

A NEW BUTTERFLY RECORD FOR TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

By F.C. Urich

Sans Souci Estate, Sangre Grande.

AT about 9.30 a.m. at my "Sans Souci" estate in the Sangre Grande area, I netted a Satyrid, which on examination proved to be a butterfly that I had never seen before. From the two dirty yellowish oval spots, one on each side of the forewing, near the outer margin and roughly midway between the apex and tornus, I immediately realised that this was without any doubt, a new record for Trinidad and Tobago.

A colour photograph of this butterfly may be found in H.L. Lewis's book on butterflies of the World, Page 60 Specimen No. 2. The name of this Satyrid is: *Magneuptychia libye*.

DESCRIPTION (see figures)

This butterfly is dark brown in colour, about 5½ c.m. across from forewing tip to forewing tip, with wings spread flat and ¾ c.m. from apex of forewing to the tornus of the lower wing. Equally placed at about 4mm from the costa, apex, and outer margin of the forewing is a small black dot, about the size of a fullstop. Leading away and downwards running close to the outer margin of the forewing, is an irregular black marking, quite thin, and ending off at the tornus of the forewing. This marking is difficult to observe, as it is on a drab brown background; nevertheless it is present. At about 8 mm from the apex and 3 mm from the outer margin of the forewing is a dirty yellowish slightly oval spot on each forewing, about 2 mm across the greatest diameter of the oval, which runs sideways. Along the

irregular outer margin of the bottom wing and paralleling it is a thin black line. Inside of this line is another such line, running parallel to the first, and following the irregular scollops of the margin of the wing. These two black lines are more or less ½ mm apart. Paralleling this pair of black lines, and about 2mm further inside, is a single black line, conforming to the scollops of the double line and ending off at the tornus of the lower wing. This is about 1mm in thickness.

The underside of this butterfly seems to be different from all others of the same family with two thick diagonal reddish lines on a greyish brown background. There is at the apex of the forewing one eyelet on each top wing placed exactly under the two dots of black that were described as being present at the apex of the top wing, on the upper side. This eyelet is 1mm across and encircled by a drab yellowish ring. Leading downwards from this, is a thick reddish brown marking, which stops at about 4mm before reaching the tornus of the forewing. At the bottom of this is a creamish coloured blotch which extends all the way to the tornus. On the bottom wing arranged in an arc, and about 4 mm from the outer margin, are 5 eyelets, all of which are ringed by a circle of golden brown, with all the centres of a velvety black colour. Also near the inner margin of the lower wing, where the outermost diagonal marking ends, is a small eyelet close to the inner margin of the wing itself. This eyelet has a silver blue small dot in the centre. Of the five ringlets on the lower wing, only the bottommost one has one or two silvery blue dots in the centre. All the others, including the small one at the apex of the forewing, are devoid of the silvery dots.

A new record of the Large White Night

By Edward Rooks

21 Oleander Row, Victoria Gardens, Diego Martin.

APPROPRIATELY, the morning of Sunday, November 21, 1976 opened like one large, white night. It was raining steadily, and the sky was so completely overcast, with a cloud ceiling of only about 500 feet, that it seemed almost certain that our planned hike would be called off. It was decided, however, that we would still try Mt. Catherine, Chaguaramas, and we arrived there in a totally saturated atmosphere.

Sometime after midday the rain stopped, but unfortunately so had my watch, and I was unable to tell the exact time. However, it was approximately 2.15 p.m., about two minutes walking distance from the summit of Mt. Catherine, that I came upon an astonishing find.

Descending from the summit, I noticed among the short saplings at the side of the path what had first appeared to be a common sight, a number of what I thought to be EUPTYCHIA HESIONE. But there was a pallid look about the butterflies that caught my eye, and I looked at them again, noticing their and other peculiarities, so I felt that I must capture one for closer observation.

I was not immediately certain, but I can now safely say that the captured specimen is the "Large White Night", EUPTYCHIA CALPURNIA. The only previous record of this butterfly was a small brood near St. Ann's Peak summit, St. Ann's Ridge, discovered by R. Dick in 1932 (as reported in "Butterflies of Trinidad & Tobago" by Malcolm Barcant, Page 171).

I will attempt to re-visit this apparent brood as soon as possible in order to get as much information on it as I can.