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Megeuptychia antonoe (Cramer) (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae: Satyrini), a New Butterfly for Trinidad, West Indies

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Megeuptychia antonoe (Cramer) (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae: Satyrini), a New Butterfly for Trinidad, West Indies

On 4 January, 2015, Charles De Gannes and I were recording butterflies in the Cats Hill / Inniss Field area in south Trinidad. The weather was generally good and the rain held off. I netted a fairly large, dark Satyrini butterfly, flying at about shoulder height amongst some bushes. I did not recognise the butterfly, and kept it for later identification.

When I looked through the Satyridae section in Bernard D'Abrera's *Neotropical Butterflies Volume V*, my specimen appeared to be *Megeuptychia antonoe* (Cramer). I sent images of my specimen to Matthew Cock, (CABI UK) who confirmed both the identification and that this was a new species record for Trinidad (Barcant 1970; Cock 2014). *Megeuptychia antonoe* has underside spotting similar to that of some other Trinidad Euptuchiini but is considerably larger than any other Trinidad species of this group (Fig. 1). The Warren *et al.* (2015) *Butterflies of America* website gives the range of this species as "Southern Mexico to Bolivia." Below are images of the specimen from Cats Hill.

I assume that this is an overlooked species rather than a vagrant or a recent arrival. Given that most of the Satyrini found in Trinidad are reasonably common and easily collected, at first it would seem strange that a species of this subfamily could have been overlooked for so long, especially as the Cats Hill area has been well studied by many entomologists, and members of the tribe normally

frequent low scrub, rarely visiting flowers but readily coming to rotting fruit. However, according to DeVries (1987), in Costa Rica *M. antonoe* is a canopy flier, rarely seen at ground level and not coming to rotting fruit at ground level. This perhaps explains why it has avoided discovery in Trinidad until now.

DeVries (1987) stated that the larvae of *M. antonoe* feed gregariously on *Calathea lutea* (Marantaceae). Working in western Costa Rica, Janzen and Hallwachs (2015) recorded it commonly from *C. lutea* and occasionally from *Pleiostachya pruinosa* (Marantaceae) and illustrate groups of the white caterpillars blending with the food plant leaf undersurface. *Calathea lutea* is common in lowland swampy areas of Trinidad (Meyer 1967) and frequently is seen along oilfield roads in swampy parts of Trinidad. It may be easier to locate the early stages than adults of this interesting addition to the entomofauna of Trinidad.

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Fig. 1. *Megeuptychia antonoe* upperside.



Fig. 2. *Megeuptychia antonoe* underside.

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