

NEW HESPERIIDAE RECORDS FOR MEXICO

H. A. FREEMAN¹

1605 Lewis Drive, Garland, Texas

With the publication of the "Catalogo sistematico y zoogeografico de los lepidopteros Mexicanos. Segunda parte-Hesperioidea," by C. C. Hoffmann (1941), the first organized effort to assemble data on the Hesperidae of Mexico was made, Hoffmann recorded 456 species that were reputed to occur in that country. Godman and Salvin (1887-1901) in "Biologia Centrali-Americana, Insecta, Lepidoptera-Rhopalocera, II," described a large number of new species and genera from Central America, including Mexico. In some cases their records were incomplete and they made no effort to tabulate a complete list of species for that country as that was not their primary purpose. W. H. Evans (1951-1955) prepared one of the most important publications on the Hesperidae to date, "A catalogue of the American Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum." Parts I-IV. He recorded all of the known Mexican records based on specimens in the British Museum, and in some cases on other available data. E. L. Bell (1942) published "New Records and New Species of Hesperidae from Mexico." H. A. Freeman (1951) published "New Skipper records for Mexico," and C. D. MacNeill (1962) published "Preliminary report on the Hesperidae of Baja California."

I have been working with the Hesperioidea of Mexico since 1935 and in recent months I started organizing the published data on that subject with the purpose in mind of making a detailed study of the Hesperidae of Mexico. If a species is found in Mexico that is not listed in any of the above-mentioned publications, it can be considered to be a new record for that country.

While Don Stallings and I were visiting with Dr. Tarsicio Escalante, Mexico, D. F., during August, 1964, he suggested that I work over his Mexican Hesperidae numbering several thousand specimens. Later that year he sent the first shipment, and thus far a number of very interesting species have been mounted and determined from that group. All of the Mexican Hesperidae collected by Stallings and Turner have been turned over to me for study and two new records for Mexico have been found in their material.

The following are nine of the new records thus far determined from the specimens that I have available for study.

¹ I am deeply thankful to the National Science Foundation for research grant GB-4122 which is making this study of the Hesperidae of Mexico possible.

Elbella dulcinea (Ploetz), 1879, new status

Evans regarded *dulcinea* as a subspecies of *scylla* (Ménétriés), 1855, however they occur together in the same areas of Veracruz. They differ somewhat genitally and morphologically, thus indicating that they actually are specifically different. I have one male, collected at Sierra Blanca, Veracruz, August, 1943, and one male from Presidio, Veracruz, June, 1943, in my collection that appear to be the first records for this species from Mexico. Previous records are Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and French Guiana.

Elbella patrobas (Hewitson), 1857

Among the specimens received from Dr. Escalante, was a male *patrobas*, collected at Catemaco, Veracruz, January, 1953, and a female from Chimalapa, Oaxaca, August, 1952. These appear to be the first recorded specimens of this species from Mexico. Evans records Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Colombia (Valdivia, Rio Chili) as representing the general distribution of this species based on specimens contained in the British Museum.

Urbanus esma Evans, 1952

Contained in the Escalante specimens was a male *esma*, collected at Catemaco, Veracruz, during September, 1964. This is the first record of this species from Mexico. Evans records *esma* from Panama, Colombia (Rio Negro, Choco, Rio Condote), and British Guiana (Iquitos, Obidos, Rio Tapajos).

Astrartes colossus (Herrich-Schäffer), 1869

There are two specimens of this species in the Escalante material, one a male collected at Paraje Nuevo, Veracruz, April, 1952, and the other a female from Chimalapa, Oaxaca, August, 1952. These two specimens appear to represent the first recorded occurrence of this species in Mexico. Previous records are Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, and Venezuela.

Damas clavus (Herrich-Schäffer), 1869

There is a male of this species in the Escalante material collected at Catemaco, Veracruz, March, 1961. This is the first record of this species for Mexico. Previously it had been recorded from Guatemala well into tropical South America.

Panoquina evansi (Freeman), 1946

Whether *evansi* is a separate species or a subspecies of *fusina* (Hewitson) 1868 as listed by Evans is a problem for later study. For the present

I will consider it as a species as originally described. In the Escalante specimens there was a male *evansi* from Acahizotla, Guerrero, July, 1960, and a female from Catemaco, Veracruz, January, 1953. It was previously recorded from Pharr, Texas by the author of the species and by Evans from Guatemala and Trinidad.

Aides aegita (Hewitson), 1866

In the Escalante material there was a male *aegita* collected at Catemaco, Veracruz, January, 1953. This is the first record of this species from Mexico. This species has been previously recorded from Panama, and several areas in north central South America.

Xeniades orchamus (Cramer), 1777

In the specimens received from Stallings and Turner, there was a male specimen of *orchamus* that they had collected at Mante, Tamaulipas, June 9, 1941. There are no previous records of this species from Mexico. Evans records it from Panama well into South America.

Saliana antoninus (Latreille), 1824

Stallings and Turner collected one male and two females of this species at Valles, San Luis Potosí, December 30, 1941. I can find no recorded evidence of this species having previously been collected in Mexico. Evans stated that in the British Museum there were specimens from Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and several locations in South America.

LITERATURE CITED

- BELL, E. L. 1942. New Records and new Species of Hesperiidæ from Mexico. *Sobret. de los An. Esuela Nacional Ciencias Biologicas*, 2(4): 455-468.
- FREEMAN, H. A. 1951. New Skipper Records for Mexico. *Field & Lab.*, 19(1): 45-48.
- DRAUDT, M. 1924. Hesperiidæ, in Seitz. *Macrolepidoptera of the world*. Vol. 5. The American Rhopalocera. Stuttgart. vii, + 1139 pp., 203 pl.
- EVANS, W. H. 1951. A catalogue of the American Hesperiidæ indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum. Part I. Introduction and Pyrrhopyginae. London: British Museum. 1-92, pls. 1-9.
1952. *Ibid.* Part II. Pyrginae. Sec. 1. London: British Museum. 178 pp., pls. 10-25.
1953. *Ibid.* Part III. Pyrginae. Sec. 2. London: British Museum. 246 pp., pls. 26-53.
1955. *Ibid.* Part IV. Hesperiinae and Megathyminae. London: British Museum. 449 pp., pls. 54-88.
- GODMAN, F., & O. SALVIN. 1887-1901. *Biologia Centrali-Americana*. Insecta. Lepidoptera-Rhopalocera. II: 244-637; 52: 112 pls.
- HOFFMANN, C. C. 1941. Catologo sistematico y zoogeografico de los Lepidopterous Mexicanos. Segunda parte-Hesperioidea. *An. Inst. Biol. Mexico*, 12: 237-294.
- MACNEILL, C. D. 1962. Preliminary report on the Hesperiidæ of Baja California. *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.*, (4) 30 (5): 91-116.