



Four new symmachiine taxa from the eastern Andes of Peru and Ecuador (Lepidoptera: Riodinidae)

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Abstract

Four new riodinid taxa in the tribe Symmachiini are described from wet forest habitats between 300 and 1700 m in the eastern Andes of Peru and Ecuador: *Mesene leucogyna leucogyna*, *Mesene leucogyna notia*, *Mesene margaretta anartia* and *Symmachia pena*. Discussions on their systematic placement are presented. The following taxonomic changes are proposed: *Mesene bigemmis* Stichel is removed from synonymy with *Mesene nepticula stigmosa* Stichel and reinstated as a species (**rev. stat.**); and *Mesene oriens* Butler is synonymized with *Mesene margaretta* (White) (**n. syn.**).

Key words: Andes, Ecuador, montane forest, morphology, Peru, taxonomy

Introduction

Montane and premontane forest habitats throughout the tropical Andes continue to yield significant numbers of undescribed butterfly taxa, particularly in the family Riodinidae (Salazar & Constantino, 1993; Hall & Willmott, 1995a,b,c, 1996, 1998a,b,c, 2006; Callaghan & Salazar, 1997; Callaghan, 1999; Hall & Harvey, 2001, 2006; Hall & Lamas, 2001, 2004; Hall & Callaghan, 2003; Hall, 2005a,b). The purpose of this paper is to describe four new riodinid taxa, two species and two subspecies, in the symmachiine genera *Mesene* Doubleday, 1847, and *Symmachia* Hübner, [1819], from the eastern Andes of Peru and Ecuador. As well as providing names for the butterfly faunal checklists of Ecuador and Peru that each of us is involved in compiling, these descriptions further our knowledge of morphological diversity in the Symmachiini, a tribe that is becoming one of the better studied in the subfamily Riodininae (e.g. Hall & Willmott, 1996; Hall & Harvey, 2002).

Descriptions

Mesene leucogyna Hall & Lamas, new species

(Figs. 1A,B; 5; 9)

Description: Male: Forewing length 13 mm. Forewing costa approximately straight, distal margin slightly convex, four forewing radial veins; hindwing round. *Dorsal surface:* Ground color of both wings dark orange; forewing with narrow black costal and distal margins, broadening at apex; hindwing with narrow black costal, distal and anal margins; fringe on both wings entirely black. *Ventral surface:* Ground color of both wings dirty white, with a hint of very pale orange from dorsal surface, becoming grayish along anal margin of hindwing; forewing with very broad dark brown margins distally and along costa, including upper half of discal cell;