Five new *Penaincisalia* species (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Eumaeini) from the Andes of southern Ecuador and northern Peru

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Abstract

Five new species of *Penaincisalia* (Lycaenidae: Eumaeini) are described from the high Andes of southern Ecuador and northern Peru: *P. caeruleanota* Hall & Willmott **n. sp.**, *P. juliae* Hall & Willmott **n. sp.**, *P. andreae* Busby & Hall **n. sp.**, *P. libertada* Hall **n. sp.** and *P. ismaeli* Busby & Hall **n. sp.**. We present brief discussions on their systematic placement within the genus and on their adult ecology.

Key words: Andes, cloud forest, Ecuador, hilltopping, *Penaincisalia*, Peru

Introduction

The lycaenid butterfly fauna of the high Andes remained very poorly known until recently. Entire lineages went undiscovered and/or undescribed for centuries, and museums possessed only a small fraction of the region's true lycaenid species diversity, as indeed do most to this day. These factors contributed to the widespread but mistaken belief that the high Andean lycaenid fauna was genuinely depauperate (Shapiro, 1994).

Johnson (1990, 1992) was the first author since Draudt (1919–21) to substantively treat this group of Neotropical lycaenids, which he dubbed "elfins". He described dozens of new genera and species, using predominantly historical museum material, and placed them in his "infratribe Thecloxurina". However, given the unavailability at the time of sufficient well-labeled material, sometimes careless work practices (Robbins & Nicolay, 1999, 2002; Robbins & Lamas, 2002), and a philosophy of naming and treating what most people would regard as slight variants as different species (Johnson, 2001), we find the