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Neomarica gracilis (Herb.) Sprague

foto: U. Drechsel

Note on the life history of *Eryphanis reevesii* (Doubleday, [1849]) (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae: Brassolini)

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Abstract: Photographs of the fourth and fifth instar of *Eryphanis reevesii* (Doubleday, 1849) are presented.

Resumen: Se presentan fotografías del cuarto y quinto estadio larval de *Eryphanis reevesii* (Doubleday, 1849).

Zusammenfassung: Fotografien des vierten und fünften Larvenstadiums von *Eryphanis reevesii* (Doubleday, 1849) werden vorgestellt.

Key words: *Eryphanis reevesii*, early stages, Paraguay

Introduction

Nine species of the neotropical genus *Eryphanis* Boisduval, 1870 have so far been described, two of which also occur in Paraguay: *Eryphanis automedon* (Cramer, 1775), which is known from Venezuela and Colombia to the northeastern departments of the oriental region Amambay and Kanindeyú (Penz 2008) and *Eryphanis reevesii* (Doubleday, 1849) whose distribution area reaches from Central and southern Brazil to eastern Paraguay and Misiones, Argentina (Penz 2008). The larval stages feed on bamboo leaves and other Poaceae (Müller 1886, Casagrande & Mielke 2007, Penz 2008).

Stichel (1903) described in a few words a new subspecies from Paraguay as follows: "*Eryphanis reevesii pusillus* nov. subsp. Multo minor specie typ., alis posticis paulo angulatis, anticis colore

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cyaneo magis extensa. 1 ♂ Paraguay i. coll. mea". Casagrande (2004) recognized *E. reevesii pusillus* Stichel, 1904 from Paraguay beside the nominate subspecies from Brazil while Penz (2008) does not distinguish the two subspecies. To what extent it is really a separate subspecies, should not be discussed here.

Müller (1886) describes the first three larval instars, however, he had to interrupt the further breeding and had not seen the fourth and fifth instar. So these are briefly presented here.

Material and methods

In early December 2015, during a visit to the locality of Garay in the south of the department of Guairá in the oriental region of Paraguay, a fourth instar larva of *E. reevesii* could be observed and photographed. It was feeding on the leaves of *Guadua chacoensis* (Rojas) Londoño & P.M. Peterson on the edge of a dense bamboo thicket. Shortly after the finding it molted to the fifth instar.

Descriptive notes

Fourth instar (figs. 1-4): The head is light olive green in ground color and covered with short, stiff, black hairs. Each side of the head carries a backward-looking bristle-covered horn, dorsally marked with white. A vertical row of four black ocelli is located on each side of the front edge of the head. Base color of the body is greenish white, a broad green band begins between the horns of the head and reaches over the back of the larva to the anal plate. The first five abdominal segments bear in the middle of the rear edge a short black bristle. The bifid tails are long, greenish white and densely covered with warts each bearing a short bristle.

Fifth instar (figs. 5-8): The head is light brown or beige in ground color with small white dots and covered with short, stiff, brown hairs. The horns are bearing white warts, each with a bristle. Ocelli as before. Base color of the body is light brown with small white dots, only a central medium strip is free of dots. A broad hazelnut brown band runs along the back of the larva, laterally accompanied by three dark brown narrow stripes. The black bristles of the first five abdominal segments longer and thicker as before. The dark brown tails are densely covered with long projecting tubular warts, brown at the base and white at the tips each bearing a light brown short bristle.

Figs. 1-8: *Eryphanis reevesii* larvae; 1-4) fourth instar larva; 5-8) fifth instar larva



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FRONT COVER PHOTO: *Neomarica gracilis* (Herb.) Sprague (Iridaceae), Paraguay, Dep. Canindeyú, Tava Yopoi, 27. X. 2007

