



Descriptions of four new Mexican riordinids (Lepidoptera: Riordinidae)

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Abstract

Four new riordinid taxa from Mexico are described as follows: *Euselasia pontasis* **sp. nov.**, *Euselasia aurantiacus aurum* **ssp. nov.**, *Exoplisia azuleja* **sp. nov.**, *Synargis nymphidioides septentrionalis* **ssp. nov.** The status of *Necyria larunda* Godman & Salvin, 1885, is reviewed. Habitats and distributional ranges are described for each taxon.

Key words: Panama, Central America, genitalia, systematics, butterflies, biogeography

Resumen

Se describen cuatro taxones nuevos de riordinidos mexicanos como sigue: *Euselasia pontasis* **sp. nov.**, *Euselasia aurantiacus aurum* **ssp. nov.**, *Exoplisia azuleja* **sp. nov.**, *Synargis nymphidioides septentrionalis* **ssp. nov.** También se revisa el status taxonómico de *Necyria larunda* Godman & Salvin, 1885. Para cada taxón se gráfica su distribución y se describe su hábitat.

Introduction

The Lepidoptera fauna of Mexico has long been celebrated for its diversity and high rates of endemism (Llorente-Bousquets & Luis-Martínez, 1993; Luis-Martínez *et al.*, 2003). Although the country cannot compare with the Amazon/Orinoco basins in number of species, its unique geography has led to high rates of endemism. In the last 25 years, the staff of the Museo de Zoología (MZFC) has collected in various geographic areas of Mexico, especially along altitudinal transects in some of the principal physiographic regions in the south and west of the country, as well as by political units (States); see Raguso & Llorente-Bousquets (1991), Vargas *et al.* (1994, 1996, 1999), Luis-Martínez *et al.* (1991, 1996), Warren *et al.* (1998), and Llorente-Bousquets *et al.* (2004). In addition, MZFC researchers have examined a dozen collections in the United States and Mexico to form a data base of more than 500,000 specimens (Luis-Martínez *et al.* 2000, 2003, 2005). One of the results of these collections and examinations has been the discovery of new taxa in several families of Papilionoidea (see Llorente-Bousquets (1984), Llorente-Bousquets & Luis-Martínez (1988, 1992), Llorente-Bousquets *et al.* (1993 a,b)).

In this paper, four new taxa of the family Riordinidae are described. Two of these belong to the genus *Euselasia* Hubner, 1819 and one each in *Exoplisia* Godman & Salvin, 1886 and *Synargis* Hubner, 1819. These add to the lists recently published by Callaghan & Lamas (2004) and Llorente-Bousquets *et al.* (2006) of Mexican Riordinidae. This paper is part of a project to catalogue and study the biogeography of Mexican diurnal Lepidoptera (Llorente-Bousquets *et al.*, 2006).