

## BROTHER APOLINAR MARIA (1867-1949) AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO COLOMBIAN LEPIDOPTEROLOGY

Brother Apolinar María (né Nicholas Seiler) is an all but forgotten name in the annals of South American Lepidopterology. Nevertheless, he built up the largest collection of butterflies in Colombia. He published several papers on Lepidoptera and described a number of new taxa. He sent countless Colombian specimens to several institutions and private collections in the Americas and Europe. This note gives an account of his life and deeds, and the butterfly taxa he described.

Brother Apolinar María was born on November 5th, 1867 in Sarreguemines, Alsace, France. He lived for some time in Reims, and possibly it was here that he joined the religious Brotherhood of La Salle. He was sent by his superior to Colombia, where he arrived in 1904 on the S.S. "León XIII."

A few years later (in 1912) he founded the Natural History Society of the La Salle Institute in Bogotá, with the enthusiastic help of some local amateur naturalists, several of whom had been his own pupils. The Society published the first number of its periodical in 1913, and it went on uninterruptedly until 1931, when it stopped publication after 110 numbers.

In its pages, Brother Apolinar, his colleagues, pupils and friends published numerous observations on Colombian natural history. Among short notes and some longer papers, Brother Apolinar made 75 contributions on Colombian butterflies.<sup>1</sup>

Through numerous correspondents in many regions of Colombia, Brother Apolinar received large numbers of natural history objects, which were used by him to enrich the holdings of the Natural History Museum. This museum had become by far the most important natural history institution of Colombia at that time. By 1930, the Lepidoptera collection included 17,235 specimens.

Many butterfly specimens also were sent to friends in America and Europe. Among his many correspondents were C. Oberthür, A. H. Fassl, W. Schaus, H. G. Dyar and R. F. d'Almeida. Later, Apolinar was elected an honorary life member of the Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences.

In 1948 he received the severest blow in his long scientific career. On April 9th and 10th rioting and plundering parties set fire to, and destroyed, a great number of public and private buildings in downtown Bogotá. The library and the collections of the La Salle Natural History Museum were irretrievably lost (cf. Dugand 1948, *Caldasia* 5(22): 223; LeMoult 1948, *Misc. Entomol.* 45: 93; Remington & Remington 1948, *Lepid. News* 2: 61; Ruiz 1950, *Rev. Acad. Colomb. Cienc. Exact. Fis. Nat.* 7(28): 433; and Daniel 1950, *Bol. Soc. Cienc. Nat. Caldas* 51: 74). Apolinar died on December 24th, 1949.

Between 1914 and 1942 Brother Apolinar described 42 butterfly taxa. Several of those taxa have never been recorded in the *Zoological Record* (nor by Beattie 1976, *Rhopalocera Directory*). In spite of the rather naive form of his taxonomic descriptions, they are nevertheless valid, and his names are available in most cases, so that they should be accepted as representing valid taxa. Unfortunately, his descriptions are usually quite vague. In most instances no figures were provided, and all of his types were lost in the 1948 fire.

### LIST OF BUTTERFLY TAXA DESCRIBED BY BROTHER APOLINAR MARÍA

BLS = Boletín de la Sociedad de Ciencias Naturales del Instituto de La Salle;  
BSC = Boletín de la Sociedad Colombiana de Ciencias Naturales; RSC = Revista de la Sociedad Colombiana de Ciencias Naturales; RAC = Revista de la Academia Colombiana de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales.

<sup>1</sup> A bibliography of Apolinar's publications on Colombian butterflies is available from the author upon request.

## PAPILIONIDAE

- Papilio isidorus* var. *leargei*; BLS, 1915, 3(9): 142 (Susumuco, Colombia) [Holotype; sex not stated] ["leargei" is a typographical error for "lelargei"].
- Papilio oberthuri*; BLS, 1916, 4(27): 32 (Quebrada Negra, El Baldío, Colombia) [Holotype; sex not stated].
- Papilio euryleon abadiae*; BLS, 1916, 4(31): 95 (Muzo, Colombia) [Holotype; sex not stated].
- Papilio rhodostictus nymphius* "orientalis"; BSC, 1924, 13(76): 108 ("Llanos," Villavicencio, Medina, etc., eastern Colombia) [14 ♂♂ syntypes].
- Papilio rhodostictus nymphius* "occidentalis"; BSC, 1924, 13(76): 108 (Muzo, Colombia) [5 ♂♂, 1 ♀, syntypes].

