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A NEW SPECIES OF *CARISTANIUS* HEINRICH (LEPIDOPTERA : PYRALIDAE : PHYCITINAE) FROM SOUTHERN MEXICO

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Heinrich (1956), in his revision of the American Phycitinae, proposed the genus *Caristanus* to accommodate *decoloralis* described by Walker in 1863 and *pellucidella* and *guatemalella* described by Ragonot (1888a, 1888b). I added two species, *minimus* and *tripartitus*, in 1977 and 1996, respectively. The genus is entirely New World with representatives mainly in the Neotropics, but with elements in some of the warmer parts of the Nearctic Region.

In 1986 I reported the presence of *Caristanus decoloralis* near Veracruz, Estado de Veracruz, Mexico. Recent additional study by me of the five males and two females on which this record was based has shown that the specimens, although quite similar to *C. decoloralis*, represent an undescribed species. A description of this new species, as well as a key including it and other known members of the genus, are presented here.

CARISTANIUS VERACRUZENSIS, NEW SPECIES (FIGS. 1-4)

Diagnosis. - *Caristanus veracruzensis* has a small, short, fingerlike, only slightly curved, subcostal process on the valva (Fig. 2).

Description. - Forewing length 9.0 - 10.0 mm. Head: vertex pale brown to brown dusted with white; labial palpus pale brown to brown dusted with white and extending obliquely to above vertex in both sexes, robustly scaled and in contact with vertex in male; maxillary palpus ochre, mostly long-scaled in male, pale brown to brown dusted with white, short-scaled in female; antenna of male with sinus and well developed, brown, dusted with white, tuft of scales at base of shaft and with sensilla trichodea (cilia) of shaft abundant and about 1/7 as long as width of shaft just distad of sinus; antenna of female simple. Thorax: dorsum pale brown to brown lightly dusted with white (some specimens with ochre or pale reddish brown scales). Forewing: mostly brown dusted with white; antemedial line very weakly formed, only visible on some specimens on posterior half of wing; brownish red patch shaded by varying amounts of black basad of antemedial line; postmedial line absent or very faint; discal spots dark brown. Hindwing: above chiefly white,

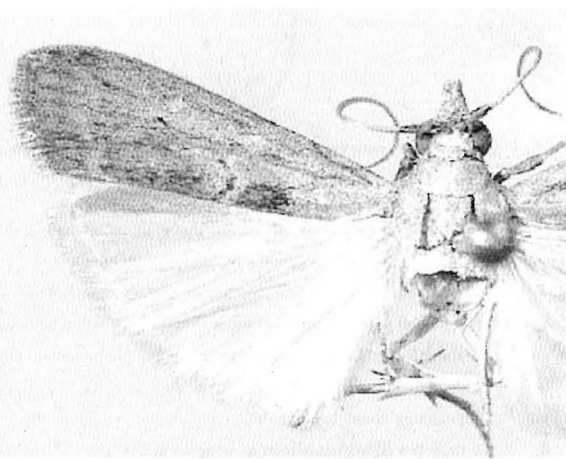


FIG. 1. *Caristanus veracruzensis*, male (holotype).

