

AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY OF NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 4, 1953 NUMBER 1630

A New Species of *Hyalaethea* Butler and a Key to the Species of the Genus (Lepidoptera, Ctenuchidae)

BY NICHOLAS OBRAZTSOV¹

A study of the family Ctenuchidae in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History gave the author an opportunity to describe a new species of *Hyalaethea* Butler, which is closely related to *H. solomonis* Hampson. The author considered it useful to add to this paper a key to all the known species of the genus in so far as this key was omitted in the literature.

The author takes this occasion to thank Dr. F. H. Rindge, Assistant Curator in the Department of Insects and Spiders of the American Museum, for his kindness in placing the material herein discussed at the author's disposal.

Hyalaethea (Paraceryx) malaitaënsis, new species

MALE: Antennae black. Head pale yellow, with black vertex, orange behind eyes. Patagia and tegulae orange. Thorax black-brown, with two orange patches in the middle and two at the posterior edge. Pectus with two yellow patches on each side. Fore femora and tibiae black-brown, tarsi and fringes of tibiae and tarsi yellow; middle legs like the fore legs but without fringes; hind femora yellow, the outside of the tibiae blackish. Abdomen black with a large orange patch on the first tergum and six narrow orange rings on further segments; anal segment black. Length of forewing, 13 mm.

Forewing with borders, interspaces between veins M_1 and M_2 and Cu_1 and Cu_2 extending from the terminal border to the middle cell, and all veins, black; a long hyaline spot (m_{1+3}) below the middle cell, ex-

¹ Sea Cliff, Long Island, New York.

tending from near wing base almost to the tornus; a wedge-shaped spot (m_2) in the middle cell; a long spot (m_4), slightly pointed at the base, between veins R_5 and M_1 ; two spots (m_5 and m_6) between veins M_2 and Cu_1 , both shorter but broader than the upper spot (m_4) of the exterior spot row. Hind wing black bordered, with two hyaline spots between veins A_2 and Cu_1 , separated from each other only by the black vein Cu_2 ; middle cell and the subcostal area above it yellow; a little hyaline spot in the middle cell above the base of vein Cu_2 ; the inner hind wing lobe pale orange towards the outside and yellowish towards the inside, whitish fringed and black at the tip.

FEMALE: Similar to the male but with a more orange frons; the middle cell and the subcostal area of the hind wing black.

Two male specimens, the holotype and a paratype, and a female allotype from Malaita, Solomon Islands, in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History.

Nearest to *solomonis* Hampson, but in the latter species the legs only are banded with blackish. Furthermore, in *solomonis* the middle cell and basal half of the subcostal area of the hind wing are orange; in *malaitaënsis* they are yellow, only the inner area being partly orange. In the female of *malaitaënsis* the middle cell and the subcostal area of the hind wing are black.

The true *solomonis* is represented in the American Museum by one female specimen labeled: Sta. Anna Island, Solomon Islands, March 15, 1927.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF THE GENUS *Hyalaethea* BUTLER

1. Fore tibiae and tarsi of the male not fringed; some hairs only on coxae and femora (subgenus *Hyalaethea* Butler) 2
 Fore tibiae and tarsi of the male fringed with long hairs and scales (subgenus *Paraceryx* Bethune-Baker) 3
2. Hind wing mostly orange; a single small hyaline spot above vein Cu_2 *H. (Hyalaethea) woodfordi* Butler
 Hind wing not orange; a hyaline spot below the middle cell and another between veins Cu_1 and Cu_2 *H. (H.) metaphaea* Druce
3. Hind wing without hyaline spots 4
 Hind wing with hyaline spots 8
4. Forewing with hyaline spots 5
 Forewing without hyaline spots; the base of the submedian area yellowish; a yellow dot at the base of the median vein
 *H. (Paraceryx) distorta* (Rothschild)
5. Hind wing unicolorous greenish black, only the cilia near the termen brownish 6
 Hind wing with more or less broad yellow or orange patches 7

6. Head entirely black *H. (P.) aroa* (Bethune-Baker)
 Frons and the back of the head orange *H. (P.) basigera gilolensis* (Rothschild)
7. Forewing with two hyaline patches *H. (P.) bivitreata* (Hampson)
 Forewing with five hyaline patches *H. (P.) meeki* (Rothschild)
8. Thorax orange or with orange markings 9
 Thorax black-brown, without orange markings 11
9. Hyaline spots of the hind wing only outward from vein Cu_2
 *H. (P.) basigera basigera* (Walker)
 Hyaline spots of the hind wing also before vein Cu_2 10
10. Fore and middle femora and tibiae black-brown. Hind wing with a middle
 cell and subcostal area above it yellow in the male and black in the
 female *H. (P.) malaitaensis*, new species
 Fore and middle femora and tibiae yellowish brown, banded with blackish.
 Hind wing with the middle cell and basal part of the subcostal area above
 it orange in both sexes *H. (P.) solomonis* Hampson
11. Abdomen with orange dorsal bands on each segment 12
 Abdomen with small, yellow, subdorsal patches on first tergum; remaining
 segments with only lateral and ventral bands
 *H. (P.) georgiensis* Rothschild
12. Frons orange yellow; the lobe of the inner margin of hind wing whitish . .
 *H. (P.) alberti* Rothschild
Frons pale yellow; the hind wing inner lobe orange-tinged
 *H. (P.) simillima* (Rothschild)

