

Foodplants, Caterpillars and Ranges:

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A Potpourri of Mexican Butterfly Information



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Top Left: The guava bush that was attracting the attention of the female Garnet-patched Hairstreak.

Top right: Laying an egg.

Left: An egg on a guava leaf.

Opposite page: A better view of the Garnet-patched Hairstreak.

all photos from Aug. 2, 2009. Near Catemaco, Veracruz, Mexico.

Let's start at the end —

the end of the butterfly that is! Looking at the photographs at the top of this page you can see that this female Garnet-patched Hairstreak (*Nicolea velina*) was laying an egg on a leaf of the bush shown at the top left. Actually, it spent quite a while laying many eggs on this bush and one of the eggs can be seen in the photograph above (just to the right of the hole in the leaf). We believe that this bush is a young guava tree. While laying an egg on a plant does not prove that this is really the caterpillar foodplant (sometimes a female will

lay eggs on non-caterpillar foodplants, either because the caterpillars then wander to find the foodplant, or as a demonstration of the random nature of the world), it is suggestive.

To the best of our knowledge, the caterpillar foodplant for Garnet-patched Hairstreak has not been previously reported, and this got us thinking (admittedly a painful process) that perhaps we had accumulated other hitherto unreported information about butterflies during our many travels to Mexico. And so, here are some of our other observations.