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CELASTRINA EBENINA (LYCAENIDAE) IN NORTH CAROLINA

Recently Clench (1972, *Ann. Carnegie Mus.* 44: 33–44) described a new species of Lycaenidae, *Celastrina ebenina*. This butterfly was formerly known as a "black form" of the common *C. argiolus pseudargiolus*: form ♂ *nig* and form ♀ *intermedia* as listed by dos Passos (1964, *Lepid. Soc., Mem.* 1: 69, 481). Clench asked me to be on the lookout for this species and on 29 April 1972, I took two males in Buncombe County, North Carolina, and sent them to him. My find extended the confirmed range into North Carolina.

On 21 April 1973 I took another male and on 4 May 1973 I found a single female. All of the *ebenina* I have taken were found in Buncombe County, North Carolina, along the dirt road which is an extension of Buncombe County road number 2178 south of its junction with county road 2173 at Dillingham, a small community near Barnardsville. The two taken in 1973 were found about 2.1 miles south of the junction near the parking place on the left side of the road (elevation about 2880'). A mountain stream parallels the road on the right at this point. The two taken in 1972 were found about 3 miles south of the junction (elevation about 3260'). This road runs from Dillingham to the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the locations described can therefore be reached by driving north (down the mountain) from the Parkway.

I am publishing this note to encourage other collectors to look for this butterfly in the southeastern mountains of the United States. According to Clench it should be sought in cool, moist, forested ravines and is almost always found near areas where *Trillium grandiflorum* is in bloom. The habitat in which I took *ebenina* matches perfectly with this description which Clench gave of the other areas in which it has been taken. I would be pleased to hear from others who find it.

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