



A new species of Satyrinae butterfly from Peru (Nymphalidae: Satyrini: Euptychiina)

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Abstract

A new species of Euptychiina butterfly, *Splendeuptychia mercedes* n. sp. is described from the Amazonian region and Eastern Andean slopes of Peru. The morphology, distribution and conservation status of the new species are described and discussed.

Key words: *Splendeuptychia*, *mercedes*, La Merced, Euptychia, Pucacuro River, Pucacuro Reserved Zone

Resumen

Se describe una nueva especie de mariposa *Splendeuptychia mercedes* n. sp. de la región Amazónica y vertiente oriental de los Andes en Perú. Se incluyen aspectos históricos además de aspectos de la morfología, distribución y conservación de esta especie.

Palabras clave: *Splendeuptychia*, *mercedes*, La Merced, Euptychia, Rio Pucacuro, Reserva Comunal Pucacuro

Introduction

Currently there are 23 described species in the genus *Splendeuptychia* Forster, 1964 (Lamas & Vilorio 2004), occurring from Mexico to Argentina. Although some species of *Splendeuptychia* (e.g. *S. ackeryi*, *S. aurigera*) are local, others can be abundant (e.g. *S. furina*). However, all are uncommon in museum collections and are often misidentified. Recently, *Splendeuptychia* has been found to be polyphyletic (Peña *et al.* 2010, Peña *et al.* 2011), its supposed differentiating characters not being diagnostic (Huertas *et al.* 2009). Despite the genus having been considered most attractive Euptychiina (Butler 1866), *Splendeuptychia* is nevertheless one of the most poorly studied genera in the subtribe and there remains a large number of undescribed species (Lamas & Vilorio 2004; Huertas *et al.* 2009). This paper (together with others recently published, e.g. Huertas *et al.* 2009) aims to place the fundamental alpha taxonomy of this genus on a stronger footing.

History of discovery. During an ongoing revision of the genus *Splendeuptychia* (Huertas, in prep.), one male and six females of an undescribed species from Peru were found in the collections of the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH). Of these, only two were in the Main Collection of BMNH, the remainder being discovered in other unincorporated collections, such as Rothschild Collection and accessions. D' Abrera (1988) had already illustrated one of these butterflies but only identified it to genus level.

These BMNH specimens were collected in June–August 1903 by Mr Watkins & Mr Tomlinson among 1700 Rhopalocera and 500 Heterocera taken in the localities of La Merced, Rio Colorado and San Romeo, Peru (BMNH Accessions Register Book). La Merced is a historically well known collection locality also for birds and other collectors studied the region around the same period e.g. J. Kalinowski (in 1890–91), Schunke (in 1921) and Simmons (in 1900) among others (Stephens & Traylor 1983; BMNH Accessions Registration Books). The specimens were later presented to the BMNH in 1904 by P. I. Lathy of Sydney Villa, Sydney Road, Enfield, Middlesex, UK, as accession number BM 1904–133, current neighbourhood of the author. The type locality, La Merced, is located in