

Notes on some little known butterflies from Southwestern China-1

(Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae & Lycaenidae)

by

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Abstract: Seven little known butterfly taxa, collected from southwestern China, are discussed. Five of them are confirmed as new records to the Chinese fauna, viz. *Euthalia narayana dongvanensis* YOKOCHI, 2011, *Mycalesis nicotia* WESTWOOD, [1850], *Ypthima dohertyi khasia* ELIOT, 1967, *Tajuria albiplaga* DE NICÉVILLE, 1887 and *Orthomiella rantaizana roorea* (FRUHSTORFER, 1918). Besides these new records, *Euthalia takeru* YOKOCHI, 2012 is discovered from Tengchong County, Yunnan Province and *Ypthima lihongxingi* HUANG & WU, 2003 is rediscovered from Guizhou Province. Adult photos of all the species mentioned are provided. The ♂ genitalia photos of *Euthalia takeru* YOKOCHI and *Ypthima lihongxingi* HUANG & WU are also provided.

Introduction: Faunistic investigations on butterflies of Yunnan Province and Guizhou Province are being undertaken by the authors and their friends from 2016. As a result, some interesting discoveries are selected to present herein. Most of the species recorded as new to Chinese fauna in this paper are commonly seen in adjacent regions, suggesting that the butterfly fauna in some remote areas in southwestern China is still poorly known and more surveys are urgently expected.

Abbreviations

CHSY: Collection of Si-yao Huang

CCZ: Collection of Zhou Chang

CHH: Collection of Hao Huang

TL: Type locality

Nymphalidae

Euthalia narayana dongvanensis YOKOCHI, 2011 [New record for China (figs 1-2).]

Bull. Kitakyushu Mus. Nat. Hist. Hum. Hist., Ser. A, **9**: 23, figs 138, 268-269; TL: Dong Van, Ha Giang Prov., Vietnam.

Material: 1♂ (CHSY), Malipo County, Wenshan, Yunnan, China, 10.VIII.2016, leg. BEN-FU MIU.

Notes: According to the revision of the genus *Euthalia* (YOKOCHI, 2011), *E. narayana* GROSE-SMITH & KIRBY, 1891 is raised to full species rank and divided into four subspecies: *narayana* GROSE-SMITH & KIRBY, 1891 (TL: Ruby Mines, Mandalay, Myanmar) distributed in North and Northeast India, N. Myanmar, N. Thailand, N. Laos and S. Yunnan; *yanagisawai* SUGIYAMA, 1996 (TL: Xichang, Sichuan) distributed in S. Sichuan, Yunnan and Fujian; *dongvanensis* YOKOCHI, 2011 (TL: Dong Van, Ha Giang Prov., Vietnam) distributed in N. Vietnam, and *dalatensis* YOKOCHI, 2011 (TL: Ta Nung, near Dalat, Lam Dong, Vietnam) distributed in S. Vietnam. The single ♂ collected in Wenshan agrees with the characters of *E. n. dongvanensis* YOKOCHI. The individuals figured in LANG (2012: 228, pl. 21: 5-6, from Xishuang Banna) should also be attributed to this subspecies judging from the adult photos, thus the distribution range of *E. n. narayana* GROSE-SMITH & KIRBY should exclude S. Yunnan.

Euthalia takeru YOKOCHI, 2012 (figs 3-4, 23)

Bull. Kitakyushu Mus. Nat. Hist. Hum. Hist., Ser. A, **10**: 13, figs 348, 389, 444-445; TL: Chudu Razi, E. Kachin, Myanmar.

Material: 1♂ (CHSY), Zizhi Village, Tengchong, Baoshan, Yunnan, China, 7. VII. 2016, leg. SI-YAO HUANG.

Notes: Kodate (2016) first recorded this species in China near Gongshan County with Daisuke Tamai as the collector. The first author encountered this species in Tengchong at about 230 km south of Gongshan, suggesting that this species may distribute all along the west slope of Gaoligong Mountains. The shape as well as the tip of the valva is similar to that of the individual collected in Myanmar figured by YOKOCHI (2012: fig. 389).

Mycalesis nicotia WESTWOOD, [1850] [New record of China (figs. 5-8).]

Gen. Diurn. Lep. (2): 394, pl. 66: 4; TL: East India.

Material: 1♂ (CHSY), Pingbian, Honghe, Yunnan, China, 26.IV.2016, leg. ZHOU CHANG; 1♀ (CHSY), Pingbian, Honghe, Yunnan, China, 18.V.2016, leg. ZHOU CHANG; 1♂ (CCZ), Xiniuping, Pu'er, Yunnan, China, 13.IV.2018, leg. ZHOU CHANG.

Notes: With the help of Dr. YOSHINOBU UÉMURA, the first author confirms the presence of this species in Chinese fauna. Judging from the external feature, the Chinese population should be included in the nominate subspecies.

Ypthima dohertyi khasia ELIOT, 1967 [New record of China (figs 9-10).]

Entomologist **100** (1246): 58, text figure q, fig. 1; TL: Assam, Khasia.

