

OBITUARY

ALBERT SCHWARTZ (1923-1992)

The name Albert Schwartz is virtually synonymous with West Indian zoology. For nearly 40 years, Al devoted his life to the discovery, documentation, and description of butterflies, frogs, reptiles, birds, and mammals of the West Indian Islands. He probably was best known to lepidopterists for his book *The Butterflies of Hispaniola* and research on satyrid butterflies in the genus *Calisto*. Albert Schwartz died on Sunday, 18 October 1992 in a local hospital a few days after undergoing surgery for injuries sustained in a fall at his home in Miami, Florida.

Schwartz was born on 13 September 1923 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He received his B.S. (Psychology) in 1944 from the University of Cincinnati, his M.S. (Zoology) in 1946 from the University of Miami, and his Ph.D. in 1952 from the University of Michigan. His master's thesis topic was "Cestodes of sharks of the east coast of Florida" and doctoral dissertation topic was "Mammals of southern Florida and the upper Florida keys." Al had a broad interest in zoology, but even as a graduate student, was drawn towards work on faunal surveys and descriptive studies.

After completion of his doctorate, Al accepted a position in South Carolina as Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Charleston Museum. In 1956, he moved to Reading, Pennsylvania and taught in the Biology Department of Albright College. Later he returned to Florida where he spent most of his professional career (1967-1988) teaching at Miami-Dade Community College. Because this was a non-research position, Al conducted his studies entirely on his own time. Even after retirement, Al jealously guarded his free time and carefully structured his life to maximize the time devoted to research on West Indian fauna and other favorite pursuits. Al was a gifted pianist, loved opera, and composed music as a hobby. A life-long bachelor, he enjoyed entertaining close friends but generally shunned large gatherings.

Al's West Indian field studies started in 1954 on Cuba, which remained his favorite island despite the inaccessibility to outside researchers in later years. In the late 1970s, having already accomplished many of his goals for surveying the herpetological fauna of the islands, Al began working on Lepidoptera and quickly realized that he could make significant contributions in this area of study. By the time of Al's death, insect cabinets filled two bedrooms of his home, and shelving lined most of the wall space in living and dining rooms to house the oversized drawers with his butterfly collection. The collection includes



FIG. 1. Albert Schwartz in the early 1970s. Photo courtesy of M. H. Strahm.

more than 28,500 specimens primarily from the West Indies and Florida, with detailed locality data and documentation.

The fauna of the islands captivated Al Schwartz and the scientific output which resulted was enormous. He published 230 papers (some 5,100 pages) on West Indian zoology, including descriptions for three new species of bats, nearly two dozen species of butterflies, 80 species of amphibians and reptiles, and about 279 subspecies of frogs, lizards, and snakes. At the time of his death, he was collaborating on several papers dealing with West Indian mammals, amphibians and reptiles, and Lepidoptera (including a color atlas of Hispaniolan butterflies with Fernando González).

Students often accompanied Al in the field, and he also subsidized fieldwork for many of his collaborators. This became especially critical in his later years as chronic arthritis left Al increasingly incapacitated

and he had to rely on others to collect additional specimens and data. I came to know Al through my co-workers, Robert W. and Rose M. Henderson. Bob is a herpetologist and Rose an artist with the Milwaukee Public Museum. They both collaborated with Al on various projects and developed a warm friendship. While I never had the pleasure of meeting Al, I thoroughly enjoyed our phone conversations. Al had a wonderful sense of humor. He was a very open and direct person, and a great teacher, always encouraging and stimulating new ideas. Al Schwartz enriched the lives of numerous other lepidopterists, and his research legacy will serve as an inspiration for those studying the fauna of the West Indies for many years to come.

As stipulated in his will, the Schwartz butterfly collection has been donated to the Milwaukee Public Museum by Michael H. Strahm, friend and former student of Al Schwartz, and executor of his estate. I owe special thanks to Bob Henderson for introducing me to Al, and for sharing fond remembrances and specific details about Al's life for this article.

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LEPIDOPTERA PUBLICATIONS BY ALBERT SCHWARTZ

1980

1. (with W. W. Sommer) A new species of *Atlantea* (Nymphalidae) from Hispaniola, West Indies. Bull. Allyn Mus. 58:1-4.
2. Deforestacion y Rhopalocera una comparacion en la recoleccion de mariposas entre República Dominicana y Haiti. Nat. Postal 30/80: 1-3.

