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**Gabriel Bartolini\*** ([gabar@mai.liu.se](mailto:gabar@mai.liu.se)), Matematiska institutionen, Linköpings universitet, SE-58183 Linköping, Sweden, and **Milagros Izquierdo**. *On the connectedness of the branch locus of the moduli space of Riemann Surfaces II.*

We used the equiparametric stratification described by Broughton (1990) to study the branch locus of the moduli space of Riemann surfaces of low genus, in particular its connectedness. On we also show that strata induced by actions of  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  belong to the same connected component for all genera. This is a joint work with Antonio F. Costa and Milagros Izquierdo (Received August 21, 2009)