



Pieris sevanta janeta.

The re-appearance of *Pieris sevanta janeta*

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ON page 275 of Barcant's Book on the Butterflies of Trinidad & Tobago one reads from paragraph 4. "*Pieris sevanta janeta* (Dixey). Report by Kaye from the collection he took over from T. Birch, and labelled Tetron Bay, 30th December 1904. I have never seen a specimen from Trinidad."

For the benefit of the records, and for other collectors, this author would like to report that on the 1st of September 1973, he took five males and one female on the island of Gasparee which is just south of the north-west peninsular of Trinidad. It is truly amazing to note that after a span of some 68 years and 9 months of obscurity this butterfly has once again appeared. What is more amazing is the fact that the area in which these specimens were caught is the same as was reported by Birch way back in 1904.

DESCRIPTION (see figures)

This Pierid generally is the same size as *Phoebis sennae*, and

the same general shape, with a wing span of some 5 to 5¼ centimetres. A notable difference in the shape of the forewing is that in the *Pieris sevanta janeta* from the apex to the tornus is almost straight, and not slightly bulging outwards as is the case with the *Phoebis sennae*. The entire surface of the butterfly is very slightly greenish white with a faded blackish marking at the extreme tip of the apex. This blackish marking seems to vary somewhat amongst specimens as a few had markings so faint as to make them very difficult to observe. An extremely notable characteristic of this butterfly is the presence of velvety snow-white markings following the shape of the nervures of both the top and bottom wings. In the female this feature is absent, but only in the female is a minute blackish dot present roughly at the outer tips of the cells of the forewings.

In both males and females, the underside of the wings is whitish, with light yellowish colouring around the apex, whereas the bottom wings are almost completely pale yellow.

In flight, this butterfly can easily be mistaken for the male of *Appias drusilla*.