1982

3. (with C. J. Jimenez) The butterflies of Montserrat, West Indies. Bull. Allyn Mus. 66:1-18.
4. Variation in Hispaniolan *Greta diaphana* (Ithomiidae). Bull. Allyn Mus. 69:1-10.

1983

5. A new Hispaniolan *Calisto* (Satyridae). Bull. Allyn Mus. 80:1-10.
6. Haitian butterflies. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat., Santo Domingo. 69 pp.

7. (with F. Gali). *Myscelia antholia* (Nymphalidae) in the República Dominicana. J. Lep. Soc. 37:164-165.
8. (with F. Gali). The second specimen of *Epargyreus spanna* (Hesperiidae). J. Lep. Soc. 37:170-171.
9. (with F. Gali). *Battus zetides* in the República Dominicana. J. Lep. Soc. 37:171-174.

1984

10. (with F. Gali). Five new species of *Calisto* (Satyridae) from Hispaniola. Bull. Allyn Mus. 85:1-18.

1985

11. (with R. W. Wisor). Status of *Calisto pulchella darlingtoni* Clench (Lepidoptera: Satyridae). Florida Sci. 48:7-13.
12. (with W. W. Sommer and F. Gali). *Synapte mailitiosa* [sic] (Lepidoptera: Hesperidae) on Hispaniola. Florida Sci. 48:13-17.
13. A new subspecies of *Calisto* (Satyridae) from Hispaniola, West Indies. Bull. Allyn Mus. 93:1-5.
14. (with J. Y. Miller). A new species of hairstreak (Lycaenidae) from Hispaniola. Bull. Allyn Mus. 99:1-6.
15. (with J. C. Correa). The status of *Calisto hysius batesi* (Lepidoptera, Satyridae) with the description of a new species of *Calisto* from Hispaniola. Florida Sci. 49:11-18.
16. (with W. W. Sommer). A new subspecies of *Synapte malitiosa* (Lepidoptera: Hesperidae) from Hispaniola. Florida Sci. 49:18-22.
17. (with F. Gali). Butterflies of the National Parks of Haiti. Mimeo., Florida State Mus. 19 pp.

1987

18. The taxonomic status of *Pseudochrysops* (Lycaenidae) on Puerto Rico. Bull. Allyn Mus. 110:1-5.
19. (with F. L. Gonzáles and R. M. Henderson). New records of butterflies from the West Indies. J. Lep. Soc. 41:145-150.
20. The butterflies of the lower Florida Keys. Contr. Biol. Geol. Milwaukee Public Mus. 73:1-34.

1988

21. A new species of *Calisto* (Satyridae) from Hispaniola. Florida Sci. 50:246-252.
22. Butterflies of the Sierra Martin Garcia, República Dominicana. Carib. J. Sci. 23:418-431.

23. (with F. L. González). A new species of *Calisto* (Satyridae) from Hispaniola. Bull. Allyn Mus. 117:1-5.

1989

24. Rediscovery of *Adelpha lapitha* Hall, 1929 (Nymphalidae) on Hispaniola, West Indies. Bull. Allyn Mus. 124:1-7.
25. The butterflies of Hispaniola. Univ. Florida Press. xiv + 580 pp.

1990

26. (with R. W. Henderson). The butterflies of Barbuda, West Indies. Carib. J. Sci. 26:98-100.

1991

27. (with F. L. González and D. K. Wetherbee). A new species of *Calisto* (Lepidoptera: Satyridae) of the *lyceia* complex on Hispaniola. Contr. Biol. Geol. Milwaukee Public Mus. 80:1-8.
28. A new species of *Calisto* (Lepidoptera: Satyridae) from the Cordillera Central, República Dominicana. Contr. Biol. and Geol. Milwaukee Public Mus. 81:1-3.

1992

29. (with K. Johnson). Two new butterflies (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) from Cuba. Carib. J. Sci. 28:149-157.

In Press

30. (with R. M. Henderson). The butterflies of St. Vincent, the Grenadines, and Grenada, West Indies. Contr. Biol. Geol. Milwaukee Public Mus.
31. (with F. L. González). A color atlas of Hispaniolan butterflies. R & A Publ., England.