



NEW SIAMESE RHOPALOCERA.

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SIAMESE RHOPALOCERA.

BY N. D. RILEY.

(With Plate 22)

I am indebted to Mr. E. J. Godfrey for the opportunity of describing the following butterflies, which have been submitted to him from various sources, and which appear to be new to science. It is remarkable evidence of the richness of the Siamese fauna that seven new forms should be discovered within a few months of the publication of Godfrey's revised list¹, in which no less than 692 species already are enumerated. Faunistically, Peninsular Siam, where four of the new forms occur, is Malaysian and very different from Central and S. E. Siam, which at present are the best known areas; and when yet further explored it will no doubt add many more species to the list.

***Elymnias hypermnestra violetta* ♀ -f. *obfuscata* nov.**

Similar to ♀ -f. *paraleuca* Fruhst., the discal fulvous area of the forewing however very heavily obscured with fuscous, restricted in extent, and dusky greyish fulvous in tone; the apical white bar rather narrow and like the marginal spots, suffused strongly with blue; hindwing as in ♀ -f. *paraleuca*, with the disc white and connected with the white submarginal spots. The underside is normal except for the almost entire disappearance of the usual fulvous tints, the general coloration thus being rendered cold greyish.

Type ♀: Sriracha, S. E. Siam, May 1931, collected by Mr. J. J. McBeth.

***Neptis nashona aagaardi* ssp. nov. (Pl. 22, fig. 6)**

♂. Differs from *N. nashona nashona* in being almost black instead of smoky dark brown in general coloration, but with the light markings clear white and not at all suffused with fuscous. The white spot in area 2 of forewing is larger and round, and the proximal of the two white bands of the hindwing is wider. On the *underside* the differences are exactly comparable: the general coloration is grey rather than chocolate brown, with rather bolder and

¹ "A Revised List of the Butterflies of Siam, with Notes on their Geographical Distribution", Journ. Siam Soc., Nat. Hist. Suppl., Vol. VII, No. 4, pp. 203-397 (1930).

larger white markings, except the forewing cell-streak, which is narrow.

Holotype ♂: Doi Sutep (4500 ft.), Chiangmai Province, N. Siam, Feb. 1931, collected by Mr. C. J. Aagaard.

This subspecies differs from typical *N. nashona* in exactly the same way as *N. cartica meraca* Riley and Godfrey¹, which also flies in Northern Siam, differs from *N. cartica cartica*, that is to say, in having a much more strongly contrasted black and white coloration.

Neptis nashona is treated by Evans in his Keys for the Identification of Indian Butterflies as a subspecies of *Neptis anjana*. Although the two have several points of similarity, the justification for uniting them is not very apparent. Fruhstorfer, in Seitz (ix, p. 613), on the other hand, treats *nashona* as a local race of *Neptis cartica*, which, however, it cannot be, as it flies in Assam with typical *cartica* from which it is obviously distinct. It is treated here therefore as a good species with two subspecies, *nashona* in Assam and *aagaardi* in N. Siam.

***Penthema binghami godfreyi* nom. nov.** (Pl. 22, figs. 9, 10).

P. binghami mimetica Lathy, Riley and Godfrey, J. N. H. Soc. Siam, Vol. IV, p. 175, pl. v, fig. 2, 1921 (♂ only).

The discovery of the true male *P. binghami mimetica* Lathy by Dr. A. F. G. Kerr at Ranawng [Renong], P. Siam, shows that Riley and Godfrey (*l. c.*) were wrong in attributing to that subspecies the males taken by Godfrey in N. Siam. These males obviously represent a distinct subspecies, named above, and are distinguished from typical *binghami* by their smaller size, more falcate forewings, and smaller spotting on the forewing, both above and below; the yellow marginal and submarginal spots of the hindwing, as in *binghami*, are very variable.

Type ♂: Upper Me Lem, Prae, N. Siam, April 1918 (*E. J. Godfrey*).

The true male of ssp. *mimetica* has a small spotted forewing like *godfreyi*, but the ground colour of this wing is dark shining metallic green, spots of which re-appear on the underside in the cell

¹ J. N. H. Soc. Siam, Vol. iv, p. 177. pl. v, fig. 4, 1921.

and as a very irregular discal series, in an extremely euploeine manner. The coloration of the hindwing is typical, without trace of green, and the pale yellow spots (in this the only specimen available) run together to form broad streaks which almost reach the cell.

Type (allotype): Ranawng, P. Siam (*Dr. A. F. G. Kerr*).

The species of *Euploea* that forms the model for the male *mimetica* is uncertain, as I have no evidence as to the precise forms which fly at Ranawng. Probably it is some variety of *E. deione*, *E. alcathoë*, or *E. midamus*; or it may be that the somewhat generalised euploeine resemblance of *mimetica* has sufficed as a disguise to admit it to the local *Euploea* assemblage.

Lycaenopsis haraldus renonga ssp. nov. (Pl. 22, figs. 1, 2).

♂. Separable at once from all the other known subspecies of *L. haraldus* by the great development of the white costal patch on the upper side of the hindwing. Usually this patch is confined entirely above vein 7; in *renonga* it extends from the costa fully to vein 6 and occasionally below it. *Underside*: not distinguishable from ssp. *ananga*.

♀. Differs correspondingly in having a much wider white hindwing band than usual. The outer edge of this band is slightly angled on vein 6, and the band itself at this point, measured along the vein, is 5.5 mm. wide in a specimen having a forewing length of 15 mm.

Holotype ♂, allotype ♀ and 2 ♂, 3 ♀ paratypes: all Renong, Siam (*W. Doherty*); 2 ♂ ♂: Nang Yawn, Takuapa, 8. 2, 29; 1 ♀: La-un, Ranawng [Renong], 18. 12. 29 (*Dr. A. F. G. Kerr*). All localities in Peninsular Siam.

