

THE IDENTITY OF *MACARIA INAPTATA* WALKER AND  
*ITAME VARADARIA* (WALKER) (GEOMETRIDAE)

DOUGLAS C. FERGUSON

Systematic Entomology Laboratory, ARS, USDA  
c/o U.S. National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560

*Macaria inaptata* Walker has been consistently misidentified since the time of its original description. In North American lists it was treated as a variety of *Episemasia solitaria* (Walker) by early authors following Hulst (1894: 306). More recently the name has stood as that of a distinct species in the *Semiothisa minorata-distribuaria* group, having been arbitrarily transferred to *Semiothisa* when *Macaria* was recognized as a junior synonym (e.g. McDunnough, 1938: 158). In the collection at the U.S. National Museum I found a finely executed colored drawing of a moth resembling *Semiothisa aemulataria* (Walker), but mislabelled as the type of *Macaria inaptata*. This illustration appears to represent an unnamed species that I was preparing to describe, and it thus led to the present investigation. When I recently examined the type of *inaptata*, I found that it is actually a female of *Itame varadaria*; thus *Macaria inaptata* Walker, 1861: 886, becomes a synonym of *Caberodes* ? *varadaria* Walker, 1860: 251.

At least three other names have been proposed for this species, and its synonymy and type data are as follows:

*Itame varadaria* (Walker)

*Caberodes* ? *varadaria* Walker, 1860, List of the Specimens of Lepidopterous Insects in the Collection of the British Museum 20: 251.

**Type locality:** Georgia (From the Milne collection and probably collected by Abbot).

**Types:** A male holotype in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History).

*Macaria inaptata* Walker, 1861, *ibid.* 23: 886. NEW SYNONYM.

**Type locality:** United States. As the species is known only from the extreme Southeast, and the donor was stated to be Doubleday, I hereby restrict the type locality to St. Johns Bluff, Duval Co., the site of Doubleday's Florida collecting.

**Types:** A female holotype in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History).

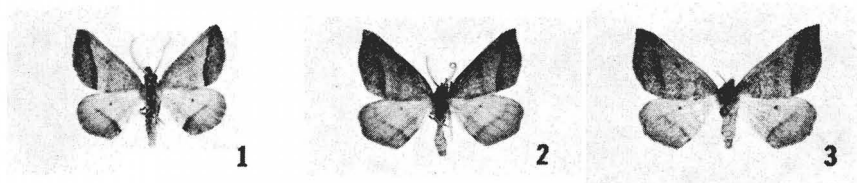
*Aspilates abbreviata* Walker, "1862"[1863], *ibid.* 26: 1673.

**Type locality:** Georgia (from the Milne collection and probably collected by Abbot).

**Types:** A male holotype in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History).

*Diastictis florida* Hulst, 1896, Trans. Amer. Entomol. Soc. 23: 334.

**Type locality:** Florida.



Figs. 1-3. *Itame varadaria* (Wlk.): (1) summer brood male, Wedge Plantation, McClellanville, South Carolina, 19 August 1971; (2) spring brood male, same locality, 31 March 1967; (3) spring brood female, University Conservation Reserve, Welaka, Putnam Co., Florida, 11 March 1962. (All collected by the author.) Photos by photographic laboratory of the Smithsonian Institution.

**Types:** The number of types was not stated although the description reads as though Hulst may have had only one. However, there is one male type in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, and there are two labelled as types in the U.S. National Museum. Of the latter, one is labelled "N.Y." (probably incorrectly) and is assumed to be a spurious type. The other is labelled as from Florida and the Hulst collection, and may be a syntype. All three specimens represent the same species as *varadaria*.

*Itame varadaria* is a species with which few lepidopterists have been familiar; it is limited to the Deep South and has not been common in collections. It is known to occur from McClellanville, South Carolina, to southern Florida and along the Gulf Coast to the vicinity of Houston, Texas. It has at least two broods, the spring specimens (March-April) being slightly larger, darker and less brightly marked than summer ones (July-August). Otherwise nothing is known of its life history.

As the species has not been illustrated, I figure a summer brood male (Fig. 1) and spring brood male and female (Figs. 2-3). This female was compared with the holotype of *inaptata* and agrees in almost every detail. *I. varadaria* varies from dull yellowish to grayish brown with a darker brown pattern, and the male has rather wide bipectinate antennae. No very closely related species are known, but the male genitalia of *varadaria* are nevertheless typical of the genus in every respect, being hardly distinguishable from those of the *Itame argillacearia-occiduaria* group. I have examined 34 specimens.

*Aspilates donataria* Walker ("1862"[1863]: 1673), listed in the genus *Itame* as number 4787 by McDunnough (1938: 161), is a *nomen dubium*. It may also be the same as *varadaria* but has never been identified as any known species. The type was reported by Dyar ("1902"[1903]: 315) to be lost, and I am advised by Mr. D. S. Fletcher of the British Museum (Natural History) that it still has not been found. The original description could fit *varadaria* except that the size seems too large. The type locality is Georgia.

I am indebted to Mr. D. S. Fletcher for kindly responding to my inquiries about the Walker types and for lending specimens, and to Drs. C. W. Sabrosky and J. F. G. Clarke for conveying specimens to and from London.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- DYAR, H. G. "1902"[1903]. A List of North American Lepidoptera and Key to the Literature of this Order of Insects. Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus. 52, 723 p.
- HULST, G. D. 1894. Notes on types of North American Geometrina in European collections.—I. Entomol. News 5: 302–306.
- MCDUNNOUGH, J. H. 1938. Check List of the Lepidoptera of Canada and the United States of America, I, Macrolepidoptera. Mem. So. Calif. Acad. Sci. 1. 272 p.
- WALKER, F. "1862"[1863]. List of the Specimens of Lepidopterous Insects in the Collection of the British Museum 26: 1479–1796.

---

### TRANSFER OF *CYMORIZA ABROTALIS* WALKER, 1859, FROM *NYMPHULA* SCHRANK TO *DISMILILA* DYAR (PYRALIDAE: NYMPHULINAE, MIDILINAE)

EUGENE MUNROE

Biosystematics Research Institute, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario

*Cymoriza abrotalis* Walker (1859: 956) was described from a single male from Rio de Janeiro "in Mr. Fry's collection." Hampson (1897: 140) transferred the species to *Nymphula*, without comment. This placement was followed by Klima (1937: 92).

The holotype of *C. abrotalis* is in the Oxford University Museum. A photograph made by myself in 1958 (Fig. 1) shows clearly that the species is a midiline not a nymphuline, and that it belongs to the genus *Dismidila* Dyar. Although I had seen and photographed the type, I had not noticed the relationship and I omitted the name from my *Revision of the Midilinae* (Munroe, 1970). The maculation and wing shape show that the species is very close to *Dismidila similis* Munroe, type-locality Buenavista, East Bolivia, and to *D. obscura* Munroe, type-locality Petropolis, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil. In colour it resembles *D. similis* more than *D. obscura*, but it has the hyaline spot of the forewing much larger. In the absence of series and not having compared the types directly I think it better not to establish synonyms. I content myself with transferring the species to *Dismidila* as *Dismidila abrotalis* (Walker), new combination.