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**First record of the genus *Perisama* DOUBLEDAY, 1849
from Pantepui, Venezuela**

(Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae)

by

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received 1.IX.1999

Abstract: A female of uncertain specific affiliation, collected on the Auyan-Tepui, is described and illustrated. This Andean genus is here recorded for the first time from the Guyana Highlands (Pantepui).

Introduction

An illustrated monograph of the genus *Perisama* has recently been published by ATTAL & CROSSON-DU-CORMIER (1996). NEILD (1996) gives a comprehensive treatment of the species known to occur in Venezuela. However, neither of these authors lists *Perisama* from Pantepui. The specimen described here is a female taken during the famous multidisciplinary expedition of the Universidad Central de Venezuela to the Auyan-Tepui, in April 1956. Numerous subsequent expeditions to this and other table-top mountains have failed to secure any additional specimens.

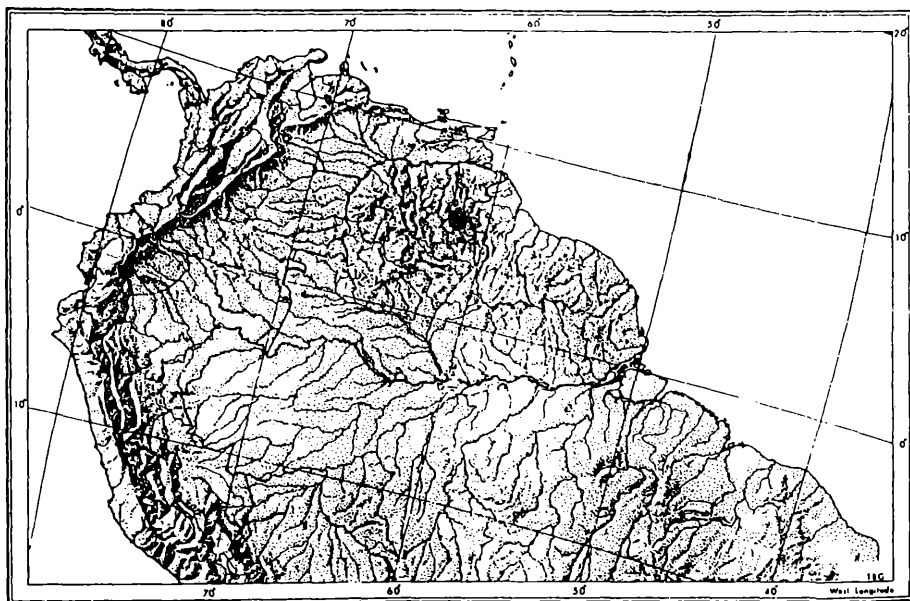
***Perisama* spec. (colour plate Xa, figs. 1, 2)**

♀: VENEZUELA, Bolivar State, Auyan-Tepui, “El Zanjón”, on top, 22.IV.1956, mt. 2000, leg. F. FERNÁNDEZ YÉPEZ & C. J. RESALES, in coll. Museo del Institute de Zoología Agrícola, Universidad Central de Venezuela (MIZA) (Maracay/Venezuela).

Description

Note: The unique female appears to have been soiled by some chemical agent, which partly bleached its wings, changing the black ground-colour into pale brown.

Female. Fore wing (FW) length 22.2 mm. Dorsally black (right FW bleached between cell and anal margin, and along external margin to tip); a short metallic blue green diagonal subapical streak and a broad, uninterrupted, postmedian band of same colour beginning at Radial vein and ending at Anal; base of wing with extensive blue green scaling reaching distally along Cubital vein and Anal to level of origin of Cu2, therefore remaining widely separated from blue green postmedian band. Fringe alternating black and white, except at tornus, which has uniform dark fringe. Hind wing (HW) black (now largely bleached pale brown); no red along costal margin; a narrow blue green submarginal band beginning at Rs and ending at 1A. FW ventrally black, apex broadly white with narrow black margin; no trace of black subapical transverse line; postdiscal band white between Costa and M1, hereafter blue green, fading out towards Cu2. Discal cell white in proximal third, bright red in distal two thirds, dense red



Map of northwestern South America showing location of Auyan-Tepui.

scaling spreading somewhat into Cu1-Cu2 and Cu2-1A spaces; blue green scales along dorsal-external edge of cell, between Radius and origin of M1. HW ventrally white with no red along costal margin; fringe white; a narrow, black, median transverse line, which is well defined between Costa and vein 1A, but considerably tapered and faint after passing point of origin of Cu1; five black postmedian spots in cells 2-6. There is no trace of a sixth spot between Cu2 and 1A. A submarginal black line, narrower than median line, beginning at Costa and ending beyond Cu2, exactly paralleling black marginal line of same width; the latter reaching to beyond 1A. Labial palpi black with scattered white scales above, white below; eyes hairy, antennae black above, speckled white below, club dark brown above, ferruginous below. Ventral parts of thorax and abdomen white, dorsal parts black; first pair of legs and femora of second and third pair white, tibiae and tarsi of second and third pair with brown and white scales. Male. unknown.

