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Monarch butterflies protected in overwintering site in Mexico

Der Monarch jetzt unter Schutz an den Überwinterungsplätzen in Mexico

by

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When we discovered the overwintering site of the North American, eastern population, of the monarch butterfly in Mexico (see, *Atalanta* 7: 56-61, 1976) it was obvious that some measures should be taken to protect the various locations (loci), ambiguously referred to as sites by some authors, against the possibility of destruction by fire, (that which occurred by one visiting party) the removal of the roosting trees by lumbering practices, and the presence of numerous visitors intent on obtaining photographs with little or no regard to damage done to the various clusters.

In California, the Site of the overwintering monarch migrants that breed in the valleys of the Rocky Mountains (western population), some loci are protected by law. In the Monterey Peninsula of California a fine of Dollar 500.00 U.S. is imposed upon anyone causing damage to the overwintering clusters. When we visited one locus in cooperation with the University of California, it was necessary to obtain permission from the local police. During our stay police cruisers kept a watchful eye on our activity to ensure the safety of the monarch butterflies.

In order to obtain the necessary protection for the Mexican Site it was necessary to bring the importance of this phenomenon to the attention of the Mexi-

can citizens. In cooperation with Televisa Mexico a two hour documentary in Spanish was produced which not only brought this unique phenomenon to the attention of the citizens but also emphasized the need for its protection. As a result, hundreds of letters asking for the protection of the monarch butterflies were sent to the President of Televisa, MIGUEL ALEMAN.

Meetings were subsequently held with Dr. RICARDO ENRIQUEZ, Special Consultant to the Subsecretario Forestal y de La Fauna de Mexico resulting in the passage of a law declaring all areas between the levels of 2500-3500 M of all mountains of the Neovolcanic Plateau as wildlife sanctuaries. These areas are now patrolled by trained armed guards. A fine of Dollar 800.00 U.S. is imposed on anyone entering the protected areas without official sanction. These conservation areas not only protect the monarch butterflies but also the unique fauna and flora of the areas as well as migrant birds passing through the plateau.

We were most pleased to receive the Mexican Televisa II Award for our efforts.

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Verwandtschaftsgrade der Erebien — Eine Erwiderung

von
PETER SONDEREGGER

Der Artikel „Aspekte der Ökologie und Zoogeographie der europäischen Erebien“ von ROOS und ARNSCHEID (1979) veranlaßt mich, in korrigierender Weise zu wirken, bevor weitere Publikationen uns auf den Stand vor 1898 bringen.

ROOS und ARNSCHEID stellen die europäischen Erebien dar und „grenzen Gruppen näher verwandter Arten voneinander ab“. Diese Einteilung in Gruppen ist aber voller Fehler; zudem werden die Gründe der Neueinteilung nicht belegt und das System von WARREN (1936) wird als veraltet abgestempelt.

Es soll hier in aller Kürze für die in der Schweiz vorkommenden Arten gezeigt werden, welche Methoden angewendet werden können, um eine Gruppierung innerhalb einer Gattung vorzunehmen:

1. Es sind möglichst viele Merkmale zu sammeln.
(Wenn möglich nicht nur von der toten Imago)

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Artikel/Article: [Monarch butterflies protected in overwintering site in Mexico](#)
[Der Monarch jetzt unter Schutz an den Überwinterungsplätzen in Mexico.](#)
[119-120](#)