



A review of the genus *Brassolis* Fabricius in Colombia and Ecuador with description of two new taxa (Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae)

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Abstract

The nymphalid genus *Brassolis* in Ecuador and Colombia is reviewed. One subspecies (*granadensis*) is raised to species status, one subspecies (*sophorae philomela*) is synonymised (with *sophorae luridus*) and two new subspecies (*daisye* and *wallengreni*) of *isthmia* are described. As a result of the refined taxonomy, a clearer pattern of the distribution of *Brassolis* in these two countries emerges.

Key words: *granadensis*, *luridus*, *philomela*, *daisye*, *wallengreni*, *haenschi*, lectotype

Introduction

Currently, the number of species of *Brassolis* occurring in Ecuador and Colombia varies according to author from three (*isthmia* Bates, *sophorae* (Linnaeus) and *haenschi* Stichel) (Casagrande 2004) to one (*sophorae*, with *isthmia* and *haenschi* regarded as subspecies (Racheli and Racheli 2001)). There is a corresponding variation in the number of subspecies assigned to *Brassolis* in these two countries, but generally five subspecies are recognised (nominate *isthmia*, *i. granadensis* Stichel, *s. luridus* Stichel, *s. philomela* Stichel and nominate *haenschi* Stichel (Casagrande 2004)). As a result of a resurvey of all the brassolini taxa in Colombia for the volume on the brassolini in Jean Le Crom's *Mariposas de Colombia (in prep.)* which inevitably impinges on the neighbouring Andean countries, it is possible to revise the taxonomy of these species.

In this article, I recognise four species: *isthmia* Bates, *granadensis* Stichel, *sophorae* (Linnaeus) and *haenschi* Stichel. The relationship of *sophorae* to *isthmia* is, however, uncertain—they could be conspecific, but they are treated herein as separate species. Despite the similarity of the male genitalia (Carla Penz, *pers. commn.*), morphologically, they are easily distinguished, with *sophorae* having a well-developed hindwing band, and *isthmia* without a hindwing band; there appear to be no intermediates (however, Carla Penz, *pers. commn.*, informs me that some specimens from Panamá have a *very* faint hindwing band). Geographically, the two morphs are clearly separable with *sophorae* occurring east of the Andes, and *isthmia* to the west. A fifth species of *Brassolis*, *astyra* Godart, is restricted to Brazil and is not considered further in this account.

The taxon *granadensis*, which is generally regarded as extending from the Magdalena Valley, Colombia, to the west coast of Ecuador, was initially described by Stichel (1902) as a species. This was Stichel's concept throughout his life (Stichel 1932), but Rothschild (1916) regarded *granadensis* as a subspecies of *isthmia* and this has been largely followed by subsequent authors (e.g. Casagrande 2004). However, the type series of *granadensis* is composite and comprises two taxa (*granadensis* (Magdalena Valley) and *wallengreni* ssp. nov. (north-west Ecuador and south-west Colombia)). Furthermore, *granadensis* is partially sympatric with another subspecies of *isthmia*, named herein *daisye*. Despite the similarity of the genitalia of *isthmia* and *granadensis* (and also *sophorae*, see above), *granadensis* is reinstated as a species.