



## The first records of *P. d. dexamenus* from Costa Rica and new records of *Prepona pylene gnorima* (Nymphalidae: Charaxinae)

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The genus *Prepona* Boisduval contains seven species (Lamas 2004), four of which occur in Costa Rica. Only one of these four species is common while the others can be very scarce and may not be seen for years. Due to their scarcity these species are very poorly known and there are few collection data, most of which are old records. The data in existence about distribution, behavior, and natural history are compiled not as major objectives, but instead are extra data obtained from other research. At this time the only information source for this genus in Costa Rica is DeVries (1987).

Both species treated in this paper, *P. pylene gnorima* Bates and *P. dexamenus dexamenus* Hopffer, are found from Mexico (De La Maza 1987) to South America (DeVries 1987). In Costa Rica, *P. pylene gnorima* has been collected in only one locality near San Vito of Coto Brus at 1200 m elevation in Las Cruces (8° 48' N, 82° 58' W) close to the Panamanian border (DeVries 1987); and there were no records of *P. d. dexamenus* collected in the country until now. The scarcity of information available on these species in Costa Rica is evidence of the research that remains to be done in order to understand their distribution in the country. In addition, depending on the habitats where these species are found, it should be possible to find them in the other countries where they are still unknown. Information about the habitats of this species, together with observations on behavior, is worth documenting for future studies.

In order to compile the distribution data for these two species, the following Costa Rican collections were examined: Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio), Natural History Department of the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica (MNCR), Museo de Insectos de la Universidad de Costa Rica (MIUCR) and the Murillo-Hiller personal collection (MHC). The data on *P. d. dexamenus* were obtained from the database project: “Butterfly monitoring protocol” of the Tropical Ecology, Assessment, and Monitoring (TEAM) initiative in La Selva Biological Station and also from the project of “Vertical and Horizontal Stratification of fruit-feeding butterflies in La Tirimbina” done by P.J. DeVries (I.A. Chacon pers. com.). All the individuals collected of this species were in fruit bait traps. The identifications of the species and subspecies were done with De La Maza (1987) and DeVries (1987).

*Prepona pylene gnorima*: This species has been collected in six new localities, all of them north of the previous report of DeVries (1987). It can be found on both slopes, from 100 to 1600 m, associated with five different life zones, including the Tropical wet forest of La Tirimbina and La Cangreja, Tropical moist forest, premontane belt transition of La Suiza and El Rodeo, Premontane wet forest of Fila Diamante, Premontane rain forest of Estación Cabro Muco and Premontane wet forest, rain forest transition of Las Cruces (Fig. 1). However it seems to be more abundant in the Pacific slope since ten of twelve specimens come from there.

**Material examined:** 12 specimens (6♂, 3♀)

PROV. SAN JOSÉ: **P. N. La Cangreja**, 300–400 m, 18–22 JAN 2006, M. Moraga, B. Gamboa, J. Azofeifa, B. Hernández, 9°41'17.97" N, 84°22'9.01" W, (1♂), (INBio). **El Rodeo**, 900 m, 14 JAN 1999, L. R. Murillo Hiller, 9°55'6.66" N, 84°16'37.46" W, (1♂), (MHC). **El Rodeo**, 900 m, 2 AGO 1996, G. Vega, 9°55'6.66" N, 84°16'37.46" W, (MNCR). **Fila Diamante**, 900–1000 m, A. Hoepker, 9°54'42.80" N, 84°16'42.60" W, (INBio): 2 DIC 2005 (1♂), 4 FEB 2006 (1♂), 7 JAN 2006 (1♂), 6 MAR 2006 (1♀). PROV. HEREDIA: **R. B. La Tirimbina**, 100–200m, 3 APR 2003, H. Cascante, J. Arce, 10°24'35.00" N, 84° 6'44.98" W, (1♂), (INBio). **Cariblanco**, 750 m, 9 SET 1981, R. Canet (MNCR). PROV. CARTAGO: **La Suiza**. 600 m, 28 DIC 1977, Francisco Marín, 9°51'13.66" N, 83°36'49.02" W, (1♀), (MIUCR). PROV. GUANACASTE: **Estación Cabro Muco**, 1100 m, 28 MAR–2 APR 2003, B. Hernández, 10°43'5.99" N, 85° 8'41.04" W, (1♀), (INBio). PROV. PUNTARENAS: **Las Tablas**, 1600m, MAR 1942, H. Sparrow (MNCR).

*Prepona d. dexamenus*: The presence of this species in Costa Rica is confirmed by 29 specimens collected in La Selva biological station in two separate plots by the “Butterfly Monitoring Protocol” between 2003 and 2006 (J. Hurtado