



A new species of *Antigius* (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Theclini) from Taiwan

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Abstract

Antigius jinpingi, new species, is described from Taiwan, which Theclini fauna has been investigated extensively. The sister species of the new taxon is presumed to be *A. butleri*, a species distributed in the Asiatic continent and Japan. The larval host plant of *A. jinpingi* is unknown, but the most likely candidate is *Quercus dentata*, a deciduous oak with a relictual distribution in Taiwan.

Key words: hairstreak, butterflies, Formosa, Asia, *Antigius*, new species, Lycaenidae, Theclini

Introduction

Antigius Sibatani and Ito, 1942, is a small genus composed of four previously described species restricted to Asia. The male genitalia are characterized by a bifid uncus, a hook-like brachia, and a down-curved phallus; the female genitalia are distinguished by the lamella postvaginalis forming a broad sclerotized plate with a median groove (Shirôzu & Yamamoto 1956). Koiwaya (2007) pointed out that male genitalia of *Antigius* species are asymmetrical. The larvae of all known species have a caudal protrusion (Teshirogi 1997; Koiwaya 2007) and are ridged dorsally, giving them an unusual Y-shaped appearance in dorsal view (Koiwaya 2007: pl. 188, figs. 37–39). A similar larval pattern is seen only in *Saigusaozephyrus* Koiwaya, 1993 (Koiwaya 2007: pl. 189, Fig. 47) within Theclini, but the caudal end of *Saigusaozephyrus* is not produced.

Prior to 2002, two *Antigius* species were known (Kawazoé and Wakabayashi 1976; Fujioka 1993). *A. attilia* is widespread from Japan, Korea, Far East Russia, throughout northern, central, and western China, reaching Taiwan (Inomata 2003). In contrast, *A. butleri* was considered restricted to areas bordering the Sea of Japan (Fukuda *et al.* 1984) until Yoshino (1999) found it in Sichuan Province of southwestern China. *A. butleri* later was found to occur in Guangdong Province of southern China (Figs. 7–8; National Taiwan Normal University specimens). A third species, *A. shizuyai* Koiwaya, 2002, with reduced wing markings and extensive white scaling was described from Kachin state of northeastern Myanmar (Koiwaya 2002; Watanabe 2003). Additionally, a species of this genus with unusual marginal wing patterns was recognized from Zhejiang province of eastern China by Tong *et al.* (1993), but remained undescribed until 2004, when it was described as *A. cheni* Koiwaya, 2004, based on specimens from Sichuan province of western China (Koiwaya, 2004).

Taiwan's butterfly fauna is well known, and discovery of a fifth *Antigius* species (Figs. 1–4), described in this paper, was unexpected. As the Theclini comprise nearly one quarter of the Lycaenid diversity of Taiwan (Hsu & Lu 2005), the tribe has been a popular group among those interested in Taiwan butterflies. Of the 26 species of Theclini currently known in Taiwan, 18 species (75%) were described by the end of World War II, and all but two species were known prior to 1970 (Shirôzu & Ueda 1992). Since then, only two Theclini species have been added to the fauna of Taiwan, namely *Sibataniozephyrus kuafui* Hsu and Lin, 1994, discovered in 1992 (Hsu & Lin 1994) and *Teratozephyrus nuwai elatus* Hsu & Lin, 2005, which was recognized by 2000 (Hsu & Lu 2005; Koiwaya 2007).