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NOTES AND NEWS

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Godfrey,

Referring to the article of Mr. Hans Epstein in "Notes and News" in the Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society, vol. 31, number 1, pp. 73–74, I have to protest strongly against Epstein's remark that "F. Bryk and C. Eisner . . . are heavily responsible for the oversplitting; for instance, by now 200 odd subspecies of Palaearctic *P. apollo* L. have been described." I regard it as a malicious remark. Objectively, many more *apollo* subspecies have been described by other authors than Bryk and myself.

Sincerely yours, Curt Eisner

Dear Dr. Godfrey:

The repeated recent mentioning of *Papilio xuthus* occurring in Hawaii (vol. 30: 149 and vol. 31: 75) and the conjecturing about from where it may have immigrated needs a clarification from local Hawaiian records. The first specimen was recorded during April 1971 at Salt Lake, Honolulu, near Hickam Air Force Base. The species spread rapidly in the following years over all the Islands: 1972 Kauai, 1974 (June) Maui and Hawaii, 1974 (August) Molokai, 1974 (September) Lanai. Hawaiian entomologists are convinced that it came here by means of military planes, probably from Guam where it previously had its easternmost distributional limit. It is not alone in its way of immigration. Over the last few years we got also from Guam the banana skipper (*Erionota thrax*), the first specimen of which was caught at Hickam Air Force Base in August 1973. Three recent newcomers among the Sphingidae were also first recorded around Hickam Air Force Base. Their easternmost distributional limit before they came here was Okinawa: Theretra nessus (August 1974), Deilephila nerii (September 1974), Macroglossum pyrrhostictum (July 1976). Very often live specimens are intercepted by the quarantine service of the Department of Agriculture. So was recently recorded a \mathcal{Q} of *Psilogramma menephron* on a military plane from the West Pacific (Guam?). Also commercial planes occasionally bring in interesting species: in a PAN AM plane from Pago Pago (Samoa) came a live 3 of Deilephila torenia, a beautiful and rare, dark olive-green phenotype. One of the latest live interceptions on a military plane was a 3 of Hippotion boerhaviae from Guam. Among the butterflies there suddenly appeared this year (January) large numbers of the gulf fritillary (Agraulis vanillae), and nobody has an explanation how that may have happened.

> Sincerely, J. C. E. RIOTTE