



A review of the “*browni* group” of *Penaincisalia* with notes on their distribution and variability (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Eumaeini)

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Abstract

We provide a taxonomic review of the “*browni* group”, a cloud forest lineage of the diverse lycaenid butterfly genus *Penaincisalia*, distributed from Costa Rica to northern Argentina. The group is characterized on the basis of five characters provided by wing shape, forewing androconia and genital structures. We distinguish eight species in the group: *P. browni* (Johnson, 1992), *P. caeruleonota* Hall & Willmott, 2005; *P. cuiva* Prieto & Rodríguez, 2007; *P. magnifica* (Johnson, 1992), *P. purpurea* (Johnson, 1992), *P. saraha* (Johnson, 1992), *P. vittata* (Johnson, 1992) and *P. regala* (Le Crom & Johnson, 1997). We confirm their status as presented in the recent Checklist of Neotropical Butterflies (Robbins, 2004), except for *P. regala* which is reinstated to species status from synonymy. The taxonomic history of each species with references to type material is provided. Every species is diagnosed, male and female phenotypes are associated, described and data on their distribution and biology are given. If relevant the variability of the species is discussed.

Key words: Ecuador, Colombia, Perú, Biodiversity, tropical Andes, cloud forest, hilltopping, Butterflies, Theclinae.

Resumen

Se realiza una revisión taxonómica del “grupo *browni*” perteneciente al género *Penaincisalia*. Este grupo es caracterizado y se proveen caracteres diagnósticos pertenecientes a la forma del ala, androconios y genitalia. Diferenciamos ocho especies en este grupo como: *P. browni* (Johnson, 1992), *P. caeruleonota* Hall & Willmott, 2005; *P. cuiva* Prieto & Rodríguez, 2007; *P. magnifica* (Johnson, 1992), *P. purpurea* (Johnson, 1992), *P. saraha* (Johnson, 1992), *P. vittata* (Johnson, 1992) y *P. regala* (Le Crom & Johnson, 1997), confirmando su estatus de especie como es señalado en el “Checklist of Neotropical Butterflies” excepto para *P. regala*, la cual es considerada como especie válida. Se presenta una historia taxonómica, diagnosis, descripción, asociación de los fenotipos macho y hembra, mapas de distribución geográfica y variabilidad morfológica de las especies.

Introduction

In a recent checklist of Neotropical Eumaeini (Robbins, 2004), 24 formally described and 18 undescribed but recognized species within the genus *Penaincisalia* Johnson, 1990 were listed. However, in the last four years several new species have been described in *Penaincisalia* by other authors (Hall *et. al.*, 2005; Prieto & Rodríguez, 2007), or in *Thecloxurina* Johnson, 1992 (Bálint & Wojtusiak, 2006) and in *Abloxurina* Johnson, 1992 (Bálint *et al.*, 2006). The last two genera plus *Pons* Johnson, 1992 have been considered by Robbins (2004) as synonyms of *Penaincisalia*. Although a consensus about the acceptance of *Penaincisalia sensu* Robbins does not exist, according to a recent review the whole genus contains 44–46 described species,