

Lepidoptera Notes 1 – 6

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I. On the larval foodplant of *Ascia menciae janeta* Dixey (Pieridae)..

I HAVE recorded *Ascia menciae janeta* Dixey as a common butterfly on Chacachacare Island, since on Jan. 15, 1980 several specimens were seen near the doctor's house on Rust's Bay and 20 or more along the road to the lighthouse (Cock 1981b). On Jan. 9, 1981 I accompanied the UWI Department of Zoology marine biology field course to the salt pond area on the south coast of Chacachacare and saw several specimens of *A. menciae*. I saw oviposition on a tree which Dr. C.D. Adams subsequently identified as *Capparis odoratissima* Jacq. (Capparidaceae). In Trinidad this plant is recorded only from Chacachacare, but in view of F.C. Urich's captures of *A. menciae* on Gaspar Grande (Urich 1977), it may well occur there too. In the flora of Trinidad and Tobago, Williams (1928) gives the distribution of *C. odoratissima* as St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Panama, Grenada, Venezuela and Colombia. This includes Venezuela, where *A. menciae janeta* occurs on the north coast. Although the subspecies *janeta* is not known from anywhere else, the nominate subspecies *mentiae* Ramsden is from Cuba where *C. odoratissima* does not occur, and probably the foodplant of *A. m. menciae* is some other species of *Capparis*.

II. On the foodplants of *Catonephile* spp. (Nymphalidae).

Both J.O. Boos and F.C. Urich have shown me the foodplant of the Grecian Shoemaker, *Catonephile numilia* Cram., and I have found larvae on several occasions on plants growing on the ridgetops of the Northern Range. Dr. Adams has identified this plant as *Alchornea triplinervia* (Spr.) (Euphorbiaceae), the only Trinidad species of this genus, and known from the Guyanas and Amazonia (Philcox 1979). Barcant (1970) gives the foodplant of *C. numilia* as fiddlewood, *Citharexylum fruticosum* (L.) (Verbenaceae) which is probably a mis-identification. Other foodplant records include *A. cordata*, *A. iricurana* and *Nectandra venulosa* (Lauraceae) in Brasil (Silva et al. 1968). I conclude that *C. fruticosum* is not a normal foodplant for *C. numilia*, which in Trinidad is probably restricted to *A. triplinervia*.

The Orange Banded Shoemaker, *C. acontius* L. which is recorded from the same foodplants in Brasil as *C. numilia* (Silva et al. 1968) has recently been discovered breeding on *A. triplinervia* in the Parrylands oilfield by S. Alston-Smith.

It is my experience that *C. numilia* is found in the northern half of Trinidad only, and I have not seen it any further south than Sangre Grande although Dr. V.C. Quesnel has shown me a male from Talparo (23. II. 1983). If *C. acontius* breeds on the same foodplant, yet is restricted to the south, it would be interesting to know what defines the separate ranges of these two species in Trinidad.

III. On the foodplants of *Actinote* spp. (Acraeidae) in Trinidad.

There seems to be a certain amount of confusion regarding the foodplants of the two species of *Actinote* in Trinidad. Kaye

(1921) states for the Small Lacewing, *A. pellenia* Hübn.: "Larvae on *Eupatorium odoratum* also on *Mikania scandens* (W. Büthn) *Eupatorium odoratum* (P.L. Guppy)" and for the Large Lacewing, *A. antea* Dbl.: "larva on *Ageratum* or *Euoatorium*." Barcant (1970) reduces this to *E. odoratum* as the foodplant for *A. pellenia* and omits any foodplant for *A. antea*.

In Trinidad, the normal foodplant for *A. pellenia* is *Austroeupatorium* (formerly *Eupatorium*) *inulaefolium* (the species with white flowers in September and October). It will not feed on *Chromolaena* (formerly *Eupatorium*) *odorata* (R.E. Crutwell pers. comm.) although it will sometimes feed on *Mikania micrantha* (own observations). *Mikania scandens* is a North American species that does not occur in Trinidad and was most probably misidentified for *M. micrantha*. The normal foodplant of *A. antea* is *M. vitifolia* (own observations); I have seen it on no other hostplants.

These observations are reliable only in Trinidad. For example *A. antea* will feed on *C. odorata* in Central America (Crutwell pers. comm.) and *A. pellenia* is recorded from other Compositae in Brasil (Silva et al 1968).

IV. New butterfly records from Chacachacare Island, including two new records for Trinidad.

On Jan. 7, 1982 on a visit to Chacachacare Island (by courtesy of Hans Boos), I caught 18 species of butterflies of which nine are additions to my list for the island (Cock 1981b). These are:— HESPERIIDAE: *Urbanus carmelita trebia* Möschler ♂; *Mylon pelopidas* Fabricius ♂; *Epargyreus socus chota* Evans ♂, ♀, others seen; *Chioides catillus* Cramer ♂; *Polgonus manueli* Bell & Comstock, sight record only; *Moeris striga strada* Evans ♂; PIERIDAE: *Leucidia exigua* Prittwitz ♀; LYCAENIDAE: *Tecla petaurister* Druce ♂; *T. cyphara* Hewitson ♂, ♀; *Leptotes cassius* Cramer ♂. All were taken on or near the summit by the lighthouse, on or around flowers of *Chromolaena odorata* (Christmas Bush).

