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PHYCIODES TEXANA (NYMPHALIDAE) IN CALIFORNIA

A collecting trip to the Providence Mountains of eastern San Bernardino County, California, on 18 May 1973, resulted in a surprise capture—a new state record. While hiking down the south fork of Bonanza King Mine Canyon, I spotted two little dark butterflies flying close to the streambed. Both were captured at 1530. Confirming my initial suspicions, they were two males of *Phyciodes texana* (Edwards). One was in fairly good condition, the other rather worn. The two captured specimens were the only *texana* sighted that afternoon. This appears to be the first recorded capture of this species in California. It was not figured in any of the older books on California butterflies. And it was not mentioned in the recently published book, *The Butterflies of Southern California* by Thomas C. Emmel and John F. Emmel (Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History and the Ward Ritchie Press).

Captures of Arizonan butterflies are not unusual in the mountains of eastern San Bernardino County. Although part of the Mojave Desert, the Providence Mountains, the Ivanpah Mountains, the New York Mountains and the Sacramento Mountains tend to resemble in fauna and flora the Sonoran Desert of southern Arizona. These ranges adjacent to the Colorado River Valley receive more rainfall than the lower portions of the Mojave Desert. And they have a rainfall distribution similar to the Sonoran Desert, with winter rains being supplemented by thunderstorms in the summer. It is not surprising, therefore, that we get occasional reports of *Phoebis sennae* (Linnaeus), *Phoebis agarithe* (Boisduval), *Colias caesonia* (Stoll), *Eurema mexicana* (Boisduval), *Limenitis bredowii eulalia* (Doubleday) and *Strymon columella* (Fabricius) from this region. Lepidopterists should be on the lookout for other Arizona butterflies straying into this area. This unique region may very well produce other new state records.

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