Discussion

This female specimen comes closest to *P. emma* OBERTHÜR, 1916, and *P. guerini* FELDER & FELDER, 1867. A female *P. emma* is figured in ATTAL & CROSSON-DU-CORMIER (1996). The female of *P. guerini* is said by these authors to be identical to the male, except for its more rounded wings. After NEILD (1996: 55), the female of *P. emma cormieri* NEILD, 1996 has the postmedian transverse band on FW dorsally "only interrupted by black in space 4" Unfortunately, the

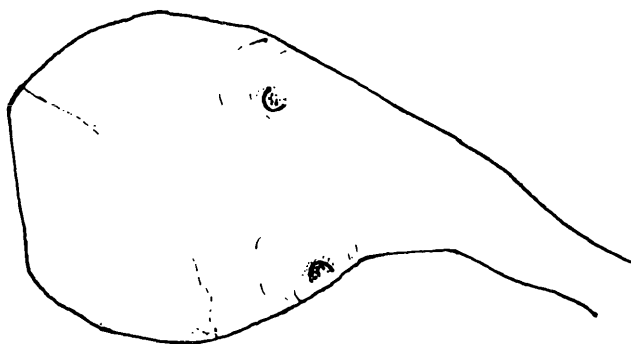


Fig. 1: bursa copulatrix of female *Perisama* spec., from Auyan-Tepui.

“other characters are [considered] unremarkable” and are not described, therefore precluding a thorough comparison with the pantepuyan female. Nevertheless, the latter differs from *P. emma* in having a continuous postmedian transverse band of regular width on FW dorsally; this same band is much better developed on FW ventrally than in (males of) either *emma* or *guerini*. The pantepuyan female lacks any red along costal margin on HW ventrally, and the black marginal lines on FW and HW ventrally are broader than in those species. The black spot in space 3 (i. e. between M3 and Cu1) is nearly aligned with the remaining spots, but clearly shifted towards the wing margin in (males of) both *emma* and *guerini*. *P. yeba* (HEWITSON, 1856) from the Colombian eastern Cordillera also lacks costal red on HW ventrally, but has much broader blue submarginal band on HW dorsally and lacks the black marginal line on HW ventrally, or this line is extremely narrow. On the other hand *P. yeba* has a well-defined black subapical line on FW ventrally.

The pantepuyan female described here may, but needs not, turn out to be a subspecies of either *P. emma*, *P. guerini*, or *P. yeba*, but more probably represents a new species. However, in order to avoid a placement which later may prove to be erroneous, I prefer not to name the present female until new material, especially male, becomes available. Judging from the comments given in NEILD (1996) even the question of whether *emma* is distinct from *guerini* seems not have been settled definitively.

The similar Andean genus *Mesotaenia* KIRBY, 1871 is also present in Pantepuy (NEILD, 1996; but see also DE MARMELS & CLAVIJO, 1998). The single female reported was made the type of a new subspecies, viz. *M. vaninka delafuenteae* NEILD (NEILD, 1996).

Acknowledgements

I feel indebted to Ing. Agron. QUINTIN ARIAS for taking the picture, as well as for extracting the bursa copulatrix of the female described herein. Dr. GERARDO LAMAS of the Universidad Nacional de San Marcos, Lima (Peru) constructively criticised a former version of the manuscript.

References

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- NEILD, A. F. E. (1996): The Butterflies of Venezuela, Part 1: Nymphalidae I (Limenitidinae, Apoturinae, Charaxinae). A Comprehensive Guide to the Identification of Adult Nymphalidae, Papilionidae and Pieridae. Meridian Publications, London, 144 pp. 32 pls.

Explanation of colour plate Xa (p. 397):

Fig. 1, 2: *Perisama* spec. ♀, from the Auyan-Tepui. 1 – upperside, 2 – underside.

1		
2		

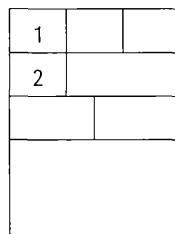
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Colour plate Xa

DE MARMELS, J.: First record of the genus *Perisama* from Pantepui, Venezuela (Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae). – *Atalanta* **30** (1/4): 155–158.

