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Zenithoptera viola Ris, 1910

foto: U. Drechsel

Four new records of Saturniidae from Paraguay

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Abstract: New records for Paraguay of four species of the Saturniidae family are reported: *Rothschildia maurus* Burmeister, 1879, *Citheronia phoronea* (Cramer, 1779), *Othorene hodeva* (Druce, 1904) and *Molippa superba* Burmeister, 1878. Photographs of the specimens were made in situ and are added.

Resumen: Nuevos registros para Paraguay de cuatro especies de la familia Saturniidae se reportan: *Rothschildia maurus* Burmeister, 1879, *Citheronia phoronea* (Cramer, 1779), *Othorene hodeva* (Druce, 1904) y *Molippa superba* Burmeister, 1878. Fotografías de los ejemplares se hicieron in situ y se añaden.

Zusammenfassung: Neunachweise für Paraguay von vier Arten der Familie Saturniidae werden gemeldet: *Rothschildia maurus* Burmeister, 1879, *Citheronia phoronea* (Cramer, 1779), *Othorene hodeva* (Druce, 1904) and *Molippa superba* Burmeister, 1878. Photographien der Tiere wurden vor Ort gemacht und werden beigegeben.

Key words: Paraguay, Saturniidae, Saturniinae, Ceratocampinae, Hemileucinae, *Rothschildia*, *Citheronia*, *Othorene*, *Molippa*.

Introduction

The silkmoths fauna of Paraguay is regarded as comparatively well studied, but now and then new distributional data are published (e.g. Drechsel, 1995; Racheli, 1995, 1996; Rios & Smith, 2013) and even unknown and undescribed species are discovered (Lampe, 1995; Brechlin & Meister, 2008; Mielke & Drechsel, 2009; Brechlin et al. 2011). The occurrence

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of three additional species was found recently in the north of the eastern region of Paraguay and a fourth species along the river Paraguay valley. Pictures of the four species were already published in www.pybio.org.

***Rothschildia maurus* Burmeister, 1879**

SAN PEDRO: Estancia Braulia, 24° 21' S 57° 06' W, 17. X. 2006, 1 male.

PRESIDENTE HAYES: Puerto Galileo, 25° 03' S 57° 52' W, 1. X. 2007, 2 males.

The previously known distribution of *R. maurus* in Argentina and Bolivia was limited to the “low elevations on the eastern slopes of the Andes” (Lemaire, 1978). Surprisingly was the discovery of this species 700 km to the east along the Rio Paraguay valley. At both locations the observed and photographed specimens were males.



Figs. 1 – 2: *Rothschildia maurus* male specimens; 1) Estancia Braulia; 2) Puerto Galileo

***Citheronia phoronea* (Cramer, 1779)**

AMAMBAY: Estancia Laguna Ciervo, 22° 20' S 56° 11' W, 24. I. 2014, 2 males.

This species has a wide distribution from Panama to the southeast of Brazil (Lemaire, 1988). A male specimen was found sitting on a fence post of a cattle pasture bordered by Cerrado vegetation. A second male was attracted by a light source on a nearby shack.



Figs. 3 – 4: *Citheronia phoronea* male specimen, Estancia Laguna Ciervo

***Othorene hodeva* (Druce, 1904)**

AMAMBAY: Estancia Laguna Ciervo, 22° 20' S 56° 11' W, 25. I. 2014, 1 male.

Distribution of this species reaches from the amazonian parts of Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru to Mato Grosso do Sul in Brazil (Lemaire, 1988). One male specimen was found on the edge of a dense forest patch of the Atlantic Forest type near the border to Brazil, the state of Mato Grosso do Sul. The landscape is covered by a mosaic of high forest, Cerrado and exotic pasture for cattle breeding. The highest individual density in Brazil is reached in primary forest (Hawes et. al., 2009).



Figs. 5 – 6: *Othorene hodeva* male specimen, Estancia Laguna Ciervo

***Molippa superba* Burmeister, 1878**

CONCEPCION: Estancia Garay Cué, 22° 42' S 57° 22' W, 27. IV. 2013, 1 male.

Mapping the previous known distribution in the neighboring countries of Brazil, Bolivia and Argentina, one could suspect an occurrence in Paraguay. So the discovery of this species was not a surprise. One male specimen was attracted by the exterior lighting of the house and sat in the morning on the trunk of a nearby tree. Photographs were taken.

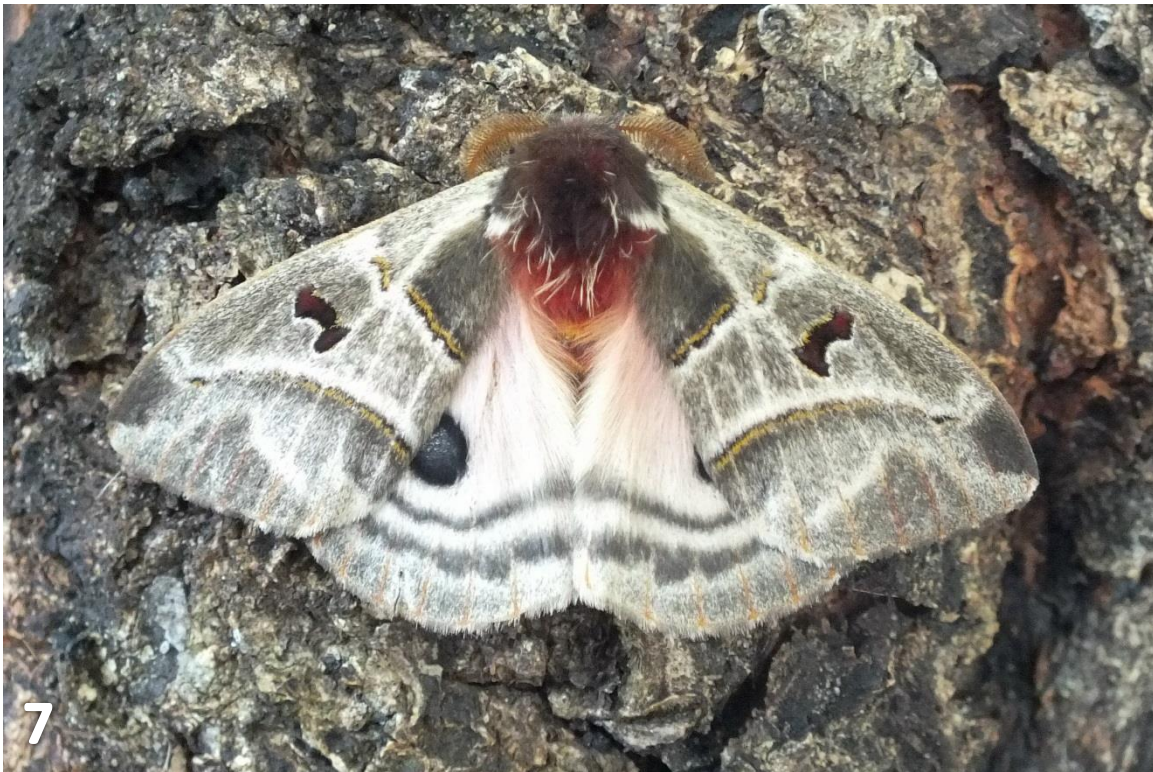


Fig. 7: *Molippa superba* male specimen, Estancia Garay Cué

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