Urbanus carmelita is a rare species in Trinidad, not listed by Kaye (1921, 1940), but recorded by Cock (1982a). *Thecla petaurister* is the species treated and illustrated as *Calycopis atrius* (H. — S.) by Barcant (1970), based on a mis-identification by Kaye (1921). *T. cyphara* is a new record for Trinidad and is not the species referred to by Barcant (1970) as *Calycopis cyphara nubes* (Druce), which is *T. nubes* Druce. The male *T. cyphara* differs from the male *T. nubes* in having more extensive and brighter orange colouring on the uppersurface of both wings, and the females differ in having slightly different wing shapes and *T. cyphara* having faint orange-red spots near the margin of the hindwing on the uppersurface.

S. Alston-Smith took another addition to the Trinidad list on Chacachacare in July 1981. He captured specimens of a small lycaenid which I have identified as *T. megacles* (Cramer) on flowers by the track to the coastguard building. These 11 additions bring the total for Chacachacare to 35, five of which do not occur elsewhere in Trinidad and Tobago. Since I saw several other species but could not positively identify them, the total for the island can doubtless be added to, e.g. a *Papilio* sp. probably *thoas nealces* R. & J. was seen.

Of the species previously recorded (Cock 1981b), *Ascia menciae janeta* was again common and conspicuous, a single male *Anteros carausius* Westwood was taken, but the two new Hesperiid species were not seen.

The checklist for Chacachacare Island (Cock 1981b) printed on page 25 of the 1981–1982 'Living World' needs correcting as follows:— taking the line commencing "Hesperiidae *Urbanus* . . ." as line 1, delete line 3; line 10 replace "faunalia" by "Felder,"; line 11 for "faunali" read "faunalia"; line 13 for "Carmer" read "Cramer."

V. New names for some Trinidad butterflies of the family Nymphalidae

The nymphalid butterflies of the genera related to *Phycodes* have been revised recently (Higgins 1981) with the result that there are several changes to be made to the Trinidad list:—

Tegosa similis Higgins — YELLOW HANKERCHIEF

This is a newly described species. The names *liriope* and *claudina* used in Barcant (1970) refer to two different species not found in Trinidad. The foodplant of this species is *Mikania micrantha* HBK (Compositae) and the larvae are gregarious (Cock 1982b). Higgins gives the range of this species as "Trinidad, St. Vincent, Panama, Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezuela."

Eresia clara Bates

Eresia clio (L.), the name used in Barcant (1970) for this species, is based on a widely used misidentification dating back to 1950; (*clio* (L.) is probably an Ithomiid). Since Higgins gives the range for this species as "South Mexico through Central and western South America to Peru and Bolivia, and in all the Amazon region including the Guyanas and southwards to western Matto Grosso," it seems likely that the single specimen recorded from Trinidad (Barcant 1970), if authentic, may have strayed from Guyana.

Castilia ofella (Hewitson)

This is simply *Eresia ofella* transferred to a new genus. The range is given as "Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Trinidad, Ecuador."

Janatella leucodesma (Felder & Felder) — HANKERCHIEF

Again this is a familiar species transferred to a new genus. The correct authorship should be noted. The range is "Trinidad, St. Vincent, Panama, Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezuela". It is curious to note that both *T. similis* and *J. leucodesma* are found in Trinidad and St. Vincent but not in Tobago or Grenada.

Anathanassa frisia (Poey)

Higgins records this species from "Cuba, Trinidad, Jamaica, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, Bahamas and probably on other islands, and USA (Texas, Florida: Key West)", but it is not included in Barcant (1970) or known to local collectors. Illustrations of this species can be found in the works of Riley (1975), Brown & Heineman (1972) and Lewis (1972). Collectors should watch out for this species, but I am very doubtful as to its occurrence in Trinidad. Perhaps the specimen(s) in question were from the town of Trinidad on the south coast of Cuba.

From an earlier revision of another section of Nymphalidae (Higgins 1960) another name change is necessary:—

Chlosyne lacinia saundersi (Doubleday) — LITTLE SOLDIER.

Saundersi — not *saundersii* as given by Kaye (1921) and Barcant (1970) — is a subspecies of the very widespread, polymorphic and variable species *C. lacinia* (Geyer). This species has gregarious larvae which feed on various Compositae, including *Parthenium hysterophorus* L.

VI. New Hesperiidae records from Trinidad

The following records are of species additional to those listed in Cock (1982a). The classification used by Evans (see Cock 1981c, 1982a for details and references) is given in brackets after the name, and this is followed by the number necessary for insertion into the checklist (Cock 1982a).

Elbella etna etna Evans 1951 (A2/15) list no. 4a.

