Zootaxa 3716 (4): 528–538
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3716.4.2
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:F1AD3425-314F-4B5F-AE7A-2D683135DBE6

New species of high elevation cloud forest butterflies of the genus *Pedaliodes* Butler from the northern Colombian Andes (Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae, Satyrinae)

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Abstract

Four new species of *Pedaliodes* Butler (i.e., *P. adrianae*, **n. sp.**, *P. haydoni*, **n. sp.**, *P. philinae*, **n. sp.** and *P. rodriguezi*, **n. sp.**) are described from the high elevation cloud forests in the Frontino massif in the Colombian Western Cordillera and the northern part of the Central and Eastern Cordilleras. The affinities of these new species with other congeners are discussed. The total number of described species of Colombian Pronophilina is increased to 208, with a particularly high total number of species (88) and proportion of endemic species (26%) in the Western Cordillera.

Key words: biodiversity, cloud forests, faunistics, male genitalia, neotropical realm, *Pedaliodes adrianae*, **n. sp.**, *P. haydoni*, **n. sp.**, *P. philinae*, **n. sp.**, *P. rodriguezi*, **n. sp.**, taxonomy

Introduction

General knowledge of the species-rich neotropical montane genus *Pedaliodes* Butler (1867) has increased vastly since the publication of its generic monograph over 100 years ago (Thieme 1905), and even since the recent catalogue of Neotropical butterflies (Lamas *et al*. 2004), as a consequence of numerous articles published over the last decade dedicated to the taxonomy and zoogeography (Pyrcz 2004, 2006; Pyrcz & Viloria 2009; Pyrcz *et al*. 2008, 2010; Viloria 2007), ecology (Pyrcz *et al*. 2009; Pyrcz & Garlacz 2012), biology (Heredia & Viloria 2004; Greeney *at al*. 2009), and phylogeny (Peña *et al*. 2006; Galindo unpubl.) of the genus. As many as 73 new species and subspecies have been described over the last decade from the Andean countries of Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, and especially from Peru. Most of the new taxa of *Pedaliodes* discovered recently share several common features—they are narrow endemics, frequently confined to single massifs, and they occur predominantly in high elevation cloud forests near or within the forest-paramo ecotone. The fact that they are extremely localized and occur in remote and inaccessible habitats is the reason they have eluded the attention of taxonomists for many decades. Even though Colombia was extensively sampled in the 1980s by Michael Adams, who contributed significantly to the knowledge of *Pedaliodes* in this country (Adams 1986), it appears that the complex topography of the northern Andes and the large number of isolated mountainous areas generates a diverse fauna, and numerous areas of endemism have yet to be investigated. In particular, the Western Cordillera is composed of a series of highly isolated faunistic regions, each harboring endemic local faunas, some of which have never been sampled for butterflies until a few of years ago.

This paper is dedicated to the description of recently discovered new species of the genus *Pedaliodes*, and to reviewing briefly the current state of knowledge of the fauna of this genus in Colombia.

 Accepted by J. Brown: 2 Sept. 2013; published: 25 Sept. 2013