Material: 2♀♀ (CHSY), Baihualin, Baoshan, Yunnan, China, 26.V.2016, leg. ZHOU CHANG.

Notes: With the help of Dr. YOSHINOBU UÉMURA, the first author confirms this species as a new record to the Chinese fauna. The nominate subspecies is recorded in Pu'er, South Yunnan by Dr. SONG-YUN LANG (pers. comm.).

Ypthima lihongxingi HUANG & WU, 2003 (figs. 11-12, 24)

Neue. Ent. Nachr. **55**: 120, figs. 13, 15-17, pl. 10: 6; TL: Xingdoushan, Lichuan, Hubei.

Material: 2♂♂ (CHSY), Wudang, Guiyang, Guizhou, China, 14.VIII.2016, leg. MING-ZHI ZHAO.

Notes: This is the second record of this little known species since its publication. The ♂♂ genitalia examined here, are identical to that in the original description.

Lycaenidae

Tajuria albiplaga DE NICÉVILLE, 1887 [New record of China (figs 13-16).]

Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. **1887** (3): 459, pl. 39, figs. 1-2; TL: Sikkim.

Material: 1 ♂ (CHSY), Chashan, Simao, Pu'er, Yunnan, China, 21.II.2017, leg. SI-YAO HUANG; 1 ♀ (CHH), Chashan, Simao, Pu'er, Yunnan, China, 25. II. 2017, leg. SI-YAO HUANG; 1 ♀ (CCZ), Laiyanghe, Pu'er, Yunnan, China, 24.II.2017, leg. ZHOU CHANG; 1 ♂ (CCZ), Chashan, Simao, Pu'er, Yunnan, China, 25.II.2018, leg. SI-YAO HUANG; 1 ♀ (CCZ), Chashan, Simao Town, Pu'er, Yunnan, China, 25.II.2018, leg. ZHOU CHANG.

Notes: This is the first record of this species for the Chinese fauna. Judging from external feature, the Chinese population should be included in the nominate subspecies.

Orthomiella rantaizana rovoreae (FRUHSTORFER, 1918) [New record of China (figs 17-22).]

Una pontis rovoreae FRUHSTORFER, 1918, Tijdschr. Ent. **61** (1/2): 55, pl. 6: 9; TL: Chin Hills, Burma and North Burma.

Material: 5 ♂♂ (CHSY), Datang Village, Tengchong, Baoshan, Yunnan, China, 28.II.2017, leg. SI-YAO HUANG; 2 ♂♂ (CCZ), Yan-jiazhuang, Kunming, Yunnan, China, 13.III.2016, leg. ZHOU CHANG.

Notes: Although HUANG (2003) recorded this taxon from Nujiang Valley in various localities, he actually misidentified a taxon related to *Orthomiella pontis khama* SUGIYAMA, 2004, not the true *rovoreae* (FRUHST.) (HAO HUANG pers. comm.). Thus this is the first reliable record of this taxon from China. The records of *Orthomiella rantaizana* (WILEMAN, 1910) from other parts of mainland China besides Yunnan actually all belong to another little known species, *Orthomiella lucida* FORSTER, 1942 (TL: Kuatun, Fukien, China) and have nothing to do with *Orthomiella rantaizana* (WILEMAN). *Orthomiella lucida* FORSTER can be easily distinguished from *O. rantaizana* (WILEMAN) in having the metallic lustre portion on hindwing upperside being shining sky blue and not dull purple as in *O. rantaizana* (WILEMAN).

The taxon *putaoica* TYTLER, 1926, described on the base of 2 ♂♂ from Putao, N. E. Myanmar, is also related to *O. rantaizana rovoreae* (FRUHST.). TYTLER (1926) stated the difference between *putaoica* and *rovoreae* as “having the anterior third only of the hindwing bright shining light purple” and “the band on the underside of forewing is quite distinct and not obsolescent as in *rovoreae* and the band on the hind wing is also broad and distinct and not narrow as in *rovoreae*”. Judging from the description and figure of *putaoica* TYTLER, this taxon is most probably conspecific with *O. rantaizana rovoreae* (FRUHST.) - just as the same view suggested by INAYOSHI in his website (<http://yutaka.it-n.jp/lyc4/81410001.html/> - Check List of Butterflies in Indichina, chiefly from Tahailand, Laos & Vietnam) for the difference stated by TYTLER may just due to individual variation. In field survey in Kunming conducted by the second author, an individual possessing the characters similar to *putaoica* (figs. 17-18) were encountered together with typical *rovoreae* (figs. 19-20) in the same habitat. Although no intermediate individual has been collected, the unusual wide postmedian band on underside of both wings suggesting this individual most likely to be a variant. Thus the taxon *putaoica* TYTLER unlikely seems to be a distinct species.

