

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PACIFIC
SLOPE SECTION OF THE LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY

June 19–21, 1965, San Diego, California

Saturday, June 19

Members and guests gathered at the museum for registration and informal discussion. Shortly after 10:00 A.M. the meeting was called to order by Dr. J. A. Comstock. R. L. Langston was elected Secretary–Treasurer *pro tem*. An address of welcome was given by Mrs. Jerri Heller, Acting Director, San Diego Natural History Museum. The acceptance by Dr. Comstock included historical aspects of the museum.

The President's Message by Dr. F. H. Rindge, American Museum of Natural History, New York, was read in his absence by Dr. Comstock (published in the *Journal*, vol. 19: 192–194, 1965).

The morning session included the following papers:

“Overwintering of *Agraulis vanillae* in the San Francisco Bay Region”—Dr. O. E. Sette, Los Altos, California. (“Valley climate” in study area, Los Altos; drastically reduced in cold winter months, the population increases by late summer and fall.)

“Problems in the classification of Nearctic *Euchloe*”—P. A. Opler, University of California, Berkeley. (Adult, larval, foodplant data, and statistics were given to suggest need for change in the species concepts with new name combinations in this genus of Pieridae.)

“The four lives of a butterfly”—S. N. Laverents. (An excellent sound film through the eyes of a commercial photographer, principally the life history of *Papilio zelicaon*, developed for use in public schools.)

The meeting was adjourned for the taking of group pictures and lunch.

The afternoon session was called to order with Dr. Sette presiding. The “Symposium on the giant skippers (Megathymidae)” which brought to San Diego many of the specialists from such distant places as Arizona, Kansas, and Texas, included the following papers:

“The eremology or desert habitat and distribution of western Megathymidae”—E. R. Tinkham, Yuma, Arizona. (Eremology was defined as the science of the desert. Accompanied by slides and several maps of the deserts throughout northern Mexico and western U. S.)

“The tools and problems of taxonomy in the Megathymidae”—D. B. Stallings, Caldwell, Kansas. (External morphology and genitalia are not enough as tools. Others include food preferences, study of immature stages, statistical methods, genetics and pH factor of soil.)

“Cremaster of the Megathymidae as a tool of taxonomy”—Mrs. Viola Stallings, Caldwell, Kansas. (Morphology of the pupal stage, particularly the cremaster diagnostic. Illustrated by colored slides.)

“Life histories of some Megathymidae”—Dr. J. A. Comstock, Del Mar, California. (Early stages, seasons, and comparisons of yucca feeders and agave feeders, prime examples being *M. yuccae martini* and *A. stephensi*.)

“Speciation in the Agathymus”—H. A. Freeman, Garland, Texas. (Theories on development of species in this most complex genus, particularly in northern Mexico.)

“Early observations of *Agathymus stephensi*”—Mrs. Kate Stephens (1851–1954). (Mimeographed copies were provided by the *Los Entomologos*. Narrative on experiences with this giant skipper in the La Puerta area of the Vallecitos Desert in the 1880's.)

“Chromosomes of the Megathymidae and their relation to classification and speciation”—Dr. C. L. Remington, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. (Read in his absence by D. B. Stallings. Stated that *Agathymus* with basic $5n$ or multiples—5, 10, 15, 20, etc.; yucca feedings in the U. S. with 26, 27, or 29 chromosomes.)

“Bionomics and morphology of *Megathymus* at the species complex level”—Kilian

Roever, Phoenix, Arizona. (There are four major complexes: *yuccae*, *ursus*, *cofaqui*, and *streckeri*; confirmed by studies on early stages.)

"Problems in the botany of host plants of the Megathymidae"—C. F. Harbison, San Diego. (Time did not permit presentation of this paper, but a display of numerous potted *Agave* was available during the meetings, and a planting of many species of agaves and yuccas were growing near the museum.)

After a brief coffee break, the symposium continued with most of the above speakers forming a panel; panel members made statements and directed questions. Then the symposium was thrown open to audience questions and discussions. Participation was vigorous, despite lateness of the hour.

The annual banquet was held at a restaurant a few blocks west of Balboa Park. Following dinner, Dr. J. A. Comstock and Dr. F. X. Williams reminisced on the old-time entomologists, most of whom either one or the other or both have known personally; the talk was accompanied by lantern slides of photographs of many early personalities.

Sunday, June 20

At 9:20 A.M. the meeting was called to order, with Dr. J. W. Tilden presiding. The program included the following presentations:

"Biological interrelationships of prodoxid moths and *Yucca whipplei*"—Dr. J. A. Powell, University of California, Berkeley. (With each feeding at different loci—seeds, pods, high or low on stalk; four species are associated with *Y. whipplei*: *Tegeticula maculata*, *Prodoxus marginatus*, *P. cinereus*, and *P. aenescens*. None of these moths has ever been taken on any other species of yucca.)

"Population biology of a *Plebejus icarioides* colony"—T. C. Emmel, Stanford University. (A colony on the Stanford Campus was mapped, butterflies marked and studied over a several-acre area. Recaptures were made up to 1,000 feet away from original colony sites.)

