

DISTRIBUTIONAL NOTES OF ARSEURINAE INCLUDING THE
FIRST RECORD OF *ARSENURA SYLLA NIEPELTI* IN ECUADOR
(Lepidoptera, Saturniidae)

HORST KÄCH (*) and LUIGI RACHELI (**)

INTRODUCTION

In the recent checklist of Ecuadorian Saturniidae (Racheli & Racheli, 2006b), a total of 35 taxa of Arsenurinae were recorded for this country. In that checklist, all the provincial records for these taxa were summarized including notes for some uncommon and rare species. In this paper, additional records for some species are reported including the first record of *Arsenura sylla niepelti* (Schüssler, 1936) in Ecuador. Furthermore, *Paradaemonia platydesmia* (Rothschild, 1907) is reported for the first time for western Ecuador. It is suggested to read the present article as a supplement to the checklist compiled by Racheli & Racheli (2006b).

All the specimens listed below were collected and they are in the collection of the senior author.

LIST OF SPECIES

Arsenura sylla niepelti (Schüssler, 1936) (fig. 1)

REMARKS. Since its original description, this subspecies was known to occur only in western Colombia (Lemaire, 1980) but more recently it was discovered also in Costa Rica. The presence of this species in Ecuador is reported here for the first time on the basis of the following specimens: 1 ♂, Esmeraldas, Lita, 780 m, 28 March 2006; 1 ♂, Esmeraldas, Durango, 350 m, 12 October 2007.

(*) Ceramica s/n, Tumbaco, Pichincha, Ecuador.

(**) Research Associate, Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart, Germany. To whom correspondence should be addressed Via Piero Carnabuci, 29 - 00139 Rome, Italy. E-mail: luigi.gi.racheli@alice.it



Fig. 1 – *Arsenura sylla niepelti*: ♂, Ecuador, Esmeraldas, Lita, 780 m, 28 March 2006.



Fig. 2 – *Arsenura thomsoni lemairei*: ♂, Ecuador, Napo, Cando, 600 m, 15 July 2004.



Fig. 3 – *Parademonia platydesmia*: ♂, Ecuador, Esmeraldas, Lita, 780 m, 28 March 2006.



Fig. 4 – *Parademonia platydesmia*: ♀, Ecuador, Esmeraldas, Durango, 350 m, 21 January 2007.

Arsenura thomsoni lemairei Racheli & Racheli, 1998 (fig. 2)

REMARKS. Racheli & Racheli (2006b) recorded this species for the provinces of Sucumbíos and Orellana. Two additional specimens, 1 ♂ from Sucumbíos, road Lumbaquí-La Bonita km. 28, 450 m, 21 Febr. 2007 and 1 ♂ Napo, Cando, 600 m, 15 July 2004, were examined. The first record confirms the presence of this species in Sucumbíos while the second record is the first for the province of Napo. This latter record is a noteworthy addition according to the recent review by Racheli & Racheli (2006a) of the Saturniid fauna of the province of Napo.

Caio championi (Druce, 1886)

REMARKS. Although it was already listed for the province of Esmeraldas and Cañar by Racheli & Racheli (2006b), the presence of this species in Esmeraldas is confirmed with the following records: 1 ♂, Lita, 780 m, 1 February 2006; 1 ♂, idem, 28 March 2006; 1 ♂, idem, 16 Febr. 2007; 1 ♂, Durango, 350 m, 15 May 2007; 1 ♂, Esmeraldas, Durango, 350 m, 12 October 2007.

Parademonia platydesmia (Rothschild, 1907) (figs 3-4)

REMARKS. Racheli & Racheli (2006b) recorded this species for various provinces in eastern Ecuador (Sucumbíos, Orellana, Napo, Pastaza, Morona-Santiago). It is here reported for the first time for western Ecuador on the basis of the following specimens: 1 ♂, Esmeraldas, Lita, 780 m, 28 March 2006; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Esmeraldas, Durango, 350 m, 21 January 2007; 2 ♂♂, Esmeraldas, Durango, 350 m, 12 October 2007.

Parademonia samba (Schaus, 1906)

REMARKS. This species was reported for the provinces of Sucumbíos, Orellana, Napo and Morona-Santiago. Racheli & Racheli (2006b) had some doubts about the provenience of the single speci-

men examined from Sucumbíos. In any case, a further record from this province is reported here on the basis of 1 ♂ from Lumbaquí, 829 m, 20 November 2004.

Copiopteryx semiramis andensis (Lemaire, 1974)

REMARKS. Although it is a widespread taxon reported for the provinces of Pichincha, Manabí, Cañar, Los Ríos and El Oro in western Ecuador, no official record for the province of Esmeraldas was known. It is here reported for this latter province on the basis of the following records: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Durango, 350 m, 21 January 2007; 1 ♀, idem, 16 June 2007; 2 ♂♂, idem, 12 October 2007; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Mompiche, 120 m, 15 August 2007.

RIASSUNTO

Note sulla distribuzione degli Arsenurinae inclusa la prima segnalazione di Arsenura sylla niepelti in Ecuador (Lepidoptera, Saturniidae).

Vengono riportati alcuni dati di raccolta su sei species di Arsenurinae in Ecuador. *Arsenura sylla niepelti* (Schüssler, 1936) viene segnalata per la prima volta per questo paese mentre *Paradaemonia platydesmia* (Rothschild, 1907) è riportata per la prima volta per il versante occidentale delle Ande in Ecuador.

SUMMARY

Some noteworthy records for six species of Arsenurinae in Ecuador are given. *Arsenura sylla niepelti* (Schüssler, 1936) is reported for the first time for Ecuador while *Paradaemonia platydesmia* (Rothschild, 1907) is recorded for the first time for western Ecuador.

REFERENCES

- LEMAIRE, C. 1980. Les Attacidae americains. The Attacidae of America (= Saturniidae). Arsenurinae: 199 pp, 76 pls. Lemaire ed., Neuilly-sur-Seine.
- RACHELI, L. & T. RACHELI. 2006a. The Saturniid fauna of Napo Province, Ecuador: an overview (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae). SHILAP Revta lepid., 34 (134): 125-139.
- RACHELI, L. & T. RACHELI. 2006b. An update checklist of the Saturniidae of Ecuador. Part II: Arsenurinae, Ceratocampinae, Saturniinae (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae). SHILAP Revta lepid., 34 (135): 197-211.