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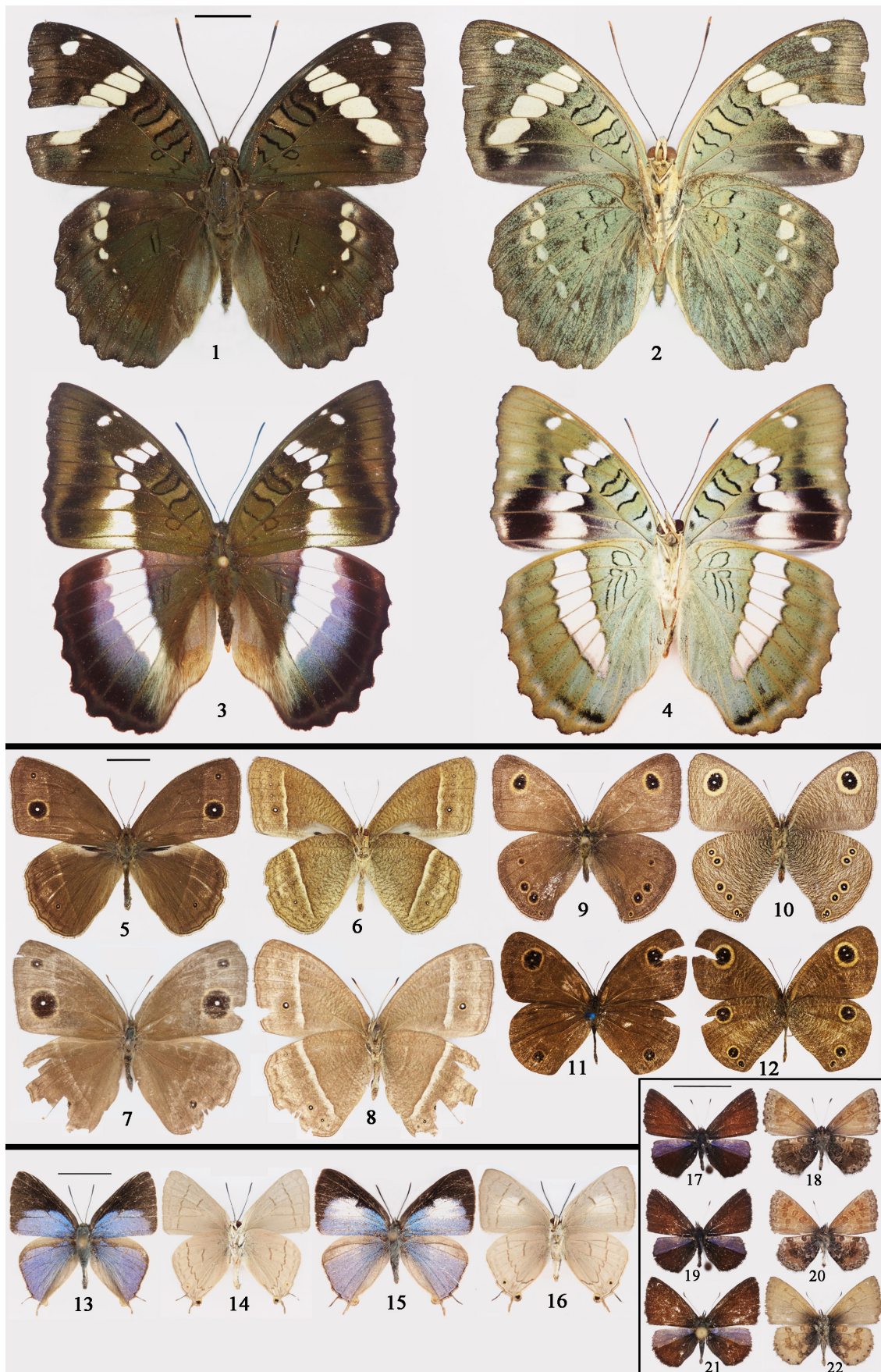


Fig. 1, 2: *Euthalia narayana dongvanensis* YOKOCHI, 2011, ♂, Malipo County, Wenshan.
 Fig. 3, 4: *Euthalia takeru* YOKOCHI, 2012, ♂, Zizhi Village, Tengchong.
 Fig. 5-8: *Mycalesis nicotia* WESTWOOD, [1850], (5, 6) ♂, (7, 8) ♀, Pingbian, Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture.
 Fig. 9, 10: *Ypthima dohertyi khasia* ELIOT, 1967, ♂, Baihualin, Baoshan.
 Fig. 11, 123: *Ypthima lihongxingi* HUANG & WU, 2003, ♂, Wudang District, Guiyang.
 Fig. 13-16: *Tajuria albiplaga* DE NICÉVILLE, 1887, (13, 14) ♂, (15, 16) ♀, Chashan, Simao, Pu'er.
 Fig. 17-20: *Orthomiella rantaizana rovorea* (FRUHSTORFER, 1918), ♂♂, Yanjiazhuang, Kunming.
 Fig. 21, 22: *Orthomiella rantaizana rovorea* (FRUHSTORFER, 1918), ♂, Datang Village, Tengchong. Scale bar = 1cm.



Fig. 23: ♂ genitalia of *Euthalia takeru* YOKOCHI, 2012, Zizhi Village, Tengchong.

Fig. 24: ♂ genitalia of *Ypthima lihongxingi* HUANG & WU, 2003, Wudang District, Guiyang.

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