

(Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), and Mr. H. A. Freeman (Garland, Texas) for the determinations that are mentioned in the body of this paper. We also wish to thank those persons listed in the paper who contributed material to this study.

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AN AGGRESSIVE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN *CATOCALA CARA* (NOCTUIDAE) AND *POLYGONIA INTERROGATIONIS* (NYMPHALIDAE)

Upon entering a wooded area of the city limits of Lafayette, Louisiana near the Vermilion River about 2:00 P.M. CST on 22 June 1962, I noticed *Catocala cara* (Guenée) turning up at every hand. I had considered it generally a nocturnal species, seldom active during the day except when startled from its hiding place. Nothing occurred to change my mind until I noticed one of the underwings flying slowly near a wound in an elm tree. The moth settled and began feeding on the sap that issued from the wound. A *Polygonia interrogationis* (Fabricius) was attracted to the same patch of sap. It darted at the underwing, which arose and engaged the butterfly in aerial combat for one or two minutes. Finally both insects settled, about three inches apart, and fed at the same bit of sap for about five minutes. Then the moth ran across the bark in the direction of the butterfly, its wings fluttering in short, rapid strokes that did not exceed a 45° angle above the body. The butterfly, evidently startled, flew off and did not return.

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