecker, 1877, Annual Report upon Explorations and Surveys in the Department of the Missouri, Appendix: R R Annual Report Chief of Engineers for 1877. Washington, D. C.). It is probable that records for the intervening years will come to light.

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