

one of the ants on the ground litter changed the direction of its movement and ran about 2 cm from its former position over to the egg. The ant grasped the egg and carried it off. This phenomenon was then observed on two more occasions.

For the next 30 minutes, a female *Lycaena rubidus* was followed as she oviposited at three nearby (within 1 m) plants. She laid 14 eggs, 5 of which were picked up by ants on the ground. In two instances, single ants on the plants followed the butterfly as she descended the plants' leaves. In both instances the ant seized the egg as soon as it emerged from the butterfly and before it fell to the ground.

Two other female *L. rubidus* were subsequently observed as they oviposited in a similar manner. Several times eggs were picked off the ground and carried away by single ants. Three times ants seized eggs as soon as they were extruded by the butterfly.

The ants' behavior in following an ovipositing female butterfly suggests that the ants have the ability to anticipate oviposition. Ants were not observed to enter their nest(s) with butterfly eggs, and were not followed more than a few cm from the base of a plant. Whether these observations indicate predation or a more complex association is not known. The life history of *L. rubidus* is unknown, except for a report by Brown, Eff, & Rotger (1955, Proc. Denver Mus. Nat. Hist. 5: 152) that larvae were found feeding on *Rumex* sp. in Colorado. *Formica altipetens* was found tending aphids in North Dakota by Wheeler & Wheeler (1963, The Ants of North Dakota, Grand Falls: Univ. N. D. Press).

Ant specimens were deposited in the collections of Northern Arizona University and the National Museum of Natural History, and butterfly specimens in those of the Museum of Northern Arizona and the author.

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RICHARD S. FUNK, *Department of Biological Sciences, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois 61761.*

RECORDS OF *CALEPHELIS WRIGHTI* (RIODINIDAE) IN SOUTHWESTERN ARIZONA

McAlpine (1961, in Ehrlich & Ehrlich, How to Know the Butterflies) and Emmel & Emmel (1973, The Butterflies of Southern California) include western Arizona in the range of *Calephelis wrighti* Holland. No specific localities have been published, and inquiries to experienced regional collectors and museums yielded no Arizona records. Eventually, David L. Bauer kindly provided the following records, which do confirm the presence of *C. wrighti* in southwestern Arizona:

ARIZONA: Yuma County. Gila Mountains, Telegraph Pass (1980') 11-xi-1946 (1 ♂ *ex larva*), 20-iii-46 (1 ♂), 21-ii-47 (1 ♀). Dome Canyon 22-x-46 (1 ♀), 11-ii-47 (1 ♂ 3 ♀), 24-ii-47 (1 ♀), 19-iii-47 (1 ♂). Sheep Hole Canyon 9-iii-47 (2 ♂). Castle Dome Plain, 18-ii-47 (1 ♀), 25-iii-47 (3 ♂ 3 ♀). Castle Dome Mountains, Castle Dome Canyon 18-ii-47 (1 ♂), 13-iv-47 (2 ♂ 3 ♀), 23-iv-47 (1 ♀ *ex larva*).

Bauer also provided a single record from California:

CALIFORNIA: Imperial County. Near Laguna Dam, Colorado River, 16-v-46 (1 ♀).

Approximate elevations above sea level were from 200' at the Colorado River to 2500' in the mountain canyons (ca. 60–770 m). The larval foodplant, *Bebbia juncea* (Compositae), is locally common in this region in rocky desert canyons and washes.

Some earlier Arizona records of *C. wrighti* may refer to the somewhat similar *Calephelis arizonensis* McAlpine, described in 1971. The nearest known locality for that species to the Gila Mountains is the Baboquivari Mountains, about 155 air miles southeast. Due also to the nebulous use of the name *Calephelis australis* Edw. by early authors, it is not always known whether their records refer to *C. wrighti* (called *australis* by Comstock, 1928, Bull. So. Cal. Acad. Sci. 27: 80), or to *Calephelis nemesis* Edw., which also occurs near Yuma. McAlpine (1971, J. Res. Lep. 10: 28) considers *australis* a subspecies of *nemesis*.

The author has been unable to relocate *C. wrighti* at the above localities in several trips in 1973 and 1974. However, the butterfly is probably of rather erratic and sporadic occurrence in the lower Colorado River region, one of the most arid and seasonally torrid areas in the Western Hemisphere.

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GREGORY S. FORBES, 1153 E. Montebello Circle, Phoenix, Arizona, 85014.