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ABERRANT POSTMEDIAL SPOTS IN
ICARICIA ICARIOIDES LYCEA
AND *I. ACMON* (LYCAENIDAE)

Several nearctic lycaenids tend to abnormal expression of ventral postmedial spots. This generically takes the form of some or all spots being elongated. Illustrations recently published include a multiple occurrence in *Satyrrium calanus falacer* (Godart) (Wright 1981, J. Lepid. Soc. 35:158–159). Single occurrences have been shown for *Satyrrium acadica acadica* (W. H. Edwards) (Leeuw 1979, J. Lepid. Soc. 33:204–205), *Glaucopsyche lygdamus couperi* Grote (Neil, 1983, J. Lepid. Soc. 37:258), *Euphilotes rita rita* (Barnes & McDunnough), *Icaricia acmon texana* Goodpasture (Holland 1980, J. Res. Lepid. 19: 88–95) and *Icaricia acmon lutzii* (dos Passos) (Cannon, J. Lepid. Soc. 39:329–330). The similarity of the two aberrant *acmon* specimens is striking, especially since the *acmon lutzii* is from Idaho and the *acmon texana* is from New Mexico.

To this list of aberrant lycaenids, I now add *Icaricia icarioides lycea* (W. H. Edwards). Figure 1 shows an aberrant, an intermediate and a typical specimen. About 5% of 100 specimens were found to have noticeably enlarged postmedial spots. The two atypical examples illustrated here represent the most extreme.

I call attention to a well illustrated and useful article on the mechanics of color pattern formation and malformation in butterflies and moths (Nijhauth 1981, Sci. Am. 245(5): 140–151). This work seems not to have received the recognition it should among lepidopterists.

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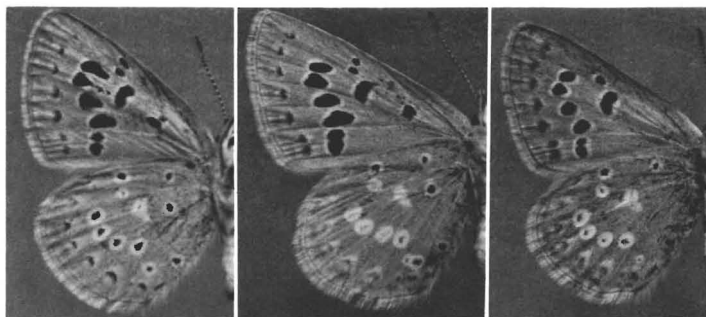


FIG. 1. *Icaricia icarioides lycea* ventral surface. Left, aberrant male, Corral Tank, Canyon de Los Corrales, NE slope, Jemez Mts., Rio Arriba Co., NM, 27.V.84, 2,438 m; Middle, intermediate male, 1.6 km N of Poncha Pass, Chaffee Co., Colo., 5.VII.63, 2,743 m; Right, normal male, 20.9 km W of Española on road to Santa Clara Peak, E slope, Jemez Mts., Rio Arriba Co., NM, 18.VI.83, 2,499 m; all leg. R. Holland.