

A NEW *CALLITHOMIA* (*LEITHOMIA*) FROM AMAZONAS,
VENEZUELA (ITHOMIIDAE)

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During February 1967, Harold Skinner of La Victoria and Albert Gadou of Caracas, Venezuela made a collecting expedition to the Ocama Mission to the Waika Indians in Amazonas, Venezuela. After their return, Senor Skinner sent me a fair number of duplicate specimens. Of particular interest among these was a previously undescribed *Callithomia*, reminiscent of *Callithomia lenea* (Cramer), but with an unique forewing, unlike any other ithomine. Description as follows:

***Callithomia* (*Leithomia*) *skinneri* Masters, new species**

Female: Has an appearance completely distinct from that of any other *Callithomia* (Fig. 1). This is especially true of the forewings; the hindwings are very much like that of a female *Callithomia lenea*.

Upperside of forewing: Outlined in black. A large oval-shaped subapical patch is lemon yellow and semi-translucent. The balance of the wing is a rather uniform soft ochreous brown, slightly translucent.

Upperside of hindwing: Broadly outlined in black. A nearly transparent discal area has the unique shape, with the hook in cell M_3 , that is characteristic of the *lenea* group of species. The discal area is surrounded by a black band that is broad caudally but quite narrow distally; it is separated from the outer margin by an ochreous orange submarginal band.

Underside of wings: Almost identical to uppersides except for having a number of white crescents present in the wing border. There are three well pronounced crescents on the forewing, at the termination of cells R_1 , R_5 and M_1 . On the hindwing there are seven of them, one at the termination of each primary cell, with the ones in cell M_1 and M_2 being most pronounced.

Male: Has the general appearance of the female. The forewings have the large oval-shaped yellow semi-translucent patch, but are otherwise more transparent than the females. The males forewings are somewhat narrower and more pointed than the females and its hindwings have a pronounced hump on the costal margin, similar to that of other males in the subgenus.

Holotype female: Ocama Mission, Amazonas, Venezuela (at the junction of the Ocama and Orinoco Rivers, approximately 2°30'N., 65°15'W.), February 1967; Harold W. Skinner, collector. Length of forewing: base to tip, 28.5 mm; apex to tornus, 16 mm; center of costal margin to tornus, 15 mm. To be deposited at Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Allotype male: Same collecting data as holotype. Length of forewing: base to tip, 28.0 mm; apex to tornus 17 mm; center of costal margin to tornus, 13.5 mm. In the collection of Harold W. Skinner, La Victoria, Venezuela.

Paratype: One female, same data as holotype. In the collection of Harold Skinner. There are additional specimens in the collection of Albert Gadou, Caracas, but I have not had the opportunity to examine them.

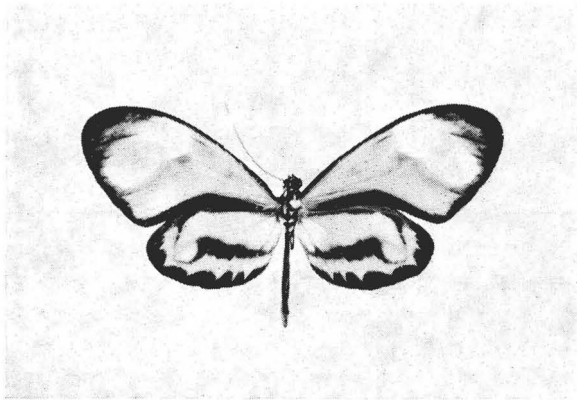


Fig. 1. *Callithomia skinneri* new species, holotype female, Ocama Mission, Amazonas, Venezuela, February 1967. Natural scale.

The general appearance and the relatively narrow male forewings place *Callithomia skinneri* in the subgenus *Leithomia* which includes *xantho* (Felder), *methonella* (Weymer), *inturna* (Fox), *epidero* (Bates), *foxi* Masters, *zingiber* Fox, *lenea* (Cramer) and *drogheda* (Weeks). Of these, only *lenea* and *drogheda* in any way resemble *skinneri*; *skinneri* can be separated from both of them by its distinct more opaque forewings and the large oval yellow spot in them. In several respects, *drogheda* bridges the distinctions between *skinneri* and *lenea*—these three may be found ultimately to be geographic subspecies of a single species. None of the species in the nominate subgenus have a similar appearance.

AN "ALBINO" *LYCAENA HELLOIDES* (LYCAENIDAE)

White or whitish specimens of *Lycaena phlaeas* Linnaeus have been recorded on both sides of the Atlantic (e.g. Fuller 1962, J. Lepid. Soc. 16: 59; Martin 1962, J. Lepid. Soc. 16: 59–60) but do not seem to be on record for *L. helloides* Boisduval, the most widespread purely Nearctic member of the genus. A fresh female *L. helloides* with the orange coloration completely replaced by creamy white on both surfaces was taken 17 April 1972 in the Putah Creek Recreation Area near Davis, Yolo Co., California. The blanching includes the normally deep reddish-orange ventral subterminal line of the hind wing. It is associated with curled or "frizzled" scales as previously reported for "albino" *L. phlaeas*. *L. helloides* is very common near Davis and shows considerable minor variation, especially in the maculation of the females.

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