

Notes on the distribution of *Castnia invaria penelope* Schaufuss, 1870 (Lepidoptera, Castniidae)

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ABSTRACT The finding of *Castnia invaria penelope* Schaufuss, 1870 in Ecuador (Rio Napo) is highlighted, thus extending the body of knowledge on the distribution of the ssp. Additional information on the genus and the congeneric species is also provided.

KEY WORDS Lepidoptera, Castniidae, *Castnia*.

Received 18.09.2011; accepted 24.09.2011; printed 30.09.2011

INTRODUCTION

The Castnids are nocturnal lepidoptera with diurnal (or crepuscular) habits. They are distributed mainly in the Neotropical region. Data concerning their distribution are fragmentary at best, and they are under-represented in institutional and private collections (González, 2004; Lamas, 1995; Vinciguerra & Racheli, 2006; Vinciguerra, 2011).

Several recent studies have extended the taxonomic body of knowledge on the family with the description of a new taxon (*Athis pirrello* Vinciguerra, 2011), the male of this interesting species was located twelve years after the capture of the holotype and it is also currently being described.

Three species have shown a more extensive geographical distribution than previously thought *Divana diva hoppi* (Hering, 1923), previously known to exist only in Colombia and now discovered also in Ecuador (Esmeraldas) (Vinciguerra, 2010); *Athis palatinus staudingeri* (Druce, 1896) described in Panama and captured in Costa Rica (Corcovado) (Vinciguerra & González, 2011) and, lastly, *Amauta hodeei kruegeri* (Niepelt, 1927) also considered endemic to Colombia and now located in Ecuador (personal data).

Castnia invaria Walker, 1854 is a widely studied species mainly because of its pest status on pineapple (*Ananas* spp., Bromeliaceae) planta-

tions. This is a widely distributed species in South America and four sub-specific entities are recognized: *C. invaria invaria* Walker, 1854, *C. i. penelope* Schaufuss, 1870, *C. i. trinitatis* Lathy, 1925, *C. i. volitans* Lamas, 1995 (Lamas, 1995).

Castnia invaria penelope Schaufuss, 1870

The distribution of *Castnia invaria penelope* (Figs. 1-2) includes Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay. The taxonomic rank of the aforementioned subspecies requires further research because their status could be considered unclear due to a significant polymorphism. As all the ssp. known, the larvae feed on several Bromeliaceae, including pineapples (*Ananas* spp., Bromeliaceae). The imago has diurnal habits and the adults of *Castnia invaria penelope* have been observed flying (Paraguay) between 11 am and noon (Ríos & González, 2011).

We point out the presence of this species also in Ecuador (Rio Napo) on the basis of two specimens, collected in this region in 1974.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to extend a special thanks to J. M. González (Texas A & M University) for comments given during the drafting stage of this short note.

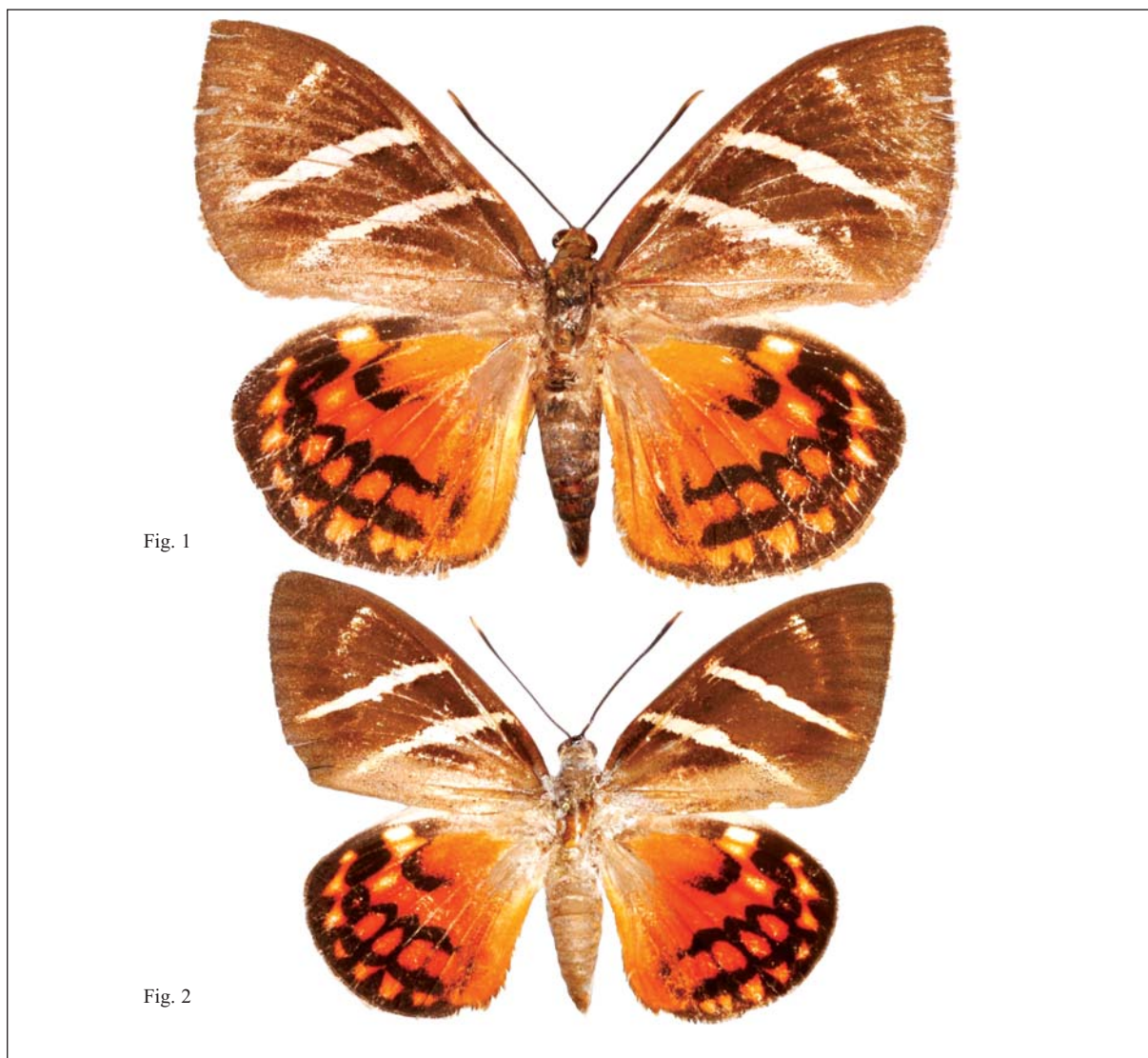


Figure 1. *Castnia invaria penelope* female, Ecuador, Rio Napo, 04.1974, width 80 mm.

Figure 2. *Castnia invaria penelope* male, Ecuador, Rio Napo, 04.1974, width 120 mm.

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