

REPORT ON A COLLECTION OF HESPERIIDAE FROM HONDURAS

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INTRODUCTION

Evans (1951, 1952, 1953, 1955) listed 223 species of HesperIIDae from Honduras, divided between the three subfamilies as follows: 9 Pyrrhopyginae, 136 Pyrginae and 78 HesperIIDae. Many species have been reported from the surrounding countries but not from Honduras, so the actual number of hesperiid species resident there may exceed 500. Honduran records have now been published for 275 species, many papers adding one or more to those listed by Evans, so that about half the expected number have been thus far reported. These figures alone do not indicate how poorly known Honduran butterflies are. Many of the records, especially the older ones, are based on single specimens bearing locality labels which read simply "Honduras" or "Spanish Honduras"; there are relatively few specimens available with adequate data and fewer still with ecological information. From the standpoint of biological knowledge, Honduras is one of the least known Central American republics.

The present collection was made chiefly by Monroe in 1962 and contains representatives of eighty-three species, many of which are new records from Honduras (indicated by an asterisk (*)). The Papilionoidea are being reported separately (Monroe, Ross and Williams, 1967), and the collection sites are discussed in that paper. Most of the hesperiids were taken at El Jaral, Cortés; this collection is substantially what one would expect to find on a Central American coffee *finca* in the tropical deciduous forest, where most of the specimens were taken.

The identifications were made by Miller, and the systematic notes are his responsibility; the specimens, unless otherwise indicated, are in the Monroe collection.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

The list which follows is arranged according to the sequence of genera given by Evans (1951, 1952, 1953, 1955). Reference will not be made to Honduran species listed in these works, but those species not recorded by him will be discussed in some detail, as will a few whose systematic position is in doubt.

PYRRHOPYGINAE

Jemadia hospita pseudognetus (Mabille). 1 ♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 14.viii. This species has been reported previously (as *hospita*) from Honduras (Bell, 1934).

PYRGINAE

Epargyreus exadeus complex. 2 ♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 11, 13.viii. The species in this group are poorly understood and are presently being examined by Miller. It seems better to avoid the use of specific names at this time. Evans (1952) records *E. s. spina* Evans and *E. clavicornis gaumeri* Godman from Honduras, the latter having been described from Ruatan Island.

Chioides catillus albofasciata (Hewitson). 1 ♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 13.viii.

Chioides catillus albius Evans. 1 ♂: Tela, Atlántida; 18.viii. This specimen represents the first Honduran record of this "subspecies" which was known previously from Costa Rica and Panama. The zone of overlap of *albius* and *albofasciata* now extends at least from Honduras to northern Panama thereby casting further doubt on the "subspecies" of the *catillus* complex.

Typhedanus undulatus (Hewitson). 1 ♀: El Jaral, Cortés; 14.viii.

Polythrix asine (Hewitson). 1 ♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 25.viii.

Codatractus a. alcaeus (Hewitson). 1 ♀: El Jaral, Cortés; 29.viii.

Urbanus p. proteus (Linnaeus). 2 ♂ 4 ♀: El Jaral, Cortés; 9-14.viii and 23.ix (one pair in Carnegie Museum).

Urbanus viterboana (Ehrmann). 2 ♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 8, 13.viii (one in Carnegie Museum). Evans (1952) described the "subspecies" *alva* and listed a pair from Honduras, but he did not record true *viterboana* from our area. There is broad overlap in the ranges of *alva* and *viterboana*, and they certainly cannot represent subspecies. Much more work remains to be done on the *proteus* complex before definitive statements can be made concerning species limits. For convenience we have here recorded the specimens as they run through Evans' key.

Urbanus d. dorantes (Stoll). 5 ♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 6, 14, 25.viii (two in Carnegie Museum).

Urbanus teleus (Hübner). 2 ♂ 1 ♀: El Jaral, Cortés; 9, 12.viii and 23.ix (one ♂ in Carnegie Museum).

Urbanus tanna Evans. 2 ♀: one from El Jaral, Cortés; 27.viii; and the other from Lancetilla, Atlántida; 7.vi.1961 (collected by Roger N. Williams).