## PIERIDAE

- Colias dimera mariae*; BLS, 1914, 2(1): 17 (Serranía de Monserrate, Páramo de Choachí, Colombia, 2900 m, 2.i.14) [Holotype; sex not stated].
- Colias dimera* var. *fassli*; BLS, 1914, 2(1): 17 (Páramo de Choachí, Colombia) [several ♂ and ♀ syntypes; figured in RAC, 1942, 5(17): pl. [1], figs. 9-10].
- Nathalis plauta* var. *nigrescens*; BLS, 1914, 2(2): 45 (San Cristóbal, Colombia, 31.xii.13) [Holotype ♀].
- Nathalis plauta* var. *xanthoptera*; BLS, 1914, 2(10): 304 (neighborhood of Bogotá, Colombia) [several ♀ syntypes].
- Perrhybris pandora* ab. "teresa"; BSC, 1926, 15(84): 15 (Villavicencio, Colombia) [Holotype ♀; figured as *P. p.* var. *teresa* in RAC, 1942, 5(17): pl. [1], fig. 4].
- Perrhybris lypera* ab. "mariae"; BSC, 1930, 4(105): 59 (Muzo, Colombia) [two ♀ syntypes; figured in RAC, 1942, 5(17): pl. [1], fig. 3].
- Pereute leucodrosime* ab. "mariae"; BSC, 1926, 15(84): 17 (Villavicencio, Colombia) [Holotype ♀; figured as *P. l.* var. *mariae* in RAC, 1942, 5(17): pl. [1], fig. 5].
- Catasticta uricocheae bouvieri*; BSC, 1926, 15(84): 24 (Chocó, Colombia) [Holotype; sex not stated; figured as *C. bouvieri* in RAC, 1942, 5(17): pl. [1], fig. 8].
- Daptonoura calymnia* ab. "leucoptera"; BSC, 1926, 15(85): 43 (Las Mesitas, Fusagasugá, Colombia) [two syntypes; sex not stated].
- Daptonoura polhymnia flavopunctata*; BSC, 1926, 15(85): 44 (Muzo, Colombia) [4 syntypes; sex not stated].
- Teria* [sic] *mexicana henrici*; BSC, 1926, 15(85): 46 (Sonsón, Colombia) [3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, syntypes].
- Teria* [sic] *gaugamela alba*; BSC, 1926, 15(85): 47 (Medellín, Colombia) [Holotype ♀].
- Dismorphia acutipennis llerasi*; BSC, 1926, 15(86): 96 (Llanos de Guaicaramo, Colombia) [Holotype; sex not stated; figured in RAC, 1942, 5(17): pl. [1], fig. 6].
- Dismorphia arcadia* ab. "melanoptera"; BSC, 1926, 15(86): 99 (Villavicencio; Pensilvania, Caldas, Colombia) [1 ♂, 1 ♀, syntypes].
- Dismorphia demeter confluens*; BSC, 1926, 15(86): 100 (Vergara or Choachí, Colombia) [Holotype; sex not stated].

## NYMPHALIDAE

## SATYRINAE

- Idioneura erebioides* f. *intermedia*; BLS, 1914, 2(2): 46 (no locality) [several syntypes; sex not stated].
- Lymanopoda samius* var. *nigripunctata*; BLS, 1914, 2(2): 47 (no locality) [Holotype; sex not stated].
- Lymanopoda samius* var. *confluens*; BLS, 1914, 2(2): 48 (no locality) [several syntypes; sex not stated].
- Pedaliodes nebris albipunctata*; BLS, 1914, 2(3): 76 (Páramo de Choachí, Colombia, 3100 m) [Holotype; sex not stated].

- Pedaliodes nebris athymi*; BLS, 1914, 2(3): 76 (Páramo de Choachí, Colombia, 3100 m) [15 syntypes; sex not stated].
- Pedaliodes nebris conchae*; BLS, 1914, 2(3): 77 (Páramo de Choachí, Colombia, 3100 m) [10 syntypes; sex not stated].
- Pedaliodes nebris* var. *abadiae*; BLS, 1914, 2(3): 77 (Páramo de Choachí, Colombia, 3100 m) [3 syntypes; sex not stated].
- Pedaliodes nebris* var. *pauli*; BLS, 1914, 2(3): 77 (Páramo de Choachí, Colombia, 3100 m) [10 syntypes; sex not stated].
- Pedaliodes nebris* var. *tripunctata*; BLS, 1914, 2(3): 77 (Páramo de Choachí, Colombia, 3100 m) [several syntypes; sex not stated].
- Pedaliodes nebris* var. *modesta*; BLS, 1914, 2(3): 77 (Páramo de Choachí, Colombia, 3100 m) [Holotype; sex not stated].
- Pedaliodes nebris estanislaoi*; BLS, 1914, 2(3): 78 (Páramo de Choachí, Colombia, 3100 m). [Holotype; sex not stated].
- Zapatoca*; BSC, 1924, 13(76): 84. Unjustified emendation of *Sabatoga* Staudinger, 1897. *Invalid*.
- Zapatoca* [sic] *viventieni*; BSC, 1924, 13(76): 84 (Guasca, Colombia) [Holotype; sex not stated].

## MORPHINAE

- Morpho amathonte* var. *nigromarginata*; RAC, 1942, 5(17): pl. [1], fig. 2 (no locality) [Holotype ♂].

## ITHOMIINAE

- Mechanitis egaensis septentrionalis*; BSC, 1928, 17(98): 164, 180 (Valle de Tensa, Garagoa, Boyacá, Colombia) [Holotype; sex not stated].

## HELICONIINAE

- Heliconius ismenius abadiae*; BSC, 1926, 15(87): 125 (no locality) [3 syntypes; sex not stated].
- Heliconius cydno hermogenes* ab. "xanthosticta"; BSC, 1926, 15(88): 153 (Valle del Cauca, Colombia) [11 syntypes; sex not stated].
- Heliconius cydno hermogenes* ab. "leucosticta"; BSC, 1926, 15(88): 153 (Valle del Cauca, Colombia) [19 syntypes; sex not stated].
- Heliconius cydno dolores*; BSC, 1926, 15(88): 155 (Tolima, Colombia) [Holotype; sex not stated].
- Heliconius aristiona colombiana*; BSC, 1927, 16(92): 117 (Susumuco, Colombia) [Holotype; sex not stated].
- Heliconius mixta*; BSC, 1927, 16(92): 119 (Llanos de Medina, Guacaramo, Colombia) [Holotype; sex not stated].

## NYMPHALINAE

- Callicore astala* var. *coeruleomarginata*; BSC, 1928, 17(98): 164, 183 (Río Putumayo, Colombia) [Holotype; sex not stated].

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