

Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society
34(4), 1980, 373-374

EUPHYES BIMACULA (HESPERIIDAE) IN THE
SOUTHEASTERN COASTAL PLAIN

While studying the pollination ecology of *Zenobia pulverulenta* (Bartr. ex Willd.) Pollard (Ericaceae), a shrub endemic to the coastal plain of southeastern Virginia and the Carolinas, I collected a single male specimen of *Euphyes bimacula* (Grote and Robinson) in the Croatan National Forest approximately 13 km southeast of Maysville, Jones Co., North Carolina. The *Euphyes* was collected on 31 May 1978 at 1500 EDT while visiting flowers of *Zenobia*, presumably for nectar. The *Zenobia* was growing in an artificially created savannah bordered on the south and east by pocosin, the native semi-evergreen coastal bog vegetation of this area.

This specimen is one of the few documented southeastern coastal plain records for this skipper and supports Shapiro's (1971, J. Res. Lepid. 9: 125-155) description of the Great Lakes-Northern Coastal Plain, nondisjunct; Southern Coastal Plain, disjunct distribution of this species. *Euphyes bimacula* had long been considered a northern species. Both Klots (1951, A Field Guide to the Butterflies, Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts) and MacNeill, in Howe (1975, The Butterflies of North America, Doubleday, Garden City, New Jersey) reported its range as New England and Ontario S to Virginia and W to Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska. Klots (1951, op. cit.) dismissed earlier records of more southern collections as misidentifications. Yet, when Shapiro (1971, op. cit.) mapped the distribution of *E. bimacula* he included three southeastern coastal plain records. These records were based upon a single collection from Mobile, Mobile Co., Alabama (Mather & Mather, 1958, Tulane Stud. Zool. 6: 63-109), a Southern Pines, Moore Co., North Carolina specimen in the United States National Museum and a Georgia collection which presumably is the same as the Blichton, Bryan Co., Georgia collections discussed in more detail by Harris (1972, Butterflies of Georgia, Univ. Okla. Pr., Norman, Oklahoma). Since then Gatrell (1971, J. Lepid. Soc. 25: 143; 1975, ibid. 29: 56-59) has added Summerville, Berkeley Co., South Carolina to the list of southeastern coastal plain localities where *E. bimacula* has been collected.

Apparently little is known about the biology of *Euphyes bimacula*. Both Klots (1951, op. cit.) and MacNeill, in Howe (1975, op. cit.) noted this skipper's preference for wet habitats, particularly bogs, swamps and marshy meadows. The Jones Co., North Carolina and the Bryan Co., Georgia specimens (Harris, 1972, op. cit.) were taken in wet habitats. The latter specimens were collected on flowers of pickerel weed [*Pontederia cordata* L.], which is aquatic. Presumably, the Moore Co., North Carolina, South Carolina and Alabama collections were also made in wet habitats. Although Klots (1951, op. cit.) and MacNeill, in Howe (1975, op. cit.) both report that *Euphyes bimacula* flies in July, there are reports of its flying from late June to early September (Price & Shull, 1969, J. Lepid. Soc. 23: 186-188). The South Carolina specimens were taken in July (Gatrell, 1971, op. cit.). It is interesting to note, however, that the Jones Co., North Carolina and the Georgia collections were made in May. This suggests that *E. bimacula* flies earlier in the southern portion of its range. Unfortunately I have no information as to when the Alabama and Moore Co., North Carolina collections were made.

Continued collecting in suitable habitats in the southeastern coastal plain should yield additional records of the two-spotted skipper, *Euphyes bimacula*. Collections from the coastal plain of Virginia, Maryland and Delaware would lend further credence to Shapiro's (1971, op. cit.) hypothesis that *E. bimacula* was displaced far to the south during the Pleistocene and has since migrated back north along the Atlantic Coastal Plain and then west to the Great Lakes.

I thank an anonymous reviewer for comments, Dr. John Burns of the Department of Entomology, Smithsonian Institution for identifying the *Euphyes* and the United States

Forest Service for permission to collect in the Croatan National Forest. The *Euphyes* has been deposited in the United States National Museum.

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NOTICE TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM THE RETIRING EDITOR

Three years have brought about a number of changes in the Editorship. One of the foremost of these has been the increased costs of publication incurred by the *Journal*. During the coming years I can foresee a reduction in the amount of material which the Society will be able to publish, as a result of increasing inflationary costs. Recently, we have experienced delays in issuing Vol. 34, issues 3 and 4, which in part resulted from the financial bind in which the Society now finds itself.

The editorship has been a continual learning experience for me. Contributors must realize that the editor, his associates, and his reviewers give generously of their time and efforts, in order to bring the readers a *Journal* of high quality. The workload is tremendous, and the logistics of accomplishing the review of submitted papers on an annual basis soon becomes a continuous, unending task. During the past three years 370 articles, general notes, obituaries, and book reviews have been processed by the editors. Each manuscript presents its own difficulties and idiosyncracies, some of which have not been previously encountered.

Contributors can help ease the difficulties encountered by the editorial staff of the *Journal* by making certain that all submitted manuscripts are of the highest quality possible. Before submitting papers, authors should have others critically read them, and make constructive suggestions for their improvement. Once this has been done, the *Journal* requirements should be closely followed while preparing the final copies.

I apologize to the readership for the lateness of the November issues during the past three years. This has resulted in part from compilation of a more complete indexing of the genera and species contained in each volume. Such an index cannot be completed and type-set, until after the page proofs of the last quarterly issue have been received.

I wish to thank especially those people who have helped ease my editorial burdens by shouldering some of the responsibilities themselves. Dr. Frances S. Chew has worked tirelessly as Managing Editor of the *Journal* for the past two and a half years. Dr. D. C. Ferguson and Dr. T. D. Sargent have served as Associate Editors, and both have reviewed a heavy load of manuscripts for the *Journal*. Others whose names appeared in Vol. 33, No. 4, have generously supported the *Journal* by providing critical manuscript reviews at the editor's request. Dr. Lee D. Miller and Dr. Jaqueline Y. Miller both worked long and hard soliciting, and initially screening most of the manuscripts contained in the Harry Clench Memorial issue, which was edited with help from Dr. Robert Robbins. Barbara L. Phillips, a work study student at UMBC, has handled most of the manuscript correspondence typing chores while I have served as editor, and she has worked diligently preparing the annual indices, as well. Finally, the personnel at Allen Press, Inc. have been very helpful to all of us, and have turned out the high quality *Journal* copies which the membership receives.

At this point in time the editorship passes to Dr. Thomas D. Eichlin, Bureau of Entomology, California Department of Food and Agriculture, 1220 "N" Street, Sacramento, California 95814. The transfer of the *Journal* files to him is already underway. To Tom and his staff workers we extend our heartiest congratulations on his appointment to the editorship, and wish him good luck and success during his tenure as editor of the *Journal*.

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