Urbanus simplicius (Stoll). 4 ♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 9, 12, 14.viii (one in Carnegie Museum). The separation of this species and the next is well described by Tilden (1965).

Urbanus procne (Plötz). 1 ♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 23.ix.

Urbanus d. doryssus (Swainson). 1 ♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 13.viii.

**Astrartes alardus latia* Evans. 1 ♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 9.viii. This appears to be the first record of this handsome skipper from Honduras, but its occurrence there is not surprising; Evans (1952) and Williams (1927) list specimens from Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, etc.

Astrartes anaphus annetta Evans. 2 ♀: El Jaral, Cortés; 9, 27.viii (one in Carnegie Museum).

Autochton longipennis (Plötz). 1 ♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 8.viii.

Autochton zarex (Hübner). 2 ♂ 1 ♀: El Jaral, Cortés; 8.viii and 23.ix (one ♂ in Carnegie Museum).

Achalarus a. albociliatus (Mabille). 1 ♂: Tela, Atlántida; 18.viii.

Cabares p. potrillo (Lucas). 1 ♂: Potrerillos, Cortés; 10.viii.

Spathilepia clonius (Cramer). 2 ♂ 1 ♀: El Jaral, Cortés; 12.viii and 23.ix (one ♂ in Carnegie Museum).

**Cogia c. caicus* (Herrich-Schäffer). 1 ♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 23.ix. This specimen

- represents a considerable southward extension of the known range. Previous records place this species no further south than Guatemala.
- Cogia calchas* (Herrich-Schäffer). 3 ♂ 2 ♀: 2 ♂ from El Jeral, Cortés; 12.viii and 23.ix; 1 ♂ from Potrerillos, Cortés; 29.viii; and 2 ♀ from Tela, Atlántida; 18.viii (one pair in Carnegie Museum).
- **Nisoniades castolatus* (Hewitson). 1 ♂: El Jeral, Cortés; 27.viii. This skipper has been taken in Nicaragua (Evans, 1953).
- **Nisoniades ephora* (Herrich-Schäffer). 1 ♂: Cortés (either El Jeral or Potrerillos); 10.viii. Described from Nicaragua, this species has been previously taken from all the countries surrounding Honduras.
- Pellicia dimidiata* Herrich-Schäffer. 1 ♂ 2 ♀: El Jeral, Cortés; 14.viii and 23.ix (one ♀ in Carnegie Museum). The female in the collection of Carnegie Museum has aberrant genitalia, the left side being only half as well developed as the right. Normally the female genitalia of *dimidiata* are symmetrical.
- **Noctuana noctua bipuncta* (Plötz). 1 ♀: El Jeral, Cortés; 14.viii. Evans (1953) lists specimens from Guatemala and Nicaragua, so its occurrence within our limits was to be expected.
- Noctuana stator* (Godman and Salvin). 1 ♀: El Jeral, Cortés; 23.ix.
- Bolla phylo pullata* (Mabille). 2 ♂: El Jeral, Cortés; 9, 14.viii (one in Carnegie Museum).
- Staphylus ascaphalus* (Staudinger). 1 ♂: El Jeral, Cortés; 14.viii.
- Ouleus fridericus salvina* Evans. 4 ♂: El Jeral, Cortés; 9, 12, 21.viii (one in Carnegie Museum).
- Quadrus cerealis* (Stoll). 1 ♂: El Jeral, Cortés; 5.xi.
- **Quadrus c. contubernalis* (Mabille). 5 ♂: El Jeral, Cortés; 5.xi (two in Carnegie Museum). This skipper has been recorded previously from Guatemala and Costa Rica (Evans, 1953).
- **Quadrus l. lugubris* (Felder). 2 ♂ 3 ♀: El Jeral, Cortés; 9, 12, 14, 25, 27.viii (one pair in Carnegie Museum). Previous records of the nominate subspecies have been from Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, so we are not surprised at its capture in Honduras.
- **Mylon lassia* (Hewitson). 1 ♀: El Jeral, Cortés; 8.viii. This skipper also occurs in Guatemala and Nicaragua (Evans, 1953).
- Mylon menippus* (Fabricius). 1 ♂ 1 ♀: El Jeral, Cortés; 13, 17.viii.
- **Carrhenes c. canescens* (Felder). 4 ♂: El Jeral, Cortés; 9, 14, 27.viii and 4.ix (one in Carnegie Museum). There are published records from Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua (Evans, 1953).
- Xenophanes tryxus* (Stoll). 1 ♀: El Jeral, Cortés; 12.viii.
- Antigonus nearchus* (Latreille). 3 ♂: one from El Jeral, Cortés; 17.ix; and two from Potrerillos, Cortés; 29.viii (one in Carnegie Museum).
- Antigonus erosus* Hübner. 7 ♂: one from El Jeral, Cortés; 17.ix; and six from Potrerillos, Cortés; 10, 29.viii (two in Carnegie Museum).
- **Antigonus corrosus* (Mabille). 1 ♀: El Jeral, Cortés; 9.viii. Occurrence of *A. corrosus* in Honduras is not surprising since Evans (1953) lists material from Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala.
- **Zopyrion sandace* Godman and Salvin. 1 ♀: Potrerillos, Cortés; 11.viii. This is the first record from further south than Volcán Santa María, Guatemala.
- Achylodes busirus heros* (Ehrmann). 2 ♂ 1 ♀: El Jeral, Cortés; 12.viii and 2, 14.ix (one ♂ in Carnegie Museum).
- Achylodes t. thraso* (Jung). 1 ♂ 1 ♀: El Jeral, Cortés; 13.viii and 23.ix.
- Timochares t. trifasciata* (Hewitson). 1 ♀: El Jeral, Cortés; 13.viii.
- Anastrus s. sempiternus* Butler and Druce. 1 ♂ 1 ♀: El Jeral, Cortés; 12, 17.viii.
- Ebrietas evanidas* (Mabille). 1 ♂: El Jeral, Cortés; 13.viii.
- Helias phalaenoides cama* Evans. 2 ♂ 1 ♀: El Jeral, Cortés; 21, 27, 29.viii (one ♂ in Carnegie Museum).

