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**The Neotropical butterflies  
described by Dewitz in 1877  
(Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera)**

**Gerardo Lamas**

**Abstract**

Comments are given on the 15 Neotropical butterfly taxa described by Hermann DEWITZ in 1877.

**Zusammenfassung**

In dieser Arbeit werden 15 neotropische Schmetterlinge revidiert, die von DEWITZ 1877 beschrieben wurden.

Between 1877 and 1889, Hermann DEWITZ (1848-1890), who was Curator ("Custos") of Entomology at the Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, wrote seven papers and notes on Neotropical butterflies. Among them, two which appeared in 1877 (DEWITZ 1877a, 1877b), contain descriptions of new taxa, and are the subject of the present paper.

In those two contributions, DEWITZ described 15 new butterflies, nine which were accurately figured and well

described. In spite of this, at least three of the taxa he proposed have been ignored completely by subsequent authors, and others have been misidentified or disregarded as junior synonyms.

Recently, I have had the opportunity to examine the types of several of DEWITZ's taxa, kept at the Zoologisches Museum, Humboldt University, Berlin, and I wish to present here my conclusions about the 15 names proposed, as well as on an additional, unnamed, taxon.

1. *Pterourus cacicus* (LUCAS, 1852)

= *Papilio zaddachii* DEWITZ, 1877a: 85, pl. 2, fig. 1. Holotype ♀ ("Columbien"; WALLIS).

Although originally described as a separate species, different from *cacicus*, all subsequent authors (see references in D'ALMEIDA 1965) have regarded it as a female form of *cacicus*. ROTHSCHILD & JORDAN (1906) considered *cacicus* females as trimorphic: form "*cacicus*" is similar to the males, form "*zaddachii*" has a wide orange-red discal band on the forewing, and form "*nais*" has that same band bone-white.

*Pterourus cacicus* is a rare species in collections, and specimens are known spottily from along the Andes, between western Venezuela and eastern Perú (being found on both sides of the Andes in Colombia and Ecuador).

KÖNIG (1983, 1984) has described recently what he considers to be a male form of *cacicus* from Perú, with the "*zaddachii*" phenotype. On the other hand, GERSTNER and RACHELI (in KÖNIG 1984) suggest the male specimen discovered by KÖNIG may represent a hybrid between *cacicus* and *Pterourus euterpinus* (SALVIN & GODMAN, 1868). This would not be surprising if the hypothesis advanced by ROTHSCHILD & JORDAN (1906), maintaining that *cacicus* and *euterpinus* are closely related species, holds true; the parents of this supposed hybrid could then have been a male *euterpinus* and a female *cacicus* form "*zaddachii*".

According to D'ALMEIDA (1965), *cacicus* includes four subspecies: *c. cacicus*, known from western Venezuela and Colombia; *c. orientalis* (BOULLET & LECERF, 1912) from the upper Cauca Valley in western Colombia; *c. upanensis*

(TALBOT, 1929) from northeastern Ecuador; and *c. inca* (ROTHSCHILD & JORDAN, 1906) from eastern Perú. No comprehensive study has been done so far on the subspecific differentiation of *cacicus*, and some other subspecies might be recognised as well (ROTHSCHILD & JORDAN 1906, KÖNIG 1984). Due to the present state of uncertainty surrounding the status and subspecific composition of *cacicus*, it seems best to regard "*zaddachii*" as a (mimetic?) form of it.

2. *Heliconius antiochus salvinii* DEWITZ, 1877

= *Heliconius salvinii* DEWITZ, 1877a: 86. Syntypes (2♂♂, 1♀) ([Venezuela, Bolívar?], "Orinoco"; MORITZ).

This well-differentiated subspecies occurs in eastern Venezuela and Guyana.

3. *Callithomia hezia tridactyla* DEWITZ, 1877

= *Callithomia tridactyla* DEWITZ, 1877a: 86, pl. 2, fig. 2. Holotype ♂ [examined] ("Columbien, Antioquia"; WALLIS).

= *Callithomia hezia baccata* FOX, 1941.

This synonymy was established by MIELKE & BROWN (1979); the subspecies flies in the Magdalena Valley, Colombia.

4. *Godyris zavaleta petersii* (DEWITZ, 1877), stat. nov.

= *Ithomia petersii* DEWITZ, 1877a: 86, pl. 2, fig. 3. Holotype ♀ [examined] ("Columbien, Antioquia"; WALLIS).

This subspecies occurs in western Colombia.

5. *Sais rosalia virchowii* DEWITZ, 1877

= *Sais rosalia* variety *virchowii* DEWITZ, 1877a: 87, pl. 2, fig. 4. Holotype ♂ [examined] (Venezuela, [Carabobo], Puerto Cabello; VIRCHOW).

This is the subspecies inhabiting northern Venezuela.

6. *Gnathotrusia steinii* (DEWITZ, 1877), comb. nov.

= *Acraea steinii* DEWITZ, 1877a: 88. Holotype ♂ [examined]

- ("Columbien, Antioquia"; WALLIS).  
= *Acraea atrata* DEWITZ, 1877a: 88. Holotype ♂ [examined]  
("Columbien, Antioquia"; WALLIS).  
= *Eresia epione* GODMAN & SALVIN, 1878, **syn.nov.**  
= *Phyciodes styx* STAUDINGER, 1885, **syn.nov.**  
= *Phyciodes steinii* DEWITZ, 1888.  
= *Phyciodes atrata*: DEWITZ, 1888.  
= *Eresia callianthina* HALL, 1921, **syn.nov.**  
= *Phyciodes epione elenae* HALL, 1928, **syn.nov.**

The names *steinii* and *atrata* were completely ignored by all authors since their original description, even though DEWITZ cited them again in 1888, transferring them from *Acraea* FABRICIUS, 1807, to *Phyciodes* HÜBNER, [1819]. This happened in all probability because they were not cited in SEITZ (1907-1924), and the part of the Lepidoptera Catalogus where they should have been listed never was published.

