

A DRAFT KEY TO *TAYGETIS* (SATYRINAE)

by WILLIAM T. M. FORBES

The genus *Taygetis* is wholly tropical American, and is one of the most striking of the family. While the species are not many, some of them are variable, and easy to confuse. The following key is not critical but is believed to be fairly correct. It is based mainly on the material in the Cornell University collection, supplemented by the literature, which happens to be rather less ambiguous than usual in the butterflies.

The genus *Taygetis* is used here in about the sense original with HÜBNER and corresponding to that of later authors, including WEYMER in SEITZ's *Macrolepidoptera of the World* and GAEDE in Fascicle 46 of the *Lepidopterorum Catalogus*. It is not definable on present knowledge, like many current Satyrid genera, but roughly represents large neotropical Satyrs with typical venation, appearance, and pattern, and most often hairy eyes. I have not indicated transferred generic position by parentheses about the author's name, for I consider that generic references in the Lepidoptera are up to now plastic and of no great significance. In this genus sexes are similar, and there is no need for special provisions for the females. Only two species show noticeable sex-scaling, which is on the disc of the hind wing, and only in *T. zippora* is it at all striking. Characters, where not otherwise indicated, are on the under side of the hind wing.

1. Hind wing with a tail at the end of M_3 , twice as long as wide; under side of fore wing violet-blue subterminally *yphthima* Hübner
Hind wing waved or scalloped, but without a definite tail; fore wing not blue subterminally 2
2. Postmedial line of hind wing below sharply cusped at M_3 , and shaded beyond with reddish; vein M_3 lined with black to margin *angulosa* Weymer
Postmedial line nearly straight, excurved or waved, not cusped 3
3. A pale yellow longitudinal stripe from base of hind wing to beyond middle *penelea* Cramer
No yellow longitudinal stripe 4
4. Postmedial line straight or slightly excurved, passing close beyond end of cell . 5
Postmedial line strongly excurved, more or less parallel to outer margin 20
5. Eyes naked; a large species (90 mm.) with falcate apex and sinuous outer margin *mermeria* Cramer
Eyes hairy, though sometimes minutely; species with acute apex never so large .. 6
6. Hind wing below with broad converging white ante- and postmedial bands *albinotata* Butler
Antemedial band not broad and white 7
7. Postmedial line above rather conspicuous and shaded beyond with whitish *tripunctata* Weymer
Postmedial line sometimes visible above, but if so not followed by a pale shade .. 8
8. Male with black sex-scaling on hind wing; fore wing above with a conspicuous but vague pale subapical area; pm. line below reaching costa at barely 3/5 length of wing 9
Male rarely with pale apical shade, and if so pm. line much further out on under side 10
9. Sex-scaling of male inconspicuous, diffuse and covering much of surface of hind wing; under side wholly nearly black, without contrasts *echo* Cramer
Sex-scaling on hind wing a rounded central patch; under side with prominent markings of normal type *zippora* Butler
10. Both wings below with basal two thirds nearly black, obliterating the am. line and contrasting with the brown outer third *xenana* Butler
Basal two thirds not black, the am. line easily visible 11

11. Apex of fore wing acute, the outer margin sinuate and concave at R_5 ; am. line extremely irregular, not contrasting 12
 Apex of fore wing rounded over or obliquely truncate and bent or angled at R_5 , the margin at R_5 never concave 13
12. Whitish shading beyond pm. line irregular and spotty, missing over cell M_3 *fulginia* d'Almeida
 Whitish shading beyond pm. line even, usually becoming somewhat narrower toward inner margin *rectifascia* Weymer
13. Border of hind wing above yellow and contrasting; a very large species (90 mm.) *chrysogone* Doubleday & Hewitson
 Border of hind wing not light and strongly contrasting 14
14. Ocelli of hind wing below inconspicuous and nearly reduced to white dots .. 15
 Ocelli conspicuous, at least with well developed brown surrounding rings 16
15. Hind wing with an acute angle at M_3 , and deeply and evenly concave below it *acuta* Weymer
 Hind wing with the angle at M_3 less marked, the margin below it slightly concave and waved *virgilia* Cramer
16. Am. line of fore wing stopping at lower edge of cell* 17
 Am. line clearly continued well below cell 19
17. Am. and pm. lines of hind wing fine and clear on an even brown ground *nymphba* Butler
 Lines shaded with brown on side toward median area; ground often shaded or somewhat mottled 18
18. Smaller, blacker, outer ring of ocelli very fine, well out and yellowish *inconspicua* Draudt
 Larger, paler, the anal ocellus and pm. line usually showing through; yellowish ring of ocelli broader and diffuse *andromeda* Cramer
19. Smaller; ocelli ringed with black *salvini* Staudinger
 Larger, ocelli diffusely ringed with brown *puritana* Weeks
20. Hind wing with am., pm., st., and adt. dark lines on an even brown ground, the ocelli represented at most by minute white points *inornata* Felder
 Ocelli more conspicuous, if reduced to white dots ground mottled or shaded .. 21
21. Fore wing subfalcate, concave over end of R_5 ; pm. line of fore wing waved .. 22
 Fore wing rounded over or truncate, the margin convex opposite R_5 24
22. Hind wing below with a large proportion of coal black, the cell iridescent peacock blue *larua* Felder
 Hind wing otherwise; without any iridescent scaling 23
23. Hind wing deeply scalloped; ground dark amber *armillata* Butler
 Hind wing moderately scalloped; under side mottled gray, including outer half of cell *jimna* Butler
24. Postmedial line of fore wing regularly scalloped; two of the ocelli with large black rings *valentina* Cramer
 Postmedial line of fore wing not scalloped; only the lower ocellus (in cell Cu_1), if either with large black ring 25
25. Postmedial line of fore wing concave, its upper and lower ends extending outside line of white dots representing ocelli *banghaasi* Weymer
 Postmedial line of fore wing more or less excurved; its ends not approaching subterminal area 26
26. Larger species; pm. line of fore wing heavily shaded with brown and angled opposite cell 27
 Smaller species; pm. line more sharply defined and not angled opposite cell .. 28
27. Angle of pm. line lengthened into a triangular point opposite lower angle of cell, almost interrupting the pale st. area; and concave below .. *uncinata* Weymer
 Pm. line merely bluntly angled, nearly straight above and below .. *celia* Cramer
28. Pm. line moderately excurved on both wings; ground deep brown .. *kerea* Butler
 Pm. strongly excurved on fore wing and sharply bent on hind wing; ground normally mottled light gray *weymeri* Draudt.

Department of Entomology, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., U.S.A.

*Not stated in description of *inconspicua*, which is compared with *andromeda*.