

Insect landings on R/v *Hero* at sea off Argentina

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On 8 January 1979, numerous insects were collected as they landed on R/v *Hero*, which was en route from Montevideo to Palmer Station, Antarctica.

These landings occurred between 42°15'S/55°40'W and 44°40'S/56°12'W as the ship was proceeding southward at 9.5 knots. A steady wind of 12 to 14 knots was blowing from the north-northwest.

During the daylight hours, the insects landed at a rate of about six per hour; the highest rate was reached

around 11:30 a.m. when there was one landing every 3 to 5 minutes. At sunset, 28 moths were present on the mainsail and 13 more on the foresail.

Through extrapolation of wind directions, it is estimated that the insects had been carried by the wind from a region of Argentina lying between Mar del Plata and Cabo Corrientes (38°S/57°30'W). Assuming constant wind conditions and airspeeds of up to 6 kilometers per hour, the insects would have been aloft for between 12 and 20 hours and would have traveled approximately 450 kilometers.

The collected material consists of numerous moths (family Noctuidae, 4 spp.; 1 unidentified family), two beetles (Coccinellidae, Carabidae), and one water bug (Notonectidae). The material has been submitted for identification.

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