

MORE ON *URBANUS DORANTES* (HESPERIIDAE)

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Knudson (1974) has well summarized the current status of the recently introduced *Urbanus dorantes dorantes* Stoll in Florida. Briefly it is as follows: It was first taken in southern Florida in 1969 (Clench, 1970; Pliske, 1971). Since that time it has spread over most of the state, northward to Alachua and Nassau counties at least, and seems to be common almost everywhere. Particularly interesting is that this new arrival in Florida represents the mainland Middle American subspecies rather than *U. d. santiago* Lucas of Cuba, which would have been more understandable. That *d. dorantes* was introduced into Florida by human agency (Miller & Miller, 1970) seems the most reasonable explanation, but natural spread from Texas around the Gulf Coast cannot be ruled out.

I have now to report a further interesting record. In connection with work I am doing on the butterflies of the Bahama Islands, Mr. David Hall of Lichfield, England, was so kind as to send me recently a full list of the butterflies he took on Grand Bahama Island while he was resident there from 1968–1973. Even more generously, Mr. Hall also offered to send for examination any of his specimens that I might wish to see. On his list were two entries that are relevant here. One was "*Urbanus dorantes?*" and the other "*Urbanus sp.*" I wrote and asked to see them both.

The "*Urbanus sp.*" turned out to be a male of *U. dorantes dorantes*, taken at Freeport, Grand Bahama, 1 December 1971, in a hardwood hammock. The specimen is in good condition except that it has lost both tails. Mr. Hall noted in his accompanying letter that it was taken that way. This specimen, its pattern in all respects typical of nominate *dorantes*, without much doubt either crossed from Florida to Grand Bahama itself, or is descended from a female that did.

Urbanus dorantes santiago, the Cuban subspecies, also occurs in the Bahamas. Hitherto it has been known only from Andros Island (Rindge, 1952; Mangrove Cay, July, Mus. Comp. Zool.; Nicolls Town, North Andros, various dates in June 1973 and November 1973, *leg.* H. Clench, Carn. Mus.; Driggs Hill, South Andros, various dates in June 1974, *leg.* H. Clench, Carn. Mus.), where it is common.

Mr. Hall and I, however, have both found *santiago* on Grand Bahama as well, where it seems to be rare. Mr. Hall has taken two specimens

(Seagrape, 24 October 1971; Eight Mile Rock, 19 May 1973) and I have taken only one (Pine Ridge, 4 mi. NE Freeport, 12 June 1974). Both the Seagrape specimen (the "*Urbanus dorantes*?" above, which I have examined) and my own agree well with long series from Andros and Cuba.

The interesting situation thus exists of two different (and quite different looking) subspecies of *Urbanus dorantes* both having been taken on Grand Bahama. We are left with several questions, which only time and further collecting on the island may answer.

Was the capture of nominate *dorantes* there only a fluke? If not, will it hybridize with resident *santiago*? (My 1974 specimen shows no evidence of it; it is, if anything, in extreme contrast to *d. dorantes*.) If the two do hybridize, as our present taxonomic evaluation of them suggests they should, then will we see a hybrid mixture of traits, or a swamping of one by the other? Whatever may happen the situation merits future attention.

LITERATURE CITED

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SOCIEDAD MEXICANA DE LEPIDOPTEROLOGÍA

Sociedad Mexicana de Lepidopterología was created in December 1974 to foment the study of the diverse aspects of butterflies and moths. It is open to all persons interested in any aspect of butterflies and moths, especially of Mexico. The first number of its Journal will be published in 1975. The officers of this new society are *President*, Dr. Carlos R. Beutelspacher, Instituto de Biología, Apdo. Postal 70-153, México 20, D. F.; *Secretary*, Sr. Roberto de la Maza, Jr., Nicolás San Juan 1707, México 12, D. F.; and *Treasurer*, Sr. Alberto Díaz Francés, Berlín 105, Col. Coyoacán, México 21, D. F. Prospective members may write to any of these gentlemen for additional information.

ED. NOTE: On behalf of The Lepidopterists' Society, I congratulate the founders of the Sociedad Mexicana de Lepidopterología for their accomplishment, and wish this new society and its officers much success in furthering the knowledge of the interesting lepidopterous fauna of Mexico.