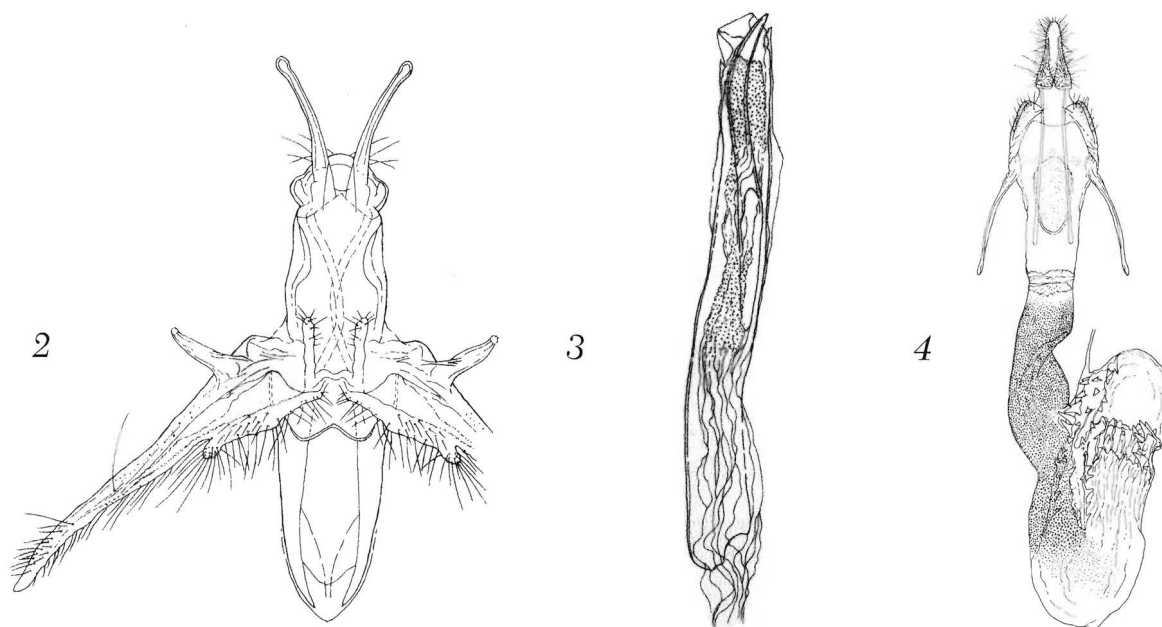
some brown along anterior margin. Male genitalia (Figs. 2, 3): uncus short, broader than long with pair of sclerotized, glabrous, divergent arms arising basally from ventrolateral angles; gnathos absent; transtilla absent; juxta a narrow, M-shaped band with long, slender setiferous, lateral arms; valva slender (particularly in distal 2/3) with short, fingerlike, slightly curved, subcostal process; sacculus with short, blunt, setiferous distal projection; aedoeagus slender; vesica with strongly formed, slightly hooked, cornutus (cornutus about 1/2 as long as aedoeagus); vinculum longer than greatest width. Female genitalia (Fig. 4): ostium bursae broad, strongly sclerotized; ductus bursae flattened, sclerotized, except near distal extremities of apophysis anterioris, and with many scobinations toward corpus bursae; corpus bursae elongate, scobinate near junction with ductus bursae, and with two longitudinal plates and one transverse plate; plates fused together in posterior half of corpus bursae and bearing large spines; corpus bursae indented where transverse plate extends to lateral margin of corpus bursae; ductus seminalis attached to corpus bursae near junction of ductus bursae and corpus bursae.

Holotype: ♂, 5 km. S. of Veracruz, Estado de Veracruz, Mexico, 23-VII-1984, H. H. and K. M. Neunzig, genitalia slide 987 HHN [USMN].

Paratypes: 4 ♂, 2 ♀. Same collection data, genitalia slide 988 HHN [NCSU].

Etymology. - The specific epithet is based on the type locality (Veracruz).

Remarks. - The male and female genitalia of



FIGS. 2-4. *Caristanius veracruzensis*: 2, male genitalia (aedeagus omitted). 3, aedeagus. 4, female genitalia.

KEY TO SPECIES OF MALE *CARISTANIUS*

1. Uncus with broad, multiridged collar surrounding a slender, setiferous, posteriorly directed protuberance (Neunzig and Dow 1993, Fig. 273). *guatemalellus* (Ragonot)
- Uncus with pair of glabrous arms arising basally from its ventrolateral angles 2
2. Subcostal process of valva with distal part folded and contorted (Heinrich 1956, Fig. 297). *pellucidellus* (Ragonot)
- Subcostal process of valva not folded and contorted distally 3
3. Occurs in southeastern United States. 4
- Occurs in Neotropics 5
4. Cornutus of vesica about as long as aedeagus (Neunzig 1977, Fig. 4). *minimus* Neunzig
- Cornutus of vesica as long as aedeagus (Heinrich 1956, Fig. 298a; Neunzig 2003 text Fig. 94b). *decoloralis* (Walker)
5. Subcostal process of valva long, about as long as valva (Neunzig 1996, Fig. 59). Distribution: Dominican Republic *tripartitus* Neunzig
- Subcostal process of valva short, about 1/5 to 1/4 as long as valva (Fig. 2). Distribution: southern Mexico *veracruzensis* n.sp.

Caristanius veracruzensis are most similar to those of *Caristanius decoloralis*. In *C. veracruzensis* the subcostal process of the valva is essentially straight with only a slight curve distally, the cornutus of the vesica is about 1/2 x as long as the aedeagus, and the corpus bursae is significantly indented and strongly spined laterally. In *C. decoloralis* the subcostal process of the valva is sinuate throughout its length, the cornutus of the vesica is as long as the length of the aedeagus, and the corpus bursae is not significantly indented and not strongly spined laterally.

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