



Description of a new species of the genus *Zaretis* Hübner, [1819], with taxonomic notes on *Z. itys* and *Z. itylus*, stat. rev. (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Charaxinae) and illustration of a gynandromorph

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Abstract

This paper provides description for a new species from the Amazon basin, *Z. falcis*, **sp. nov.**, taxonomic accounts on some species of the genus *Zaretis* Hübner, [1819] with notes on the taxonomy of *Z. itys* (Cramer, 1777) and *Z. itylus* (Westwood, 1850), **stat. rev.** and the designation of the lectotype for *Zaretis* [sic] *pseuditys* Fruhstorfer, 1909. Additionally, a mixed gynandromorph is illustrated.

Keywords: *Anaeini*, *itylus*, *itys*, *pseuditys*, *pythagoras*

Introduction

Zaretis Hübner, [1819] is a Neotropical genus widely distributed throughout the Central and South Americas (Comstock 1961), and it includes seven species (Lamas 2004, Willmott & Hall 2004, Choimet 2009). Due to the pronounced intraspecific variation and the lack of important interspecific genitalic differences, 25 taxonomic names were proposed to describe the variation within the genus (Lamas 2004, Willmott & Hall 2004, Brevignon 2006, Choimet 2009). Additionally, some species of *Zaretis* species show marked seasonal variation of wing shape and pattern, and females are usually quite different from males in both these characteristics (Pyrzc & Neild 1996). The upper side of the wings are usually yellow, orange or tawny and the underside of the wings resembles dead leaves. Forewing usually falcate at apex; outer margin convex; inner margin straight, with emargination before torus of variable length and depth; veins Sc, R₁, R₂ connected or anastomosing; R₂ contiguous with R₃, running to margin or anastomosing. Hindwing emarginated on costal margin at Sc–Rs; usually tailless at M₃; and A₂ produced to a more or less strong anal lobe (Comstock 1961). The immature stages of *Z. callidryas* (R. Felder, 1869) and *Z. itys* (Cramer, 1777) were described by Muyschondt (1973, 1976) and by DeVries (1987). A thorough comparison between immature stages of *Zaretis* and other *Anaeini* genera was provided by Dias *et al.* (2010). The host plants are all in the Salicaceae, and include various species of *Casearia*, *Ryanea*, *Xylosma* and *Laetia* (Muyschondt 1973, 1976; DeVries 1987; Pyrcz & Neild 1996; Beccaloni *et al.* 2008); records in Rhamnaceae and Piperaceae given by Beccaloni *et al.* (2008) needs further confirmation.

The taxonomy of *Zaretis* was reviewed by Willmott & Hall (2004). Two new species were recently described (see Willmott & Hall 2004 and Choimet 2009) after a hundred years since the last description. However, preliminary molecular studies carried out by us reveals that *Zaretis* is a complex of several cryptic species and probably there are more species involved (F. Dias, M. Casagrande & O. Mielke, in prep.). Only three out of the seven currently valid species are readily recognizable, namely *Z. syene* (Hewitson, 1856), *Z. callidryas* and *Z. delassisei* Choimet, 2009, and the correct taxonomic association of the remaining taxonomic names is still uncertain (Willmott & Hall 2004). This paper aims to describe a new species, *Z. falcis*, **sp. nov.**, and evaluate the taxonomic status of *Z. itys* and *Z. itylus* (Westwood, 1850) **stat. rev.** We also designate a lectotype for *Zaretis* [sic] *pseuditys* (Fruhstorfer, 1909), and illustrate gynandromorph of unknown identity.