

## **Project Update May 2009**

We have performed the planned field tasks and a survey of the different environments in Central Argentina: Provinces of San Luis, La Rioja, Catamarca, Santiago del Estero y Córdoba, travelling approximately 3700 km.

We have recorded the information about the characteristics of the environment and the existing number (or absence, if such was the case) of endemic and/or endangered butterflies species in 87 different sites.

We studied the distribution, behaviour and development of the caterpillars, including the existing nutritional plants.

We improved the field information with an exhaustive research of bibliographic information, study of private and governmental collections and consultation with specialists.

The systematic list was updated, having recorded up to date 124 species in the study area. Several of these populations were studied for the first time in different Provinces, properly documented with photographic material (121 species directly in the field) or with specimens previously collected (3 species).

With these activities we concluded the field research.

As for the educational and divulging activities, we prepared a presentation of the project and give several talks in the Province of Cordoba.

We have written studies about four families of Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae, Riodinidae, Papilionidae and Pieridae. These papers include scientific names, synonymy, characteristics, behaviour, distribution and observations. Presently we have sent the material to a graphic designer for the elaboration of the data cards that will constitute the Volume One of the 'Field Guide of Butterflies in Central Argentina' (\*). Texts on the Hesperidae and Nymphalidae families are in the process of completion.

Pending Activities:

- Analysis and interpretation of data obtained (Winter-Spring 2009)
- Edition of the Volume One of Lepidoptera in Central Argentina (August 2009)
- Training activities and educational lectures for the public in general (Spring-Summer 2009)
- Edition of Volume Two of Lepidoptera in Central Argentina (December 2009)
- Written paper, conclusions and final report (April 2010)