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New species of *Mesenopsis* Godman & Salvin, 1886 (Lepidoptera: Riodinidae: Symmachiini) from southeastern Brazil, with an illustrated key to the genus

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Abstract

A new species, *Mesenopsis jordana* sp. nov., from southeastern Brazilian states of Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, and São Paulo is described and a taxonomic dichotomous key for species of the genus *Mesenopsis* is provided. Additionally, mimetic models for species of *Mesenopsis* are suggested and a new distribution record for *M. albivitta* is provided.

Key words: concealed androconial scales; Josiini; Diopitinae; *Scea*; *Notascea*; *Mesenopsis albivitta*

Introduction

Mesenopsis Godman & Salvin, 1886 is a small Neotropical genus with five recognized taxa, ranging from Central America, both slopes of the Andes, the Amazon basin and areas above 900m in the Atlantic forest, southern Brazil (D'Abrera 1994). All species are involved in mimetic rings with diurnal moths of the subfamily Diopitinae (Notodontidae) (Seitz 1916–1920; DeVries 1988; D'Abrera 1994; Miller 1996). *Mesenopsis* was erected to allocate some species previously within *Limnas* Boisduval, 1836, a preoccupied name (see Callaghan & Lamas 2004), and included *Limnas bryaxis* Hewitson, 1870, the type species, *Mesenopsis briseis* Godman & Salvin, 1886, *Limnas melanochlora* Godman & Salvin, 1878 and *Mesenopsis pulchella* Godman, 1903. Based on the venation of the wings and characters of the male genitalia, Godman & Salvin (1886) indicated proximity of these species with some species of *Mesene* Doubleday, 1847 and *Symmachia* Hübner, [1819]. Later, Lathy (1904) described *Chamaelimnas albivitta* Lathy, 1904, not providing any morphological details, but suggesting close relationship with *Chamaelimnas joviana* Schaus, 1902 (Riodinini). Finally, Stichel (1910) transferred *C. albivitta* to *Mesenopsis*.

Mesenopsis were placed in the tribe Symmachiini by Harvey (1987), a tribe characterized chiefly by the presence of concealed androconial scales (CASs) on the abdominal tergites (Hall & Willmott 1996). Although some species currently in the Nymphidiini (*sensu* Callaghan & Lamas 2004) also have CASs, those are morphologically distinct in both tribes (Harvey 1987). Most genera of the Symmachiini are poorly defined, based mainly in the distribution and morphology of androconias. Even though, a variety of patterns of distribution and structure of androconial scales are found within a same genus and identical patterns are found in different genera (Hall & Willmott 1996). For example, all species currently in *Mesenopsis* have CASs as a continuous patch on the abdominal tergites four and five (Hall & Harvey 2002); nevertheless this is also true for species of *Symmachia*, *Xenandra* C. Felder & R. Felder, 1865, *Mesene*, *Xynias* Hewitson, 1874, *Phaenochitonia* Stichel, 1910, and *Pirascia* Hall & Willmott, 1996 (Hall & Furtado 1999). The concealed androconial scales distribution of *M. pulchella* given by Hall & Willmott (1996) (androconial scales on tergites four to seven) was later reported as an error by Hall & Furtado (1999).

Hall & Lamas (2007) indirectly provided a set of characters to define *Mesenopsis*: elongated wings; evenly narrow aedeagus; valvae not strongly bifid; dense patch of small spines at the base of the vesica; and posterior