



A new species of *Euselasia* Hübner from Meso-America and Mexico with notes on the *eurypus* group (Lepidoptera, Riodinidae)

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Abstract

A new species of Riodinidae, *Euselasia oaxacensis* Callaghan, Llorente-Bousquets & Luis-Martínez, **sp. nov.** from Oaxaca State in Mexico and Costa Rica is described, including its habitat, behavior and differences with other members of the *eurypus* group of the genus *Euselasia*. Notes are included in the taxonomic position, distribution and behavior of three other species of the *eurypus* group: *Euselasia eurypus* (Hewitson, 1856), *Euselasia angulata* (Bates, 1868); and *Euselasia clesa* (Hewitson, 1856).

Key words: Neotropics, taxonomy, biogeography, butterflies, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, French Guyana, Costa Rica, Amazonas

Introduction

As part of the preparation of the book “Riodinidae de México: Distribución geográfica e ilustración which is part of the series Papilionoidea de México of which four parts have already appeared (Llorente-Bousquets *et al.* 1997; Luis-Martínez *et al.* 2003, 2010; Vargas-Fernández *et al.* 2008), the authors of the present article have reviewed the Riodinid butterflies of Mexico. This has resulted in the descriptions of a number of new taxa belonging to the genera *Exoplisia* Godman & Salvin, 1886, *Synargis* Hübner, [1819], *Mesene* Doubleday, 1847, and particularly the genus *Euselasia* Hübner, [1819] (Callaghan *et al.* 2007, 2011).

The Neotropical genus *Euselasia* is one of the largest riodinid genera, including nearly 170 species (Callaghan & Lamas 2004), of which 15 are found in Mexico (Llorente-Bousquets *et al.* 2006; Callaghan *et al.* 2007). Mexican material of the *Eurypus* group of the genus *Euselasia* has been of particular interest. During the last three decades Mexican populations of this group have been recognized by various authors. Maza and Maza (1980) published notes on two specimens of what they called *E. eurypus* from the collection of Díaz Francés from the Istmo region of Oaxaca, and extended the range of *E. eurypus* from South America to Mexico. They associated it with *Euselasia eubule*, perhaps due to its similarity to the female of that species. An additional specimen was collected by J. Llorente-Bousquets and A. Luis-Martínez at Metates in the Sierra de Juárez, Oaxaca. The classification of this butterfly as *E. eurypus* was followed by subsequent Mexican authors (Luis-Martínez *et al.* 2004; Llorente-Bousquets *et al.* 2006).

In his book on the riodinids of Costa Rica, DeVries (1997) illustrated a male *Euselasia* from the Schaus collection in the National Natural History Museum (Smithsonian Institution) from “Turrialba with the name *E. angulata* (Pl. 3, Fig. 19). The collection locality was Tuis, near Turrialba, and June the month of collection. In the text, he extended the range of *angulata* from Mexico, Costa Rica and Colombia to Brazil. Finally, he suggested that the populations of Central America and Mexico could represent a distinct species. Photos of the Schaus specimen and an additional male from Moravia, Costa Rica, in the Gordon B. Small collection were kindly provided by Dr. Robert K. Robbins and Brian Harris of the Smithsonian Institution. Due to the similarity of these specimens to the Mexican material, we have concluded that the Costa Rican specimens represented a range extension of the