

LITERATURE CITED

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CONFIRMATION OF THE OCCURRENCE OF AN ALBINISTIC FEMALE
FORM OF *PHOEBIS PHILEA* (PIERIDAE) IN EXTREME
SOUTHERN TEXAS

Phoebis philea (Johansson) is a large pierid butterfly common in tropical America. Individuals from Mexico enter southern Texas often (annually according to Howe, 1975, *The Butterflies of North America*, Doubleday, Garden City, N.Y., 633 p.). Males of this species are easily recognized by the striking contrast of yellow and orange portions of the dorsal forewings and hindwings. Females have the marginal dark markings typical of females of the genus, with the yellow and orange wing portions somewhat less contrasting. An albinistic form of *philea* was named "obsoleta" by Niepelt (1920, *Int. Entomol. Zeit.* 14: 17); this form corresponds to albinistic female forms in other species of *Phoebis*.

On 12 August 1961 I collected one "obsoleta" in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas. The dorsal wing surfaces were quite faded with scales totally lacking in isolated areas, particularly on the forewing discal cell area. Scales still present tend to be lightly greenish white. The ventral wing surfaces were also faded, but orange scales remain in sufficient numbers to provide the general color.

One previous report of "obsoleta" from the extreme southern tip of Texas is known. Stallings and Turner (1946, *Entomol. News* 57: 44) reported a specimen collected in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. H. A. Freeman, who collected this first specimen, has kindly provided the data as follows: 23 August 1944 at a roadside park between Pharr and Hidalgo, Hidalgo County. My second specimen is of interest because local lepidopterists probably are unfamiliar with this form.

Occurrence of *philea* in southern Texas is seasonal, with most specimens being reported from September to November (McGuire & Richard, 1974, *An Annotated Checklist of the Butterflies of Bentsen—Rio Grande Valley State Park and Vicinity, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Mission, Texas*, 21 p.). The worn condition of my specimen indicates that it arrived here after long-distance migration from somewhere in northern Mexico. Substantial numbers of *philea* were found at least as far north as central Texas in late summer 1971 following an unusual climatic regime (Neck, unpub. data); no "obsoleta" were seen at this time by local collectors.

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