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Two new species of *Clito* from South America and a revision of the *Clito littera* group (Lepidoptera: HesperIIDae: Pyrginae)

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Abstract

Two new species of *Clito* from the *C. littera* group are described: *C. palotschka*, **sp. nov.** from the Chocó region in Ecuador is the most distinctive in the group, and *C. litteroides*, **sp. nov.** from Venezuela is superficially more similar to *C. littera* differing mostly in the shape of male genitalic valvae. Comparative analyses of male genitalia and wing patterns suggest that *C. anda* Evans, 1953, **new status**; and *C. nebulosa* (Draudt, 1924), **reinstated status** are species-level taxa. A lectotype for *Telemiades littera* Mabille, 1877 is designated to ensure nomenclatural stability. Primary type specimens of all seven species in the *C. littera* group are illustrated with photographs, and an identification key to males is given.

Key words: taxonomy, Neotropical, skipper butterfly, cryptic species, field marks

Resumen

Se describen dos nuevas especies del género *Clito* en el grupo *C. littera*: *C. palotschka*, **sp. nov.** de la región del Chocó en Ecuador es la más distintiva en el grupo, y *C. litteroides*, **sp. nov.** de Venezuela es superficialmente muy similar a *C. littera*. Las dos últimas especies se diferencian principalmente por la forma de las valvas en la genitalia masculina. Un análisis comparativo de las genitalias en el macho y los patrones de las alas sugieren que *C. anda* Evans, 1953, **nuevo estatus**; y *C. nebulosa* (Draudt, 1924), **estatus reinstaurado** son taxones a nivel de especie. Se designa un lectotipo para *Telemiades littera* Mabille, 1877 para asegurar estabilidad nomenclatural. Se ilustran los especímenes tipo de las siete especies del grupo *C. littera*, y se presenta una clave preliminar para la identificación de los machos.

Palabras clave: taxonomía, Neotropical, hesperido, especies crípticas, campo de marcas

Introduction

Genus *Clito* has been proposed by Evans (1953) to echo the name of its type species: *clito* (Fabricius). More recently, Mielke & Casagrande (2002) discovered that Evans's concept of the species *clito* was based on its misidentification, and the real *clito* (which, or a very closely related to it species, Evans in turn misidentified as *Milanion hemestinus* Mabille & Boulet) belongs to the genus *Milanion* Godman & Salvin. This seemingly perplexing resolution of Evans's double misidentification broke the link between *Clito* the genus and *clito* the species, and Evan's nominal species *clito* is now called by what Evans presumed to be its junior subjective synonym: *Clito aberrans* (Draudt, 1924)—currently the type of *Clito*. Adding to species included in *Clito* by Evans, Austin transferred *clada* (Evans, 1953) from *Eracon* Godman & Salvin based on similarities in male genitalia, in particular, the presence of a penis sheath mentioned by Evans in the genus description and likely to be a synapomorphy for the genus (Austin 2000).

Despite these obstacles in assigning species to *Clito* versus *Eracon*, *C. littera* group is easily recognizable. It is characterized by the hyaline spots in the forewing discal cell and in cell Cu_1 - Cu_2 ("space 2" of Evans) aligned at their basal margin, elongated and strongly U or V-shaped, i.e., with a deeply concave distal margin: its distal cleft

- than background area, or broad and entire, veins almost without dark scales 6
- 5 Cucullus broader, slightly bulged distad, terminal serrated area larger. Ampulla shallower. Hindwing paler, dark end-of-cell bar vestigial. Basal edge of forewing discal cell pale spot straight or rounded, angled to the costa. Nudum of 20 segments. Venezuela *C. litteroides* **sp. n.**
- Cucullus narrow, terminal serrated area small. Ampulla deeper. Hindwing darker, brown end-of-cell bar developed. Basal edge of forewing discal cell pale spot straight, perpendicular to the costa. Nudum of 22 segments. Brazil (southeast) *C. littera*
- 6 Cucullus broader, with a subtle bulge at the distal margin, valva narrower. Darker, largely brown hindwing. Basal edge of forewing discal cell pale spot straight or rounded, angled to the costa. Trinidad *C. trinidadensis*
- Cucullus narrower, valva broadening basad. Paler, hindwing with a defined discal pale area, very prominent on ventral side, veins ventrally almost without dark scales in the discal band. U-shaped pale spots in forewing discal and Cu₁-Cu₂ cells broken basad into 2 streaks each, basal edge of forewing discal cell streaks perpendicular to the costa. Bolivia *C. nebulosa*

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