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THE FLORIDA ATALA BUTTERFLY, *EUMAEUS*
ATALA FLORIDA RUEBER (LEPIDOPTERA:
 LYCAENIDAE), IN DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Although once abundant in areas of south Florida, the Florida atala butterfly, *Eumaeus atala florida* Rueber, was thought to be extinct (Klots 1951). It was not collected from 1937 (Comstock and Huntington 1943) until 1959 (Rawson 1961) and 1960 (Funk 1966). According to Baggett (1982) it now exists within the state only in a few isolated colonies in Dade County. Lenczewski (1980) reported it as absent from the Everglades National Park, but reestablished on Key Biscayne in 1979/1980. This note summarizes observations of the atala butterfly made from 1982 to mid-1984 in eastern Dade County, Florida.

Adult *E. atala* butterflies were seen on the grounds of the USDA Subtropical Horticulture Research Station, near Miami, Florida, during every month from August 1982 until March 1984. Total numbers sighted were as high as 75 on 24 January 1983 and 73 on 19 September 1983. Most were on flowers of *Bidens alba* De Candolle (Spanish needle) but others were observed on flowers of *Rhus copallina* L. (sumac), *Lantana* sp., *Persea americana* Miller (avocado), *Eupatorium odoratum* L., and *Dombeya* sp. Adults also were found by H. Von Wald (personal communication) on flowers of whitewood, *Schoepfia scheberi* Gmelin, in the Redlands area of Dade County, and by Campbell and Campbell (1983) on flowers of *Cordia globosa* Jaq. near Homestead. Larvae and pupae of *E. atala* were found on *Zamia pumila* L. (*Z. integrifolia*) plants at the station. Two larvae, 2 pupae and 1 empty pupal case were found on *Z. pumila* plants on 4 January 1983. The pupae were suspended from frond midribs. One larva was found on 1 July 1983 and 17 on 30 September 1983. Two larvae collected

on the latter date were reared to adulthood on *Z. pumila* fronds. Both adult and larval *E. atala* were found also at each of 5 additional widely separated locations between Coral Gables and Florida City, including near Perrine, Goulds, Homestead, and the Redlands area during September 1983. All locations were either pineland (*Pinus elliottii* Englem.) or mixed hardwood-pine areas. Up to 11 larvae were found on a single *Z. pumila* plant. On 5 July 1984 a mating pair of *E. atala* butterflies were observed at Castello Hammock on a leaf of a guava tree (*Psidium guajava* L.) at 7:00 p.m. (DEST). Adult Florida atalas at the research station also suffered no apparent ill effects of a freeze on 25 December 1983 (-1.7°C), since 34 were counted during one sighting on 18 January 1984.

Voucher specimens were deposited with the U. S. National Museum Collection, Washington, D.C. and the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, Florida. I thank C. Dowling for assistance in plant identification and R. Renfro for help in searching for *E. atala*.

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ENDOPARASITIC BRACONID (HYMENOPTERA:
BRACONIDAE) ATTACKS LITTLE LEAF NOTCHER,
ARTIPUS FLORIDANUS HORN (COLEOPTERA:
CURCULIONIDAE), IN FLORIDA

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The little leaf notcher, *Artipus floridanus* Horn, was first reported in Florida as adults feeding on lime tree foliage in the Keys in 1979. It is now distributed along the Florida east coast as far north as Merritt Island and 25 genera of plants serve as hosts (Rowan 1976). Larvae feed on roots of citrus trees and the combined foliar feeding of adults and root destruction by larvae have killed one-year-old trees.