



## A new iridescent “elfin” butterfly species of *Podanotum* (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Eumaeini) from the Colombian Andes

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### Abstract

A new butterfly species, *Podanotum pulsar* Prieto & Rodríguez **n. sp.** is described from the high Andes of Colombia. We present a brief discussion on its systematic placement and on adult ecology. Adult specimens and the genitalia of the male and female are illustrated and compared with the most closely related species *Podanotum glorissimum* Bálint & Wojtusiak, according to morphological characters.

**Key words:** Belmira, Paramo, Biodiversity, Antioquia, cloud forest

### Resumen

Se describe una nueva especie de mariposa de los altos andes de Colombia, *Podanotum pulsar* Prieto & Rodríguez **n. sp.** Presentamos una breve discusión de su posición sistemática dentro del género. Especímenes adultos y genitalias masculinas y femeninas son ilustrados y comparados con la especie mas cercanamente relacionada *Podanotum glorissimum* Bálint & Wojtusiak.

**Key words:** Belmira, Páramo, Biodiversidad, Antioquia, bosque nublado

### Introduction

The Eumaeini have diversified extensively in montane habitats, in contrast to the similarly diverse Riodinidae, which diversified mainly in the lowlands (Robbins 2004; Robbins & Busby 2008). A significant number of new Eumaeine species continue to be discovered in high mountains and cloud forest habitats in the Andes (e.g. Hall *et al.* 2005; Robbins & Busby 2008; Prieto 2010) mostly when isolated high massifs are intensively surveyed (e.g. Prieto & Rodríguez 2007; Prieto & Bálint 2007; Prieto 2011).

*Podanotum* Torres & Johnson, 1996 (Torres *et al.* 1996) is a genus of small high Andean butterfly species distributed from Northern Venezuela to Peru at elevations from 2000 to 3800 m. Although male or female characters are not yet well documented and relationships of the species are not yet supported for a phylogenetic analysis, ten described species have been provisionally placed in *Podanotum* on basis of genitalia and wing pattern (Robbins 2004). The following four *Podanotum* species has been recorded or described from Colombia: *P. metallicus* Torres & Johnson; *P. paramosa* (Constantino & Salazar); *P. andrewneildi* (Johnson & Adams) and *P. salaeides* (Draudt). The species described below is placed in *Podanotum* because their dorsal wing surfaces are brilliant “tin foil” green or blue-green, males lack scent brands and ventral surfaces are gray. This genus was placed within the *Micandra* section of Eumaeini by Robbins (2004).

### Methods

We used terminology for genitalia and wing pattern morphology from Eliot (1973) and Robbins (1991). The dissections of the genitalia were made using standard techniques for Lepidoptera, macerating the abdomen in a hot