"Comparative morphology of the mesothoracic aorta in the Rhopalocera"—J. H. Hessel, Tucson, Arizona. (Differences among species and to a greater degree between families. Many more need dissecting to draw conclusions.)

"A Venezuelan collecting trip"—John Masters, Osceola, Arkansas. (Illustrated with color slides, particularly of forested areas and jungle clearings where many desirable species were taken.)

After a short break, the business meeting was called to order in the coffee room.

Resolutions: It was moved and passed unanimously that the group officially thank the hosts for a very successful meeting; moved and passed that the secretary express thanks by letter to the San Diego Natural History Museum and to the program chairman, F. T. Thorne. It was moved and passed that C. F. Harbison be reimbursed for the refreshments from the registration fees.

Treasurer's report: R. L. Langston reported \$31.00 collected in registration fees. Nelson Baker, as permanent treasurer, reported that the Pacific Slope Section had \$96.00 on deposit. It was moved and passed that since there were no outstanding debts at this time, it should be kept in the bank for future emergencies.

Selection of 1966 meeting place and date: Nelson Baker offered on behalf of the Santa Barbara Museum, and the 1966 meeting was approved for Santa Barbara. A show of hands approved the third week in June. Since the meetings have never been in the Pacific Northwest, E. J. Newcomer made a 1967 tentative invitation for some place in Oregon, such as Corvallis. An informal show of hands indicated a favorable reaction to such a site.

Election of 1966 program committee: It was moved and passed that Nelson Baker be local arrangements chairman. Dr. C. L. Hogue was elected program chairman. His assistants were chosen as Ron Leuschner and Tom Emmel.

Other business matters: Dr. J. A. Powell, editor of the *Journal*, mentioned that although there is no charge to authors for illustrations (line and halftone) with the new printer, contributions to the illustrations fund are still encouraged in order to

support colorplates. E. J. Newcomer, editor of the *News*, asked for comments and suggestions in relation to the season's summary. (A questionnaire has since appeared in the *News*.) Fred Thorne, as program chairman, gave his thanks to *Los Entomologos* and the Museum Directors for providing a memorable meeting place.

During the remaining time P. A. Opler showed slides of some unusual gynandromorphs, aberrant forms, and examples of certain Lycaenidae and Riodinidae. Dr. J. W. Tilden also showed slides taken during his recent stay in Hawaii. The meeting then adjourned for lunch.

On Sunday afternoon no organized activities were scheduled.

Monday, June 21

Many of the members and their guests met for a bus trip to the Laguna Mountains in eastern San Diego County. East of El Cajon, the bus drove out of the overcast that plagued the meeting in San Diego. With warm, sunny conditions, collecting was good at all six localities visited in the Mt. Laguna-Cuyamaca area. Some species were in their peak flight, many common, and a few choice "rarities" were taken. Although most were what the resident collector would expect, it is certain that it would be considered a very successful day by the out-of-state collectors.

According to the registration list, 10 states were represented: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Kansas, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and Washington. Members, guests, and speakers who attended included:

E. N. Agey, R. Albright, G. T. and Mrs. Austin, N. W. and Mrs. Baker, Andre and Mrs. Blanchard, R. W. Breedlove, J. A. Comstock, S. L. Ellis, T. C. Emmel, R. Fall, H. A. and Mrs. Freeman, R. S. Funk, C. F. Harbison, W. A. and Mrs. Hedges, Mrs. J. Heller, P. J. and Mrs. Herlan, J. H. and Mrs. Hessel, C. L. and Mrs. Hogue, W. Hovanitz, J. Lane, R. L. and Mrs. Langston, S. N. Lavrents, R. H. and Mrs. Leuschner, A. C. Lyngholm, L. M. and Mrs. Martin, J. H. Masters, R. P. Minahan, E. J. Newcomer, P. A. and Mrs. Opler, J. A. Powell, W. S. Radcliffe, J. Roberds, K. Roever, Allen and Mrs. Rubbert, O. E. Sette, D. B. and Mrs. Stallings, R. E. and Mrs. Stanford, R. H. Stewart, D. Studebaker, F. T. and Mrs. Thorne, J. W. Tilden, E. R. Tinkham, Mrs. M. A. Turner and F. X. Williams.—ROBERT L. LANGSTON, *Secretary pro tem*

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society will be held in OTTAWA, ONTARIO, from the evening of SUNDAY, MAY 29 to the morning of WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1966.

The general theme of the program will be: LEPIDOPTERA AROUND THE WORLD.

We hope the program will be of interest to amateurs and professionals alike. Field trips will form a part of the program.

The period of the meetings coincides with the Ottawa Tulip Festival and with Memorial Day in the United States; it should be an excellent time to collect some interesting local butterflies and moths, including some subarctic intrusions.

Those wishing to participate in the program or requiring further information should contact:

Dr. D. F. Hardwick,
Entomology Research Institute,
K. W. Neatby Building,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Papers to be delivered at the meetings should be received in Ottawa not later than March 1, 1966.

Further announcements concerning the program will appear in the *News* at a later date.