*Gnathotrusia* HIGGINS, 1981, is believed to include two species, *mundina* (DRUCE, 1876) and what HIGGINS (1981) called *epione* (GODMAN & SALVIN, 1878). *Gnathotrusia steinii* (DEWITZ, 1877) is a senior synonym of *Eresia epione* GODMAN & SALVIN, 1878, and *Acraea atrata* DEWITZ, 1877, is a senior synonym of *Phyciodes styx* STAUDINGER, 1885.

*Gnathotrusia* was separated by HIGGINS (1981) from *Gnathotriche* C. & R. FELDER, 1862, on rather tenuous evidence; *Gnathotriche* is regarded also as including two species, *exclamationis* (KOLLAR, 1850) and *sodalis* STAUDINGER, 1885. All taxa of *Gnathotriche* and *Gnathotrusia* are rather rare in collections, and their relationships are poorly understood. It is possible, however, that no more than two congeneric species are involved: *exclamationis* and *sodalis* (found in northwestern Venezuela, Colombia and eastern Ecuador), probably including several subspecies; and *mundina* and *steinii* (distributed from northern Colombia to Bolivia, along the Andes), again with several subspecies.

Until more is known about this little and highly interesting group of Andean mimetic butterflies, it seems best to follow HIGGIN's arrangement, as shown in the above mentioned synonymy.

7. *Eueides procula kuenowii* DEWITZ, 1877, emend. et stat. nov.

= *Eueides kuenowii* DEWITZ, 1877a:89, pl.2, fig.5. Holotype ♂ ([Colombia, Magdalena], "Sierra Nevada de Sta. Martha"; TETENS).

= *Eueides edias umbratilis* RÖDER, 1927, syn.nov.

DEWITZ's name went ignored until now, because it was (wrongly) sunk as a junior synonym of *Eueides edias* HEWITSON, 1861, by SEITZ (1913). This subspecies is found only in northern Colombia.

8. *Polygonia haroldii* (DEWITZ, 1877)

= *Grapta haroldii* DEWITZ, 1877a:89, pl.2, fig.6. Lectotype ♂ [examined], here designated (México, [Hidalgo, Mineral del Monte]; EHRENBERG).

The original description was based on two male specimens; I designate here as Lectotype the specimen selected as such by C.F.DOS PASSOS (in litt.), lacking the left antenna and the abdomen (dissected for genital studies?), but otherwise in very good condition. This species is an endemic of central México.

9. *Adelpha melanthe wallisii* (DEWITZ, 1877), comb. et stat.nov.

= *Heterochroa wallisii* DEWITZ, 1877a:90. Holotype ♂ [not found] ("Columbien, Antioquia"; WALLIS).

= *Adelpha hypsenor* GODMAN & SALVIN, 1879, syn.nov.

This is another name which has gone unnoticed since its original proposal. Although the holotype was not found at Berlin (it may have become lost during World War II), the original description suffices to identify it as a senior synonym of *hypsenor*. The subspecies flies in western Colombia.

10. *Pandemos godmanii* DEWITZ, 1877

= *Pandemos godmanii* DEWITZ, 1877a:90, pl.2, fig.7. Holotype ♂ ([México], "Vera-Cruz"; DEPPE).

Nothing seems to be known about this species, and I have never seen a specimen of it.

11. *Ganyra josephina krugii* (DEWITZ, 1877)

= *Pieris josephina* variety *krugii* DEWITZ, 1877b: 235, pl. 1, fig. 3. Syntypes (6♂♂, 2♀♀ [1♂ examined]) ("Portorico, Südseite der Insel"; KRUG).

Found only in southwestern Puerto Rico (RILEY 1975).

12. *Eurema (Pyrisitia) portoricensis* (DEWITZ, 1877)

= *Terias citrina* variety *portoricensis* DEWITZ, 1877b: 237. Syntypes (3♂♂, 5♀♀) ("Portorico"; KRUG).

An endemic Puerto Rican species.

13. *Atlantea tulita* (DEWITZ, 1877)

= *Synchloë* [sic] *tulita* DEWITZ, 1877b: 238, pl. 1, fig. 4. Syntypes (♂♀) [not found] ("Portorica, Quebredella [= Quebradillas]"; KRUG).

Another Puerto Rican endemic species.

14. *Proteides mercurius pedro* (DEWITZ, 1877)

= *Goniloba idas* variety *pedro* DEWITZ, 1877b: 242. Syntypes (sex?) ("Portorico,"; KRUG).  
= *Eudamus gundlachi* PLÖTZ, 1881.

This subspecies is endemic to Puerto Rico.

15. *Hyaliris excelsa decumana* (GODMAN & SALVIN, 1879)

= *Ceratinia excelsa* var. DEWITZ, 1877a: 87. ("Costa Rica", SCHMELTZ - one specimen; Panamá, "Chiriquí", ex STAUDINGER - one specimen).

Had DEWITZ given any formal name to the specimens before him, it would have had priority over *decumana*. The subspecies occurs in Costa Rica and western Panamá.

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Prof.Dr.Gerardo LAMAS, Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional, Apartado 14-0434, Lima-14, Peru.

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