I captured a female specimen of this fine species on the summit of Cumberland Hill in August 1981. Although this species is a member of the Pyrrhopyginae (dealt with in Cock 1981c), it closely resembles *Phocides pigmalion* Cram. and *P. distans* H — S of the Pyrginae which are covered in "The skipper butterflies of Trinidad. Part III." elsewhere in this issue. Apart from the features of the antennae which distinguish these two subfamilies — i.e. the club is almost entirely in the bent section in the Pyrrhopyginae, and the club bent at or beyond the thickest part in the Pyrginae — there are several minor differences in the markings which distinguish these three species. *Elbella etna* can be recognised by the reduction of the middle hyaline band of the forewing to a single quadrate spot in space 3. The specimen was determined by comparison with the collection of the British Museum (Natural History) (BMNH) where there are other specimens of the subspecies from French Guyana and the Amazon.

Autochton bipunctatus Gmelin 1790 (C16/10) list no. 63a.

Although this species was recorded by Kaye (1921), I suggested (Cock 1982a) that this record may have been a misidentification for *A. longipennis* Plötz. I have now seen two specimens captured by June and Floyd Preston — a female taken 6 km south of Siparia on the road to Quinam Bay in November 1981, and a male on the same road 5½ km south of Siparia in May 1982. These records confirm *A. bipunctatus* as a good Trinidad species.

Discophellus nicephorus Hewitson 1876 (D4/1) list no. 68a.

On top of the ridge between Arima Valley and Guanapo Valley there is a wide trace leading south from where the Lalaja South Road crosses the ridgetop. At times I have referred to this locality as the "Morne Bleu-Morne Brule ridge" (these being the peaks at either end of the ridge) and pinpointed my collection site as so many miles north or south of the Lalaja South Road; at other times I have referred to it as "Lalaja South Road, milestone 2" (this being approximately the point at which the road crosses the ridge), and sometimes I have simply referred to it as "Lalaja Ridge" (e.g. Cock 1982a). It is also known (at least to some of the inhabitants) as "Windy Blow" and recently a signpost has been erected referring to it as "Cooker Trace." For the sake of having a standard name for this excellent collecting locality, I propose to use "Lalaja Ridge" on the grounds of clarity and brevity.

This preamble enables me to state that at 19.00h on April 9, 1982, I captured a male *Discophellus nicephorus* on Lalaja Ridge. *Discophellus* spp. are large dusk-, or even night-, flying skippers which I have occasionally trapped at light (i.e. *D. ramusis* ♂, *D. euribates* 2♂), suggesting that the capture time is typical for this species. My specimen is almost devoid of spots, although the type has a few insignificant spots. The degree of spotting is variable in the BMNH series which includes specimens from Mexico to the Amazon.

Pellicia theon longa Evans 1953 (E21/7) list no. 87a.

This is a rare species of a taxonomically difficult genus, and until a male is taken in Trinidad, my record of a female taken in the Parrylands oilfield (Nov. 1980) must be slightly doubtful. The specimen was compared with the collection of the BMNH which contains specimens of this subspecies from Colombia (type locality), Panama and Venezuela.

Camptopleura auxo Möschler 1878 (F11/2) list no. 126a.

A single female specimen taken by June and Floyd Preston on the Arima-Blanchisseuse Road at milestone 10½ is a new record for Trinidad.

Vehilius vetula Mabille (J28/6) deleted.

This species recorded by Cock (1982a) is an error and should be deleted. The specimen in question, a female from Parrylands with no antennae is *Eutocus matildae vinda* Evans.

Panoquina panoquinoides panoquinoides Scudder (02/2) list no. 245a.

For three years I have had specimens of what I had thought

to be an undescribed species, but was uncertain to which genus it belonged. Initially, on the basis of the structure of the male genitalia, I considered them to belong to the genus *Phlebodes*, and recorded them as *Phlebodes* n. sp. (Cock 1981a). I now find that these specimens are of *Panoquina panoquinoides* Scudder and either belong to the nominate subspecies or merit a new subspecies name. For the present I put them in the nominate subspecies. My captures of the species are as follows:

- 2♂ Nariva Swamp, Manzanilla-Mayaro Road, milestone 46 track, 23.V.1979.
 4♂ 1♀ Same locality, 5.II.1980
 2♀ Same locality, 25.XI.1980
 1♂ Same locality, 19.VIII.1981
 1♂ Oropouche South Lagoon, by Southern Main Road, 8.IX. 1981
 1♀ Same locality 23.XII.1981
 4♂ 3♀ Caroni Swamp, nr. Cacandee Sluice, 20.II.1982
 3♂ 1♀ Same locality, 12.IV.1982

Recently I observed, and subsequently captured, a female of this species as it oviposited on the grass *Paspalum vaginatum* Sw. at milestone 39 on the Manzanilla-Mayaro Road (October 1982). Dr. Adams (pers. comm.) states that this grass is only found in brackish conditions near the coast. I conclude that all the capture localities listed above (as well as the two places I have caught this species in Tobago) fit this description, and that *P. vaginatum* is the normal foodplant of this species.

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