

GENERAL NOTES

COLLECTION RECORDS OF BUTTERFLIES FROM NYANGEZI, ZAIRE, AFRICA¹

Beginning in 1977, while working in the Peace Corps as a science teacher, I studied and collected butterflies from the small village of Nyangezi, in eastern Zaire, Africa, for approximately 20 months.

Zaire is centrally located in Africa. It is bordered by the People's Democratic Republic of the Congo on the west, Central African Republic and Sudan on the north, by Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania on the east and on the south by Zambia and Angola. The province of Kivu is in the eastern portion of the country, and the village of Nyangezi is in the southern third of Kivu, along the Rwanda and Burundi borders.

Nyangezi is in the midst of montane highlands having an altitude of approximately 1600-2000 m. It is partly located in a large interpluvial forest and has a very moist climate. The combination of the climate and altitude produces a constant temperature of approximately 24°C. The region was once richly endowed with native tropical flora but today introduced cypress, eucalyptus and various citrus species, as well as many agricultural plants, predominate. The village of Nyangezi would thus be termed a disturbed site for collecting butterflies.

The families of Lepidoptera found in the village included: Hesperidae, Papilionidae, Pieridae, Danaidae, Nymphalidae, Acraeidae and Satyridae. Unlike Rogers and van Someren (1925, E. Afr. Nat. Hist. Soc. J. 6:22-43), who treated these taxa as subfamilies, I assigned family rank, following the precedence of Williams (1969, A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Africa, Collins, London). The following species, arranged by family, were collected.

HESPERIIDAE

I collected only one specimen of *Calaenorrhinus galenus* (Fab.) although I observed others.

PAPILIONIDAE

Graphium simoni Aurivillius, *Papilio cynorta* Fabricius, *P. dardanus* Brown, *P. demodoceus* Esper, *P. echerioides* Trimen, *P. nireus* L., *P. zenobia* and *P. zoroastres* Druce.

PIERIDAE

Belenois aurota Fabricius, *B. zochalia* Boisduval, *Catopsilia florella* Fabricius, *C. thauruma* (Reak.), *Eurema brigitta* Cramer, *Nepheronia thalassina* Boisduval.

DANAIDAE

Amauris albimaculata Butler, *A. echeria* Stoll, *A. niavius* L., *A. ochlea* Boisduval, *Danaus chrysippus* L., *D. limniace* Cramer.

NYMPHALIDAE

Byblia acheloia Wallengren, *Cataeroptera cloanthe* Cramer, *Charaxes fulvescens* Aurivillius, *Cymothoe theobene* Doubleday, *Euphaedra spatiosa* Mabille, *Eurytela dryope* (Cramer), *Hamanumida daedalus* Fabricius, *Hypolimnas dinarcha* Hewitson, *H. missippi* L., *Neptidopsis ophione* (Cramer), *Neptis nemetes* Hewitson, *N. saclava* Boisduval, *N. seeldrayersi* Aurivillius, *Phalanta phalantha* Drury, *Precis hierta* Fabricius, *P. natalica* Felder, *P. octavia octivia* Cramer, *P. oenone* L., *P. sophia sophia* Fabricius, *P. terea terea* Drury, *Pseudacraea eurytus* L., *Pseudargumnis hegemon* Godart, *Salamis anacardi* Trimen, *S. parhassus* Drury.

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ACRAEIDAE

Acraea asbolophintha (Karsh.), *A. egina* Mabilie, *A. uvui* Grose-Smith, *Bematistes macarioides* Aurivillius, *B. poggei* Dewitz.

SATYRIDAE

Mycalesis chapini Holland, *M. langi* Holland, *M. saussure* Dewitz, *Ypthima albida* Butler, *Y. doleta* Kirby.

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NOTES ON THE GENUS *IMELDA* (RIODININAE)

In "Illustrations of the Diurnal Lepidoptera," volume 5(3), Hewitson described the riodinid butterfly *Nymphidium mycea* from a female received from "New Granada," an area covering present-day Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama. His description reads as follows: "Upperside pale yellow, with the margins broadly dark brown; the outer margin of both wings transversed by a rufous band. Anterior wing with three white spots near the apex."

In 1879, Hewitson described a second butterfly based on a male from Ashpiyaco, Ecuador, which he named *Imelda glaucosmia* and designated it as the type of the genus *Imelda*, which was described in the same article. He later illustrated it in "Illustrations," volume 4(5), plate 24, figure 5, repeating the original description, as follows: "Upperside of male glossy dark blue, slightly tinged with green. Both wings crossed beyond the middle by a narrow linear black band scarcely visible on the anterior wing; both with a submarginal band and the outer margin (which is broad) black. Anterior wing with the costal margin brown; crossed by a subapical broad band of white bordered with black. Underside as above, except that it is grey-brown, that each wing has two subbasal spots and a linear spot at the end of the cell of dark brown, and that the inner black band is much broader."

Thieme (1907, Berlin Ent. Zeitschrift 52:1-16) designated *mycea* as the female of *glaucosmia*, using the name *mycea* to refer to *glaucosmia* specimens from Colombia. H. Stichel (1910, Berlin Ent. Zeitschrift 55:9-103) erected a new subspecies, *terpna*, to refer to the male designated by Thieme as that of *mycea*. Stichel rejected the idea that *mycea* was the female of *terpna*, claiming that the dimorphism between the two was too great for them to be conspecific. He maintained this position in the Catalogus (Stichel, 1930, in Junk, Lepidopterum Catalogus, Vol. 44, Berlin).

Because the most recent revision of a taxonomic group usually takes precedence over previous revisions, Stichel's conclusions determine the present status of these butterflies. However, as both Thieme's and Stichel's conclusions were reached without the help of field observations, the matter is worth reopening in light of data I gathered in the field.

My first experience with *glaucosmia* came during a collecting trip to a locality about 14 km to the west of Arcabuco, Boyacá, Colombia, in July 1981. The altitude of this area is 2000 m and lies in a transition zone between Very Humid Low Montane Forest and Premontane Very Humid Forest. Rainfall is about 2000 mm per year (1977, Anonymous, Zonas vegetales de Colombia, IGAC). Although much of the vegetation has been cleared for cattle raising, forested areas may be found along the streams. The general aspect of the forest is like other subtropical montane forest areas throughout the neotropical region. The trees reach a height of 10 m and support many bromeliads and other epiphytic plants growing from the branches, and are interspersed with bamboos and tree ferns.