Talicada macbethi sp. nov. (Pl. 22, figs. 7, 8)

♀. Small, forewing length only 14 mm. *Upperside* as in *T. nyseus* Cram., with a moderately large orange rather than red hindwing patch. *Underside* as in *T. nyseus khasiana* Swinhoe (= *khasia* Druce = *assamica* Seitz), but with large black, double sub-basal spot on the forewing at the origin of vein 2.

Holotype ♀: Lat Bua Kao, on the Korat line, E. Siam, 7. 2

1929, collected by Mr. J. J. McBeth.

The formation of the orange band on the underside of the hindwing is the same as in *T. nyseus khasiana* and in *T. metana* Riley and Godfrey¹ [= *annamitica* Seitz (Fruhstorfer MS.)]. From the former it is at once separable by the character mentioned above, and from the latter, which occurs in Northern Siam, by the absence of the black marginal spots on the underside of the hindwing and by the greatly increased discal spotting, etc.

The affinities of the species and subspecies of this genus appear worthy of further study. The form flying in South and Central Burma (*burmana* Evans) is much closer in general features to the true *nyseus* of South India and Ceylon than to its geographically nearer relations *khasiana* and *macbethi*. These two again are superficially at least much more closely related to one another than to *metana* which occupies, however, a zone of country lying almost exactly, in part at least, midway between them, and approaches the territory of *burmana*.

***Neocheritra amrita paulina* ssp. nov.** (Pl. 22, fig. 5)

♀. Smaller than typical *amrita*, the white areas of the upper surface of the hindwing larger, namely, the white spots in 1c both as wide as the black spot which separates them, and the inner white spot in 2 fully twice as wide as the black one upon which it rests. The underside paler, the orange suffusion of the hindwing being restricted to the apical area and extending only faintly along the costa, the basal half of forewing also paler, and the black anal and subanal markings of the hindwing, especially the latter, much narrower and disconnected.

Holotype ♀: Kaw Payam, Ranawng [Renong], P. Siam, 14. 1. 29 (*Dr. A. F. G. Kerr*).

Malaccan *amrita* appear to be remarkably constant, otherwise the naming of a Siamese race on the evidence of this solitary female would scarcely be justifiable.

***Hypochrysops kerri* sp. nov.** (Pl. 22, figs. 3, 4)

♂. *Upperside* bright orange ochreous; cilia orange. *Forewing* with a sharply defined terminal black band originating at vein 1,

¹ J. N. H. Soc. Siam, Vol. iv, p. 181, pl. vi, fig. 4, 1931.

where it is 1 mm. wide, and gently widening to vein 5, where it is 2 mm. wide and commences to expand across apex; band continued about half length of costa basad, but not actually touching costa, which remains narrowly orange. *Hindwing*, a few scattered black scales in areas 2-4 represent apparently a narrow submarginal line; abdominal area and area 8 pale ochreous.

Underside ground colour a little paler than above, the cell and apical area of forewing and the basal two-thirds of hindwing quite pale ochreous between the veins; cilia orange. *Forewing* cell with a basal dash against subcostal vein, a projection beyond and a bar across the end red-orange; a diffuse patch of the same colour in the lower part of the cell, and also an irregular row of four unequal subapical spots; of the latter the upper two edged silver both sides, the lower outwardly only; a prominent interrupted silver line along costal edge of cell; submarginal series duplicated, composed of very small black dots, only conspicuous in areas 3-6, the outer ones alone silver spotted. *Hindwing*: a short basal costal streak, a streak along base of vein 8 and two others beyond in area 7, which are joined to a large tripartite marking occupying most of cell and continued as a simple band from origin of vein 2 to inner margin, a very obscure discal band only obvious in area 1 b, all red-orange and edged more or less with silver and a very little black; submarginal line duplicated very fine, black, interrupted at all veins, the outer portions silvered.

Length of forewing 12 mm.

Holotype ♂: Tambon Kao Panom (c. 400 ft.), Krabi, P. Siam, 20. 3. 30 (*Dr. A. F. G. Kerr*).

This interesting species is most nearly related to *H. coelisparvus* Butler, others with which it clearly has some affinity being *H. apollo* Miskin and *H. wendisi* B. Baker. The genus *Hypochrysops* (= *Miletus* auct., nec Hb.) is essentially Australian and Papuan, being represented in those regions by quite a respectable number of species. Its existence in Peninsular Siam is therefore both unexpected and puzzling especially when it is considered that all the species of the genus are so attractive, many of them brilliant indeed, that they are unlikely to be overlooked. Apart from this species, only *H. coelisparvus*, which occurs in Nias, has been met with west of the

Moluccas.

H. chrysodesmus H. G. Smith, which the author described as having been doubtfully taken in Cambodia, actually occurs only in the island of Waigiou and, moreover, is quite unlike the species here discussed.

Since the above was written I have had the opportunity of examining a female in the Hill Museum which is certainly that of *H. kerri*. It is labelled "Straits Settlements", and nothing is now known as to its more precise origin. On the upperside it resembles the type female of *H. coelisparsus* Butler but has the black border of the forewing a good deal narrower, of almost even width throughout its length and devoid of the two projections from the costal portion towards the centre of the wing. The hindwing black border, which is sometimes completely absent in *coelisparsus*, is like that of the type specimen. The underside is exactly like that of the male *kerri* described above, except that the ground colour is a clearer ochreous and extends on the hindwing, unsuffused with reddish, right up to the somewhat better developed and more sharply defined marginal markings.