

A COMPARATIVE STUDY IN THE LIFE HISTORIES AND FOODPLANT
SPECIFICITY OF THE TWO BIRDWING BUTTERFLIES,
TROIDES RHADAMANTUS RHADAMANTUS LUCAS
AND TROIDES MAGELLANUS MAGELLANUS
FELDER

A Thesis
Presented to
the Faculty of the Graduate School
University of San Carlos

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science in Biology

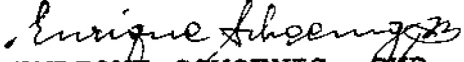
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Humaida A. Jumalon
October, 1978


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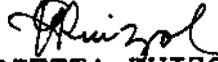
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This thesis entitled "A Comparative Study in the Life Histories and Foodplant Specificity of the Two Birdwing Butterflies, Troides rhadamantus rhadamantus Lucas and Troides magellanus magellanus Felder," prepared and submitted by Miss Humaida A. Jumalon in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY has been examined and is recommended for acceptance and approval for ORAL EXAMINATION.

Thesis Committee

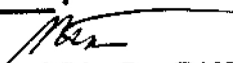

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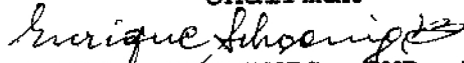

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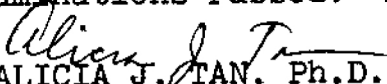

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ABSTRACT

The comparative life histories of Troides rhadamantus rhadamantus Lucas and Troides magellanus magellanus Felder were studied at the vicinities of Labangon and Basak, Cebu City, from 1971 to the present. Foodplant specificity was determined, using four species of Aristolochia, namely, A. ramosi Merr, A. tagala Cham, A. philippinensis Warb and A. elegans Mast.

T. rhadamantus rhadamantus had a shorter life cycle than T. magellanus magellanus. The former had an average life cycle of 48½ days while the latter had 73 days.

T. rhadamantus rhadamantus completed its life cycle not only on its natural hostplant, the A. tagala, but also on A. ramosi and A. philippinensis. However, those feeding on A. philippinensis had dwarf adults. T. magellanus magellanus oviposited only on A. ramosi, its principal foodplant, where it had a complete life cycle. Newly hatched larvae when transferred to the three other Aristolochia species successfully completed their life cycles only in A. tagala. Those in A. philippinensis and A. elegans did not survive.

A. elegans proved to be the least desirable foodplant of the four species of Aristolochia used in the study. Most larvae died between the second and the early fourth instars. However, T. rhadamantus rhadamantus larvae feeding on A. elegans in the last two instars hatched into dwarf adults.

Both species of butterflies favored a cooler atmosphere with relatively high humidity, hence they were abundant in the cooler months from August to November, and were scarce in the hot summer months.

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