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A new species of *Aricoris* Westwood, [1851] belonging to “*chilensis*” group (Lepidoptera: Riodinidae)

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Abstract

A new species of Riodinidae from the grasslands of South Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina, *Aricoris schneideri* sp. nov., is described.

Key words: Aricorina, grasslands, Nymphidiini, south Brazil

Introduction

The genus *Aricoris* Westwood, 1851, a basal member of the tribe Nymphidiini, subtribe Aricorina, comprises 24 valid species occurring in South and Central America, especially in open dry areas (Hall & Harvey 2002; Callaghan & Lamas 2004; Callaghan 2010; Kaminski & Carvalho-Filho 2012). A phylogenetic study for the genus was provided by Hall & Harvey (2002) and five monophyletic species groups were proposed: *constantius*, *colchis*, *chilensis*, *aurinia* and *epulus*. The *chilensis* species group includes three small species restricted to austral South America, *A. chilensis* (C. Felder & R. Felder, 1865), *A. notialis* (Stichel, 1910) and *A. cinericia* (Stichel, 1910). All species belonging to this group share a indented forewing inner margin in M_3-CuA_1 , ventral hindwing postdiscal band with a continuous white mark around its medial disjunction and the invaginated pocket between *ostium bursae* and *papillae analis* with a restrict sclerotization (Hall & Harvey 2002). This species group is known for occurring in open areas from Bolívia, Chile, Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay (Hayward 1949; Hall & Harvey 2002; Bentancur-Viglione 2009; Núñez-Bustos & Volkmann 2011).

Analyzing the material from the grasslands of southern Brazil, a new species belonging to the *chilensis* species group and closely related to *A. cinericia* was found. This papers aims to describe it.

Material and methods

The specimens studied had their abdomen removed and cleared in a 10% potassium hydroxide (KOH) solution for further dissection and removal of the genitalia to analyze its structures. The illustrations were prepared with the aid of a camera lucida attached to a stereoscopic microscope.

All examined material belong to the following institutions:

USNM National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, USA.

CENB Colección Ezequiel Núñez Bustos, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

CLAM Coleção de Lepidoptera Alfred Moser, São Leopoldo, Brazil.

male and the female described by Schneider (1937) are not conspecific and should represent two distinct species. By having the wing pattern dorsally orange, the female could represent a different species occurring in the austral South America, while the male has features only found in *A. cinericia*. In addition, Schneider (1937) mentions that specimens were collected in a small “desert”, similar to the xerophile environment of the *A. cinericia*'s records in Corrientes and Entre Rios (Núñez Bustos, comm. pers.). All these evidences shows that *H. arenarum* did not represent *A. schneideri* **sp. nov.**, but a synonym of *A. cinericia*, however, the absence of any information about the number of individuals used by Schneider (1937) or from the type material preclude the assertion of the identity of this taxon.

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