

# NEWS

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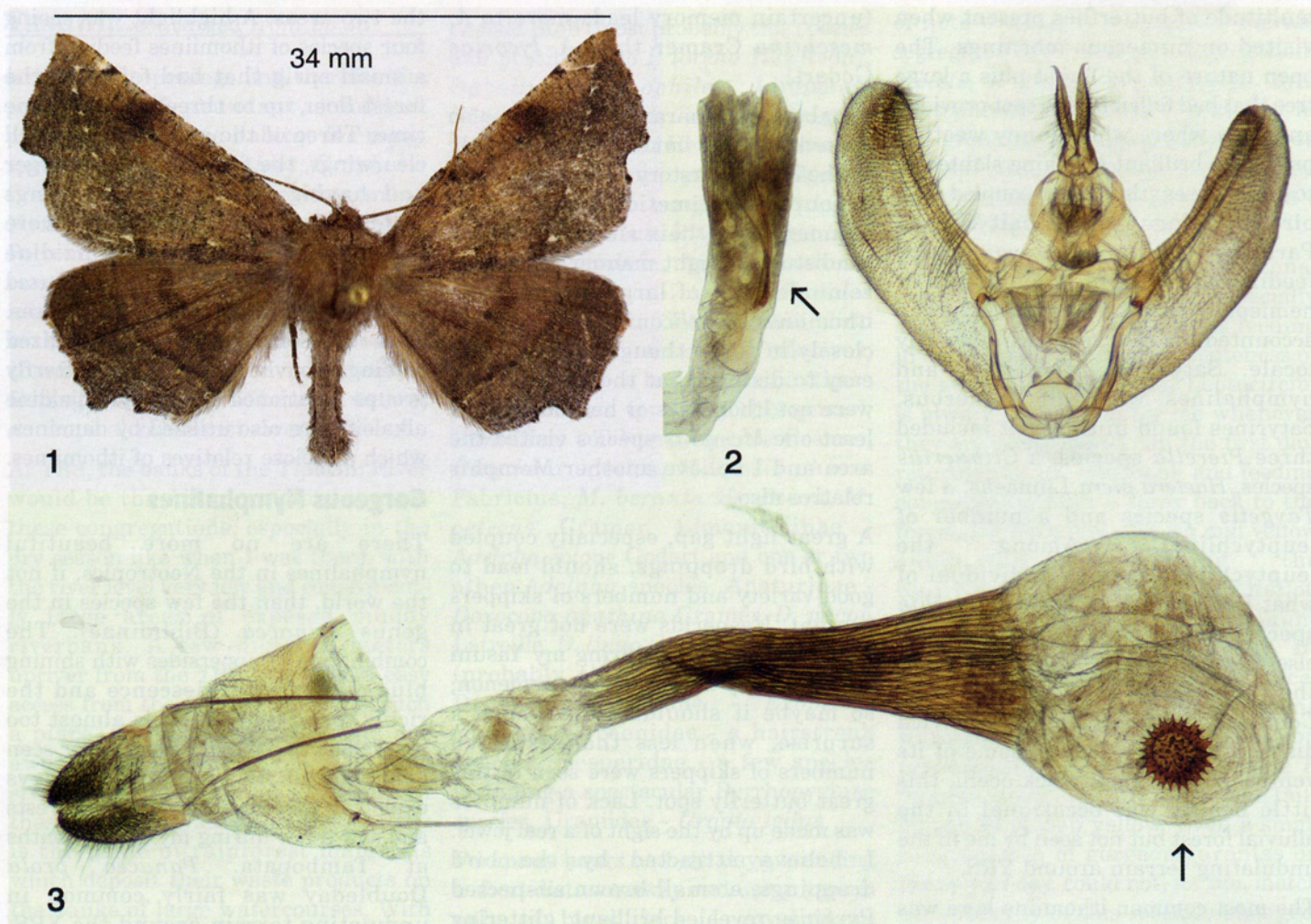


Fig. 1 Typical male specimen of *P. peccataria*. Fig. 2 Male genitalia, arrow points to cornuti. Fig. 3 Female genitalia, arrow points to signum.



**Left:** Larva of *Papilio palamedes leontis* on *Litsea pringlei*. **Above:** Adult *P. p. leontis* at rest. Photos by Krushnamegh Kunte.

# Arizona *Phyllodonta* Revisited (Geometridae)

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Following the publication of our *Phyllodonta* note in the spring 2006 issue of the NEWS [Ferris & Walsh 48(1): 23, 25] J. B. (Bo) Sullivan wrote to Ferris that the genitalia of *Phyllodonta sarukhani* Beutlespacher don't agree with the characters described for the genus by Pitkin, 2002. The male genitalia of *Phyllodonta* are characterized by a bifurcate uncus (really socii) and cornuti in the vesica of the aedeagus shown in Fig. 2 for *P. peccataria* (Barnes & McDunnough). All female genitalia have a prominent circular scobinate signum (Fig. 3).

Consequently *P. sarukhani* belongs in a genus different from *Phyllodonta*. It remains to be ascertained if it belongs in an existing Neotropical genus or if a new genus is required. The accompanying plate illustrates the genitalic characters of *Phyllodonta* and apparently the first images for *P. peccataria*.

## Literature Cited:

Pitkin, L. M. (2002) Neotropical ennomine moths: a review of the genera (Lepidoptera: Geometridae). Zool. J. Linn. Soc. 135: 121-401.



# *Litsea pringlei*: Host plant of *Papilio palamedes leontis* in Parque Ecologica Chipinque, Nuevo Leon, Mexico

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The nominate race of the North American *Papilio palamedes* [Drury] (Palamedes Swallowtail) occurs in swampy woodlands of southeastern United States. Its larvae commonly feed on *Persea borbonia* ("redbay", family Lauraceae). However, larval host plants of the Mexican subspecies, *P. p. leontis* Jordan & Rothschild, which occurs in the states of Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas, have not been reported.

In October 2005 I discovered four caterpillars of *Papilio p. leontis* on *Litsea pringlei* (= *L. novoleontis*, Lauraceae; Allen 1945) on the road from La Manzanita to Delicias in Parque Ecologica Chipinque near Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. I

could not collect and rear the caterpillars, but the plant was confirmed in March 2006 as the larval host of *P. p. leontis* when I saw a female lay an egg on the plant in Chipinque. Another laurel species - *L. parvifolia* - also occurs in the mountains around Monterrey, but there is taxonomic uncertainty regarding whether these species represent a complex of species. However, it is yet unknown whether *P. p. leontis* uses this or any other *Litsea* as larval hosts in addition to *L. pringlei*.

I would like to thank the staff at Parque Ecologica Chipinque, particularly Lillian Willcockson, Larisa Loya and Nydia Rivas, for kindly helping me

during my two visits there. Thanks are due to Dan Hardy who identified caterpillars, and Patricia Soriano and Tom Wendt for help with identification of the host plant.

## References:

Allen, C. K. 1945. Studies in the Lauraceae, VI: Preliminary survey of the Mexican and Central American species. Journal of the Arnold Arboretum, 26:365-434.