

Hypothyris vallina colophonia D'almeida (Lep. Ithomiidae) Rediscovered in Venezuela

By JOHN H. MASTERS

Ferreira d'Almeida (1945) described *Hypothyris colophonia*—now considered to be a subspecies of *Hypothyris vallina* (Haensch)—from three specimens from Rio Branco, "Amazonas," Brazil. For twenty years, until I and others took additional examples of *H. v. colophonia* at El Pao, Bolivar, Venezuela, the type series had been the only known specimens.

I visited El Pao during March of 1965 and again during February of 1966 along with Harold W. Skinner, presently of La Victoria, Venezuela. Our hosts at El Pao were Albert and Mary Lou Gadou, experienced tropical collectors then living at El Pao, who first introduced me to the interesting and useful technique of collecting ithomids with heliotrope (Masters, 1968). Heliotrope (*Heliotropum indicus* Linnaeus), a small purple flowered plant growing in sandy areas, was collected, dried and then hung out along trails where it serves as a very strong attractant for all Ithomiidae, certain Danaidae and moths of the family Ctenuchidae. Even though we collected at the height of the dry season when the poorest numbers of butterflies are to be expected, I was able to collect, with the help of heliotrope, 204 ithomids which represented 21 species and 14 genera. The most interesting of these ithomids were 11 males and 2 females of *Hypothyris vallina colophonia* which were determined by the late Dr. Richard M. Fox, formerly of the Carnegie Museum, an acknowledged expert in the Ithomiidae.

All of the *H. v. colophonia* were collected in a small, dark, damp area along a jungle trail near El Pao. They were collected quite late in the afternoon from dusk to sunset, however, it was noted that all of the ithomines were somewhat crepuscular in habit and had a tendency to fly early in the morning and towards evening, being relatively inactive at mid-day. While several other stations were collected near El Pao and south of El Pao to El Dorado and beyond, without collecting any additional examples of *H. v. colophonia*, I am making the assumption that the species is very local in occurrence.

Flying sympatrically with *H. v. colophonia* was a very similar appearing species, *Hypothyris euclea forbesi* Fox; however, *forbesi* seemed to be more abundant, more widespread and less restricted in habitat and it was collected at four collecting stations. Further south of El Pao, at El Dorado and beyond, a third *Hypothyris*, *H. vallonina* (Hewitson), was encountered.

D'Almeida's type locality for *H. colophonia* (Rio Branco, Amazonas, Brazil) apparently refers to the Rio Branco watershed in the present Brazilian state of Rio Branco and not to the town of Rio Branco in Acre, nor to any place in the present state of Amazonas. In this case my specimens are from a locality 300 to 400 miles north of the type locality and from the opposite side of the Sierra Pacaraima, which divides the Rio Branco watershed and Brazil from the Caroni watershed and Venezuela. This makes me wonder if perhaps the d'Almeida type series could actually be from a locality further north, and in the Caroni basin—perhaps the locality data on them was taken from a base camp and the collecting actually covered a much larger area.

Species of the genus *Hypothyris* Hubner are perhaps better known under *Ceratinia* Hubner as there has been a good deal of misusage (following Haensch in Seitz 1909) in which the species *Hypothyris* are placed under *Ceratinia* with the name *Calloleria* Godman & Saivin usually applied to the species of the true genus *Ceratinia*.

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Maniola (Epinephile) jurtina (L.) (Lep. Satyridae) and its Forms

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(Concluded from p. 90)

Notes and Additions

Since publication of the three parts of this paper some further information has come to hand. The following, therefore, should be taken into account when making use of this work.

p. 10 B. *Albinism*

The albinistic character in *jurtina* is an inherited one (see the Entomologist **83**: 25-26). However, a cross where one or both parents are abnormal produces offspring whose chance of survival in captivity is small and in nature remote. Such specimens often show, in addition, abnormal wing veination and their flight is weak.

Examination by a number of entomologists has shown that the scales responsible for all albinistic forms of this species are abnormal in one characteristic only—failure of the pigmentation. This occurs in varying degrees from light brown through shades of yellowish-brown to white and in extreme cases, transparency. 'Malformation' of the scales is almost invariably due to external interference *after* emergence (e.g. rainwater) on the light or transparent scales. The idea that these light patches are caused by moisture affecting the pupae has no foundation. The various manifestations of albinism in *jurtina* are due to variation in the distribution of these scales types and there are two groups into which all *jurtina* albinos fall. The first are these forms which I place with *brigitta* Ljunck together with *testacea* Schille, *radiata* Frohawk and a further synonym *pallidus* Frohawk (1938. Var. Brit. Butterfl. pl. 10, fig. 2). Specimens of this sort vary from those with light patches to those which are totally affected. The majority of scales in this form are of the transparent type but occur together with more or less of the pale ones. In this and the next form all colours of the wings can be affected including the fulvous areas and the apical eyespots.

In the second group—*cinerea* Cosm.—I place all forms listed under *cinerea*, *glabrata* Leeds and another synonym *cervinus* Frohawk (1938, loc. cit.). They differ from *brigitta* only in the distribution of the light scales which are, in incomplete forms, scattered more or less evenly over the wings. When males are affected in this way they are 'ashy', 'metallic' or 'greasy' in appearance depending on the mixture of light and



Masters, John H. 1969. "Hypothyris vallina colophonina D'almeida (Lep. Ithomiidae) rediscovered in Venezuela." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 81, 115–116.

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