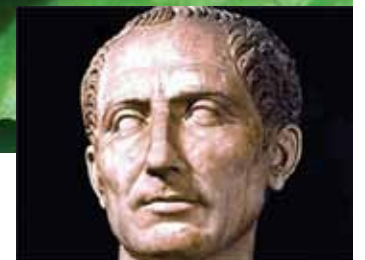




Jeffrey Glassberg (2)



Note the obvious resemblance of the underside of a Julia Heliconian (opposite page, Dec 6, 1999, Miami-Dade Co., FL) to Julius Caesar's face — tan complexion, white highlights, two eyes and black hair (or antennae). Above, July 25, 2005. Chiapas, Mexico

Taxonomists Just Wanna Have Fun ¡Hail Caesar!

by Harry Zirlin

Butterflies have a regal bearing. In North America alone, we have a Monarch, a Queen, five Emperors and one Empress. (When I was a child, a butterfly I burned to see was known as the “Goatweed Emperor” but by the time I saw one in a Mississippi forest it had been dethroned and was known as Goatweed Leafwing). Recently, I was re-reading a favorite book, *The Twelve Caesars*, written by the Roman historian Suetonius (ca. 69/75 – after 130 A.D.) The book, also known as “Lives of the Caesars” begins with Julius Caesar (100 – 44 B.C.) and ends with the

Emperor Domitian (51-95 A.D.), taking in a span of almost 200 years. The period covered included the dictatorship of Julius Caesar (49-44 B.C.) and the reigns of the eleven Roman Emperors or Caesars that followed him — Julius Caesar was never “Caesar”, that is to say, he was never Emperor of Rome.

While reading the book, I could not help noticing all of the butterfly names flying off the pages. A typical sentence: “He had a comedian named Hylas [*Polygonia faunus hylas* = “Hylas” Green Comma] scoured in the hall of his own residence