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**A new subspecies of *Automeris larra* (WALKER, 1855)
from western Amazonia**

(Lepidoptera: Saturniidae, Hemileucinae)

by

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Introduction

Automeris larra was described by WALKER (1855) on three specimens from Brazil. The lectotype male from Brazil, ex coll. SAUNDERS in The Natural History Museum, London, was selected by LEMAIRE (1971).

According to LEMAIRE (1971), this species is a member of the *egeus*-group, which includes *egeus* (CRAMER, 1775), *larra* (WALKER, 1855), *boops* (FELDER & ROGENHOFER, 1874), *postalbida* SCHAUS, 1900 and *niepelti* DRAUDT, 1929.

Both *egeus* and *larra* are Guiano-Amazonian species while *boops* is an eastern Andean species (distributed in Ecuador, Peru and possibly also in Colombia) with extension of the range to north central Venezuela. *A. postalbida* is distributed from Costa Rica to Ecuador on the western slope of the Andes, while *niepelti* is an endemism of western Colombia.

A. larra is a widespread species reported by LEMAIRE (1971) from Brazil, French Guyana, Venezuela, western Colombia (which might be an error), Peru and Bolivia. It has recently been reported also from Ecuador by RACHELI & RACHELI (1997).

Following researches in Peru and Ecuador, lowland western Amazonian populations of *A. larra* were found taxonomically different from those of eastern Amazonia.

A. larra eitschbergeri ssp. nov. is therefore herein described.

Automeris larra eitschbergeri subsp. nov.

Holotype ♂ (colour plate Xd, fig. 1): Ecuador, Napo, Las Minas, 23.VII.1996, G. & T. RACHELI leg., in coll. L. RACHELI (Rome). To be deposited in a public Museum.

Paratypes 4 ♂♂: 1 ♂, Peru, Loreto, Rio Corrientes, Pavayacu, 250 m, 12.V.1995, M. CALLEGARI leg.; 1 ♂, same data, 10.VII.1995; 1 ♂, Peru, Loreto, Rio Tahuayo, S. Cruz, IV.1995, M. CALLEGARI leg.; 1 ♂, Ecuador, Napo, Pununo, 500 m, 7.II.1997, O. VELASTEGUI leg. All the specimens are in coll. L. RACHELI.

Description of the holotype

Forewing length: 58 mm. Antennae brownish. Head and thorax brown. Abdomen orange on the upperside, brown on the underside.

Upperside. Forewings: the ground colour is lighter brown in the submarginal area and along the costa in the discal and postdiscal areas. The basal area and the inner margin in the discal and postdiscal areas are darker brown. A double line runs along the discal area separating the postdiscal area. On the postdiscal side, the colour of the line is brown. The colour on the

discal area is clearer, nearly silver. An irregular brown line separates the basal area from the discal area. The discal cell is delimited by a brown irregular line. Four black points are evident along the limits of the discal cell.

Hindwings: The basal area is orange, the same colour of the abdomen. A semicircled brown line from the costa to the inner margin separates the discal from the postdiscal area. An ocellus is present in the middle of the wing. It is delimited by a black line. In the middle of the withish ocellus, there is a little black spot with a white line in the center. The discal area is whitish, the postdiscal area is brown while the submarginal area is light brown.

Underside. Forewings: The ground colour is light brown. The outer margin is slightly darker. There is a black line (the submarginal band) from the costa to the inner margin. The discal cell is black with a little white point in the middle.

Hindwings: The ground colour as in the forewings but becomes orange in the basal area. The discal area is separated from the submarginal area by a black line. The "pupille ocellaire" is white, circled by black.

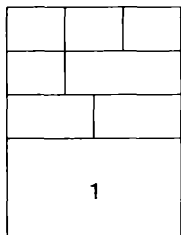
Paratypes do not differ from the holotype. Only the black points surrounding the discal cell of the forewings are more or less marked and they may vary to some extent.

References

- LEMAIRE, C. (1971): Revision du genre *Automeris* HÜBNER et des genres voisins. Biogeographie, Ethologie, Morphologie, Taxonomie (Lep. Attacidae). Mem. Mus. nat. Hist. nat. (N.S.), ser. A, Zool., **68**: 1-232, Fig. 1-132, pls. 1-29.
- RACHELI, L. & T. RACHELI (1997): Further notes on the Saturniidae of Ecuador (Lepidoptera, Saturniidae). - Nachr. entomol. Ver. Apollo, N.F., **18** (2-3): 173-180.
- WALKER, F. (1855): List of the specimens of Lepidopterous insects in the collection of the British Museum. Part VI. Lepidoptera Heterocera. - Order of the Trustees, London.

Explanation of colour plate Xd (p. 397):

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.



addresses of the authors

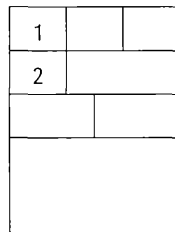
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Colour plate Xa

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

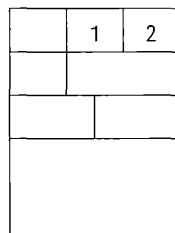
Fig. 1, 2: *Perisama* spec. ♀, from the Auyan-Tepui. 1 – upperside, 2 – underside.



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.

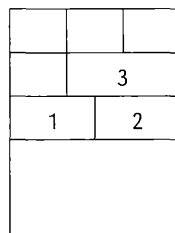
Abb. 1, 2: *Hemaris (Mandarina) alaiana* (ROTHSCHILD & JORDAN, 1903) ♀♀. Abb. 1: Ost-Kasachstan, Dschungarischer Alatau, oberer Lauf des Borochudsir, 1900 m NN, 7.VI.1997, V. LUKHTANOV leg., EMEM. Abb. 2: Ost-Kasachstan, Saur-Gebirge, 1400 m NN, Kendyklik, 14.VII. 1997, V. LUKHTANOV leg., EMEM.



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.

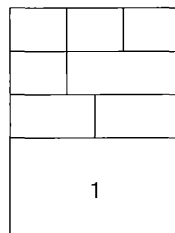
Abb. 1–3: Holotypus ♂ von „*Celerio euphorbiae* L. subsp. *euphorbiae sinensis* subsp. nov.“ Closs, 1917; in ZSM. Abb. 1: Oberseite, Abb. 2: Unterseite, Abb. 3: Etiketten.



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



Box
104586

Holotypus
Cal. euphorbiae
sp. *sinensis*
Zool. Staatssammlung München

Sammlung
Gehlen

Hymym
(Klumpen)
coll. A. Clun

e. sinensis
Klump

