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*Ceratosanthes multiloba* Cogn.

foto: U. Drechsel

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# Notes on the early stages and food plant of *Rekoa meton* (Cramer, [1779]) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Theclinae: Eumaeini)

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**Abstract:** Photographs of the last two larval instars, pupa and the resulting adult male are shown and information is provided on the food plant.

**Resumen:** Se muestran fotografías de los últimos dos estadios larvales, de la pupa y del macho adulto resultante y se proporciona información sobre la planta forragera.

**Zusammenfassung:** Es werden Fotografien der letzten beiden Larvenstadien, der Puppe und des daraus schlüpfenden Männchens abgebildet und Informationen zur Futterpflanze der Raupe gegeben.

**Key words:** Lycaenidae, *Rekoa meton*, early stages, food plant.

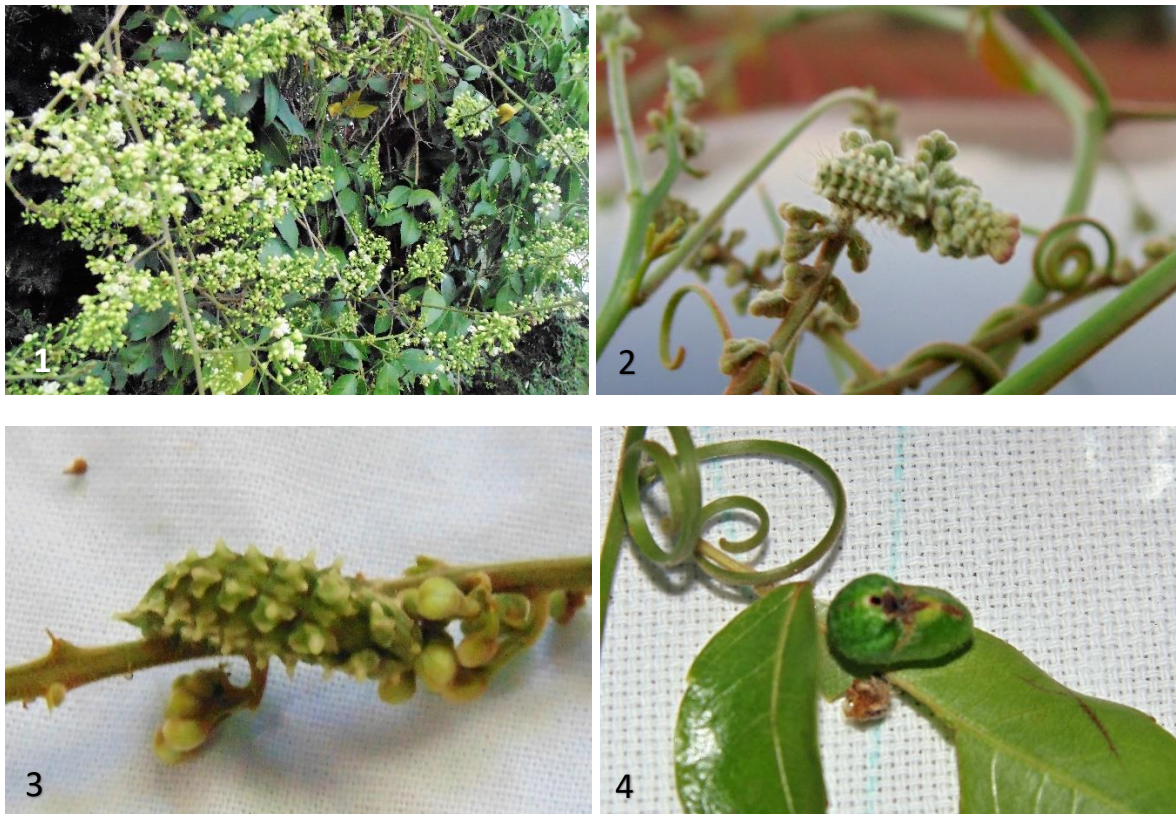
## Introduction

Seven species have become known from the genus *Rekoa*, which is distributed exclusively in the Neotropic region: the here presented *Rekoa meton* (Cramer, [1779]), *R. malina* (Hewitson, 1867), *Rekoa palegon* (Cramer, [1780]), *Rekoa zebina* (Hewitson, 1869), *Rekoa bourkei* (Kaye, 1925), *Rekoa marius* (Lucas, 1857) and *Rekoa stagira* (Hewitson, 1867). The vast area of distribution of *R. meton* ranges from Mexico to Paraguay and southern Brazil (Robbins 1991). Menezes et al. (2016) also report the species from the Argentine provinces of Misiones and Formosa. Despite the widespread distribution and relative abundance, little has been known about the life cycle and food plants. Even in the detailed work of Silva et al. (2014) on anthophagous Lycaenidae larvae in the Brazilian Cerrado, where two *Rekoa* species, *marius* and *palegon*, among others, are treated, no data on *R. meton* can be found.

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At the end of July, Aparecida de Fatima Cordeiro, the companion of the second author, discovered a caterpillar of a Lycaenid species on the flowers of a *Serjania* sp. (Sapindaceae) (photo 1) during a walk in the vicinity of Campos Novos Paulista in the state of Sao Paulo in Brazil. The larva fed on the flowers of the liana and perfectly mimicked them with a green ground color and whitish warts (photo 2) so that it could hardly be recognized between the blossoms. It was taken together with a part of the forage plant and stored for further observation in a plastic container. Two days later it moulted to the last, probably the fifth, larval stage (photo 3). After another 10 days pupation took place (photo 4) and 13 days later the butterfly hatched, which turned out to be a male of *Rekoa meton* (photo 5).



Figs 1-4: *Rekoa meton* (Cramer, [1779]). 1) the host plant, a *Serjania* sp. of the Sapindaceae family; 2) penultimate(?) larval instar; 3) last instar; 4) pupa and empty larval skin



Fig 5: *R. meton*, the male that hatched from the pupa of fig. 4

### Discussion

Early instars and forage plants have so far become known only from two species of the seven species belonging to the genus *Rekoa*, namely *R. marius* and *R. palegon* (Robinson et al. 2010). So it is probable that *R. meton* also shows polyphagous behavior and will be found on other plants during intensive research.

### Acknowledgements

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