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**ARTHUR J. YATES (1882-1961)  
AND HIS COLLECTION OF LEPIDOPTERA**

Roland L. Fischer

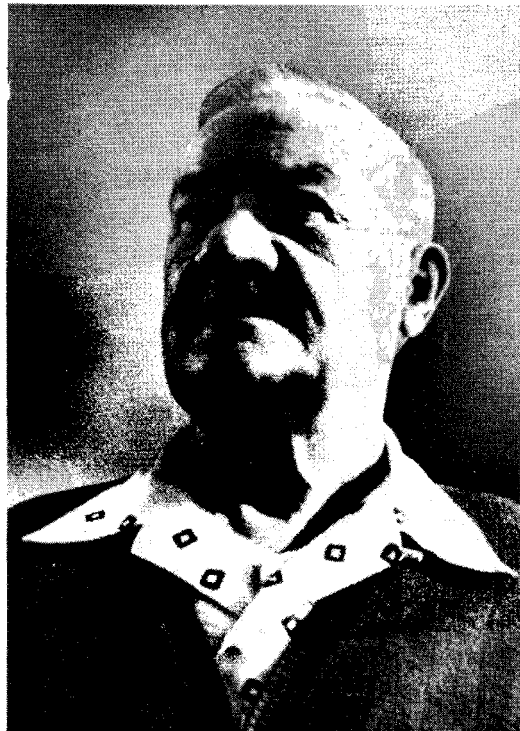
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The fine collection of Michigan Lepidoptera assembled by the late Arthur J. Yates has recently been donated by his wife, Mrs. Ethel K. Yates, to the Entomology Museum of Michigan State University.

Arthur Yates was born in the county of Kent, England on 30 July 1882, and was educated there in the standard school system. He attended evening sessions so that he could join his father in the construction business, and subsequently followed that trade for the remainder of his life. Yates was recognized as a craftsman of the highest caliber in his specialty, the installation of fire brick in smelting furnaces.

His interest in entomology began in England when his schoolmaster, an accomplished amateur, invited him to join a collecting foray. Yates was instructed in the art of preparing his catches for the cabinet, and soon derived great pleasure from collecting English Lepidoptera. By

ARTHUR J. YATES  
(1882-1961)



1912 Yates had assembled an extensive collection which, unfortunately, was too large to accompany him when he emigrated to the United States in 1913.

Some time after arriving in America he once again resumed the pursuit of his youthful hobby. About 1939 he met another Michigan collector, John H. Newman, who was then living in Detroit. Together they formed an association that lasted until 1945 when Newman moved to South Lyon, a small farming community in Washtenaw County. During these six years they practiced many methods of collecting Lepidoptera; working at light-sheets, "sugaring" and searching for cocoons in winter. They were an inseparable collecting team, their complete enthusiasm bridging the gap in their ages. Numerous records were added to the list of Michigan Lepidoptera through their joint efforts.

Yates was a charter member of the Detroit Entomological Society, and took a keen interest in all of its functions. He read occasional papers describing his collecting methods and field experiences; these efforts were always enthusiastically received. His collecting activities were not restricted to the Detroit area, for his specialized trade necessitated frequent travel to other parts of Michigan. He regularly visited the northern counties of the state to seek relief from hay fever, and was thus able to add measurably to his collection.

Aside from being an expert craftsman, Yates was an accomplished gardener. His extensive yard was the kind pictured in magazines--the sort that many of us strive to emulate but never, despite our concerted effort, are able to duplicate. In the mid-1940s, his Roseville home was surrounded by open fields and scattered woodlands; all these evidences of nature have now been replaced by factories, homes and superhighways to serve the heavily industrialized area of metropolitan Detroit. His collection is thus extremely valuable, for the ecosystem has changed so extensively that many of his records can never be duplicated.

In December 1958 Yates lost his only son, John, and never completely recovered from the tragedy. In July 1959 he suffered a stroke, which seriously curtailed his usual activities. He passed away at his Roseville home on 1 June 1961, at the age of 78.

The Arthur Yates collection contains approximately 3500 specimens of Lepidoptera and includes many single state records, as well as species known in Michigan from a few specimens only. Among these are *Xylophanes tersa* (Linnaeus), *Ecpantheria deflorata* (Fabricius) and *Hyparparax aurora* (Abbot & Smith). Of special interest is a melanic specimen of *Pieris rapae* (Linnaeus), described elsewhere in this issue (Donahue and Nielsen, 1967). The collection is in a fine state of preservation, indicative of the care that it has received over the past years. Most of the labels are written in a familiar English script, reflecting Yates' early schooling.

Mrs. Yates is to be commended for her generous gift of this most significant collection to Michigan State University and for thus making the results of Arthur J. Yates' efforts available to science.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Donahue, Julian P. and M.C. Nielsen. 1967. A melanic *Pieris rapae* (Linnaeus) (Lepidoptera: Pieridae). Mich. Entomol 1: 111-116.  
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