- **Theagenes albiplaga aegides* (Herrich-Schäffer). 1 ♂: El JaraI, Cortés; 21.viii. *T. a. aegides* has been reported from Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica (Evans, 1953).
- Pyrgus adepta* (Plötz). 1 ♂: Tela, Atlántida; 18.viii.
- Pyrgus o. oileus* (Linnaeus). 6 ♂ 2 ♀: 5 ♂ 2 ♀ from El JaraI, Cortés; 6, 9, 12, 28.viii; and the other ♂ from Potrerillos, Cortés; 29.viii (two ♂, one ♀ in Carnegie Museum).
- Helioptetes m. macaira* Reakirt. 1 ♂ 1 ♀: Potrerillos, Cortés; 10.viii.
- Helioptetes a. arsalte* (Linnaeus). 2 ♂: one from Potrerillos, Cortés; 10.viii; the other from Tela, Atlántida; 18.viii.
- Helioptetes alana* Reakirt. 2 ♂: one from El JaraI, Cortés; 23.ix; the other from Lancetilla, Atlántida; 18.vi.1961 (R. N. Williams).

HESPERIINAE

- Zariaspes mys* (Hübner). 1 ♀: El JaraI, Cortés; 21.viii.
- Anthoptus epictetus* (Fabricius). 2 ♂: El JaraI, Cortés; 21.viii (one in Carnegie Museum).
- Corticea c. corticea* (Plötz). 2 ♂ 3 ♀: 1 ♂ 3 ♀ from El JaraI, Cortés; 9, 13.viii and 23.ix; the other ♂ from Palmerola, 3 mi. SW of Choluteca, Choluteca; 28.ix (one pair in Carnegie Museum).
- **Callimormus juvenus* Scudder. 1 ♂ 1 ♀: El JaraI, Cortés; 9, 14.viii. This species is previously known from Guatemala and Costa Rica (Evans, 1955).
- **Eprius v. veleda* (Godman). 1 ♂: El JaraI, Cortés; 14.viii. Evans (1955) mentions Guatemalan and Costa Rican specimens, so its residence in our area was expected.
- Monca telata tyrtaeus* (Plötz). 1 ♀: Lancetilla, Atlántida; 19.viii.
- ?*Nastra l. leucone* (Godman). 1 ♀: Tela, Atlántida; 18.viii. This specimen is provisionally placed. If the specimen is *leucone*, it is the first record from Honduras. Evans (1955) lists specimens of the nominate subspecies from Mexico, Guatemala and Costa Rica, so its occurrence in our area is not unlikely.
- Cymaenes odilia trebius* (Mabille). 5 ♂ 1 ♀: El JaraI, Cortés. 9, 12, 14, 21.viii and 23.ix (two ♂ in Carnegie Museum).
- Vehilius stictomenes illudens* (Mabille). 4 ♂: El JaraI, Cortés; 14, 21, 29.viii and 23.ix (one in Carnegie Museum).
- **Mnasitheus chrysothrys* (Mabille). 1 ♂: El JaraI, Cortés; 6.viii. Previous records include Guatemala and Costa Rica, and this very obscure little skipper is probably widely distributed throughout Central America.
- Moeris remus* (Fabricius). 1 ♂: El JaraI, Cortés; 12.viii.
- **Parphorus s. storax* (Mabille). 1 ♀: El JaraI, Cortés; 9.viii. This is a common and widely distributed skipper.
