

DANAUS GILIPPUS IN MISSISSIPPI

by BRYANT MATHER

The remark by Mrs. HOPF (1954) that she had supposed that *Danaus berenice* was confined to the southern part of Florida, around the Everglades, suggests the desirability of recording its occurrence on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. The fact of such occurrence is not noted in either of the published lists (Weed, 1894, and Hutchins, 1933), and has been mentioned only once, incorrectly, in the literature. CHERMOCK (1950) includes *Danaus berenice* as one of five species listed by HUTCHINS but not seen by MATHER in Mississippi until that year. This is incorrect since the species was not listed by HUTCHINS and was not seen by MATHER until 1953.

Eight Mississippi records are known. They are:

Date	Locality	Record by	Present Location
1892	Ocean Springs	H. E. Weed	Miss. State College
1910	Biloxi	F. M. Jones	not known
Aug. 1916	Long Beach	W. J. Frederich	Miss. State Coll.
Sept. 1916	Gulfport	C. C. Greer	Miss. State Coll.
18 Aug. 1940	Gulfport	H. I. O'Byrne	Univ. Missouri
12 May 1952	Moss Point	L. Harris, Jr.	Sight record
8 Aug. 1953	Biloxi	Bryant Mather	Sight record
9 Aug. 1953	Gulfport	Bryant Mather	Mather Collection

Ocean Springs and Moss Point are in Jackson County; the other localities are in Harrison County. All of these localities are in the southern parts of the counties bordering the Gulf of Mexico in what has been designated as the "Gulf Strip" by KLOTS (1951), who gives the range of *D. gilippus* as "s. Georgia, Florida, Gulf Strip, Mississippi Valley..."

It was collected once by JUNG (1950) on 9 November 1937 in a swamp in the eastern part of Orleans Parish, Louisiana. I have a male that I picked up dead on 6 October 1950 beside U.S. Highway 11 near Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, La., 11 miles from the Mississippi State line.

The Mississippi and Louisiana specimens before me correspond with the figures and descriptions of *Danaus gilippus berenice* Cramer given by KLOTS (1951), HOLLAND (1947), and CLARK (1941) as does another specimen, ex coll. LUCIEN HARRIS, JR., taken at Coleraine Plantation, Folkston, Georgia, 28 May 1950. Other specimens taken by me at Houston, Harris Co., Texas, 28 October 1953, and at Tucson, Pima Co., Arizona, 26 October 1954, correspond with *Danaus gilippus strigosus* Bates. HARRIS (1950) reports that he took specimens of *D. strigosus* at St. Simon Island, Georgia and that EUSTIS reported it from Augusta, Ga. GROSSBECK (1917) reported that HEBARD had recorded *D. strigosus* from Miami, Florida, (28 Jan. — 8 Feb.) but regards it as "doubtful whether this record really refers to *strigosus*."

I note that in the series of five males and three females before me, the males are all noticeably larger than the females, as indicated below, where "mm." is the forewing length in millimeters.

Males				Females			
subsp.	date	State	mm.	subsp.	date	State	mm.
berenice	9 Aug.	Miss.	45	berenice	28 May	Ga.	35
"	6 Oct.	La.	46	strigosus	28 Oct.	Tex.	38
strigosus	26 Oct.	Ariz.	44	"	26 Oct.	Ariz.	36
"	"	"	40				
"	"	"	41			Average	36
		Average	43				

KLOTS (1951) gives the expanse as 3.1 — 3.3 in. The approximate average thorax width of the specimens before me is 3 mm. KLOTS' values therefore convert to forewing lengths of 38 — 40 mm. My specimens suggest a forewing-length range of at least 35 — 46 mm, with a range of 40 — 46 mm. for males and 35 — 38 mm. for females. In any case, both the values given by KLOTS and those derived from measurements of these specimens indicate that both subspecies of *Danaus gilippus* include specimens with forewings less than 40 mm. long. This would appear to invalidate the primary criterion given in the key presented by CLARK (1941) for separating *D. gilippus* and *D. jamaicensis* Bates. CLARK however notes that "certain pale specimens of *D. gilippus strigosus* from Mexico approach *D. jamaicensis* so very closely as to suggest that *jamaicensis* should be considered as a subspecies of *gilippus* rather than as a distinct species." The possibility of a relation between the specimen of *D. jamaicensis* from Florida referred to by CLARK and the records of *D. gilippus strigosus* from Georgia and Florida by HARRIS (1950) and GROSSBECK (1917) is suggested.

References

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