

have been particularly hard hit. It may be that love bug numbers are higher than usual because of a wetter than average summer in many places. This year Hurricane Katrina and Rita dropped a large amount of rain across a vast area in the south which may have created a good environment for them and may have triggered a more synchronous than usual adult emergence. The insects are attracted to carbon dioxide and methane, thus car exhaust attracts them. They spread in large numbers and form swarms that can blur vision for drivers when they hit windshields. This presentation analyzes and discusses several environmental factors that may have contributed to the outbreak of lovebugs that took place in Mississippi, particularly in Jackson during October and November 2005.

2:40 Divisional Business Meeting

3:00 Divisional Poster Session – Exhibit Hall B

CARPENTER ANTS (FORMICIDAE: CAMPONOTUS) OF MISSISSIPPI

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Ants in the genus *Camponotus* are collectively known as carpenter ants because some species nest in wood and can be serious economic pests. Despite their large size and abundance, carpenter ants are difficult to identify, and their distributions in Mississippi have not been clearly delimited. The objectives of this study were to determine which species occur in the state, determine distributional patterns, and provide identification keys. From 2001 through 2005, the Mississippi Entomological Museum (MEM) conducted surveys of ants in Mississippi to provide baseline data on native species. Ants were collected by a variety of trapping and collecting methods, identified, and stored in the MEM. As a result of these surveys, 15 species of *Camponotus* in 5 subgenera are now known to occur in the state including *Camponotus americanus* (Mayr), *C. caryae* (Fitch), *C. castaneus* (Latreille), *C. chromaiodes* (Bolton), *C. decipiens* (Emery), *C. discolor* (Buckley), *C. floridanus* (Buckley), *C. impressus* (Roger), *C. mississippiensis* (Smith), *C. nearcticus* (Emery), *C. obliquus* (Smith), *C. pennsylvanicus* (DeGeer), *C. snellingi* (Bolton), *C. socius* (Roger), and *C. subbarbatus* (Emery, new state record). A list of Mississippi *Camponotus* species is being prepared with brief descriptions, information on biological and economic importance, distributional maps, identification keys, habitus photos, and diagnostic drawings.

Additional information is available on the MEM Formicidae of Alabama and Mississippi website at: <http://www.msstate.edu/org/mississippientomuseum/Research/xapages/Formicidaehome.html>

A REVIEW OF SYMMOCINAE (LEPIDOPTERA: AUTOSTICHIDAE) IN NORTH AMERICA WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES AND NEW GENUS

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The moth subfamily Symmocinae (Gelechioidea: Autostichidae) includes 170 species in 42 genera, with greatest diversity in xeric areas of the Palearctic Region. Three species have been reported from North America: *Sceptea aequapulvella*, *Oegoconia quadripuncta*, and *Symmoca signatella*. A new genus and new species of Symmocinae are reported from Alabama, Kansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Fifty-one specimens (47 males, 4 females) have been collected in prairies, cedar glades, old fields, and a variety of dry forests. The new genus is defined by apomorphies of 1) metatibia with group of spines on dorsal basal surface, 2) metatibia with scales clustered in groups, 3) male antenna with truncate scales, and 4) male valva lacking saccular or costal projections, 5) metascutum transverse with width greater than length. The imago, wing venation, male and female genitalia and distribution of the new genus and new species are figured.

REDISCOVERY OF A LOST SPECIES, *ARGYRIA RUFISIGNELLA* (LEPIDOPTERA: CRAMBIDAE), IN BIBB COUNTY GLADES PRESERVE, ALABAMA

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Argyria Hübner (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) includes six species of moths in southeastern United States, however *A. rufisignella* (Zeller) is known from only four specimens collected in Texas and North Carolina more than 80 years ago. A series of specimens of *A. rufisignella* was recently collected at Bibb County Glades Preserve, Alabama, which has been termed a "Botanical Lost World" because of its unique flora. The first photograph of the adult and first description and illustrations of male and female genitalia of *A. rufisignella* are provided. An identification key is given for species of *Argyria* and the superficially similar *Urola nivalis* (Drury).