- **Vettius onaca* Evans. 2 ♂: El JaraI, Cortés; 12, 20.viii (one in Carnegie Museum). Evans (1955) proposed this name as a "subspecies" of *Vettius fantasos* (Stoll), but the two entities are sympatric. *V. fantasos* has been reported from our area, but *V. onaca* has not; the records of the latter are from Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador.
- Thoon modius* (Mabille). 1 ♂: El JaraI, Cortés; 21.viii.
- Eutychie complana* (Herrich-Schäffer). 1 ♂ 1 ♀: El JaraI, Cortés; 9, 17.viii.
- **Eutychie paria* (Plötz). 1 ♂ 1 ♀: El JaraI, Cortés; 13.viii and 23.ix. Evans (1955) does not list specimens further north than Costa Rica, so our material represents a considerable northward extension of the known range of *paria*.
- **Naevolus o. orius* (Mabille). 1 ♀: El JaraI, Cortés; 14.viii.
- Quinta cannae* (Herrich-Schäffer). 2 ♂: El JaraI, Cortés; 9, 14.viii (one in Carnegie Museum).
- **Cynea cynea* (Hewitson). 1 ♂: El JaraI, Cortés; 23.ix. Evans (1955) records it from all the countries surrounding Honduras.

- Conga chydaca* (Butler). 2♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 17, 23.ix (one in Carnegie Museum).
- Hylephila p. phyleus* (Drury). 1♂: Potrerillos, Cortés; 11.viii.
- Pompeius pompeius* (Latreille). 3♂ 1♀: El Jaral, Cortés; 12, 13, 21.viii (one ♂ in Carnegie Museum).
- **Mellana helva* (Möschler). 1♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 23.ix. The specimen of this rare species has been deposited in Carnegie Museum.
- Calpodetes ethlius* (Stoll). 1♂ 1♀: the ♀ from Potrerillos, Cortés; 10.viii; and the ♂ from the San José sugarmill, San Pedro Sula, Cortés; 28.viii.1961 (R. N. Williams; *ex larva* on *Canna*).
- Panoquina s. sylvicola* (Herrich-Schäffer). 1♂ 2♀: El Jaral, Cortés; 21.viii and 23.ix (one ♀ in Carnegie Museum).
- Panoquina evadnes* (Stoll). 2♀: El Jaral, Cortés; 21.viii and 23.ix (one in Carnegie Museum).
- Niconiades xanthaphes* Hübner. 1♀: El Jaral, Cortés; 13.viii.
- **Niconiades viridis vista* Evans. 1♀: El Jaral, Cortés; 12.viii. This subspecies previously has been recorded from Nicaragua (Evans, 1955).
- **Saliana esperi* Evans. 1♂: El Jaral, Cortés; 9.viii.

UNIDENTIFIED SPECIMENS

In addition to those specimens reported above, three others (a ♂ without the abdomen and two ♀) could not be identified. These skippers are all Hesperinae and are referable to Evans' (1955) "Group J."

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