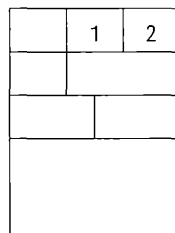
Fig. 1, 2: *Perisama* spec. ♀, from the Auyan-Tepui. 1 – upperside, 2 – underside.



Farbtafel Xb

EITSCHBERGER, U.: Die Genitalmorphologie des ♀ von *Hemaris (Mandarina) alaiana* (ROTHSCHILD & JORDAN, 1903) 2. Ergänzung zu „Die Schwärmer der westlichen Palaearktis“ (DANNER, EITSCHBERGER & SURHOLT, 1998) (Lepidoptera, Sphingidae). – *Atalanta* **30** (1/4): 159–161.

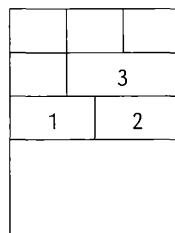
Abb. 1, 2: *Hemaris (Mandarina) alaiana* (ROTHSCHILD & JORDAN, 1903) ♀♀. Abb. 1: Ost-Kasachstan, Dschungarischer Alatau, oberer Lauf des Borochudsir, 1900 m NN, 7.VI.1997, V. LUKHTANOV leg., EMEM. Abb. 2: Ost-Kasachstan, Saur-Gebirge, 1400 m NN, Kendyklik, 14.VII. 1997, V. LUKHTANOV leg., EMEM.



Farbtafel Xc

EITSCHBERGER, U.: Zur Verbreitung einiger *Hyles*-Arten in China. 3. Ergänzung zu „Die Schwärmer der westlichen Palaearktis“ (DANNER, EITSCHBERGER & SURHOLT, 1998) (Lepidoptera, Sphingidae). *Atalanta* **30** (1/4): 162–168.

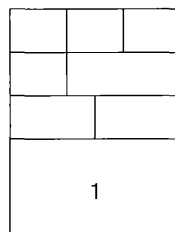
Abb. 1–3: Holotypus ♂ von „*Celerio euphorbiae* L. subsp. *euphorbiae sinensis* subsp. nov.“ Closs, 1917; in ZSM. Abb. 1: Oberseite, Abb. 2: Unterseite, Abb. 3: Etiketten.



Colour plate Xd

RACHELI, L. & T. RACHELI: A new subspecies of *Automeris larra* (WALKER, 1855) from western Amazonia (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae, Hemileucinae). – *Atalanta* **30** (1/4): 175–176.

Fig. 1: Holotype ♂ of *Automeris larra eitschbergeri* subsp. nov.: Ecuador, Napo, Las Minas, 23.VII.1996, G. & T. RACHELI leg., in coll. L. RACHELI (Rome). To be deposited in a public Museum.



Colour plate Xa, Farbtafel Xb, c, Colour plate Xd



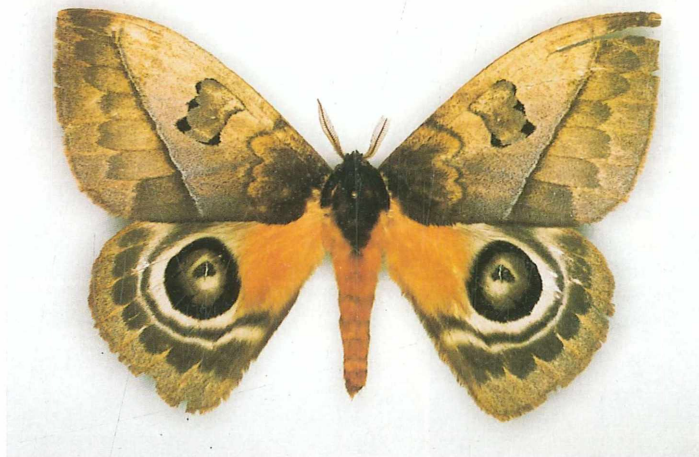
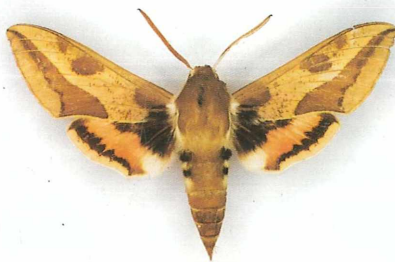
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104586

Holotypus
Cal. euphorbiae
ssp. sinensis
Zool. Staatssammlung München

Sammlung
Gehlen

Hymen
Klumpen
coll. A. Clodt

e. sinensis
Klumpen



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