



Taxonomic notes on the leafwing butterflies *Memphis leonida* (Stoll) and *Memphis editha* (Comstock), **stat. nov.** (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Charaxinae)

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Abstract

The taxonomy of *Memphis leonida* (Stoll) is revised and an assessment of the names currently considered synonyms or subspecies are presented. Lectotypes of *Papilio leonida* Stoll and *Paphia porphyrio* Bates are designated, and one new status is proposed for *Memphis editha* (Comstock), **stat. nov.**, a species currently regarded as a subspecies of *M. leonida*. Genitalic and wing shape and pattern characters suggest that *M. leonida*, occurring in the Amazon basin and the Guyanas, and *M. editha*, occurring in the Atlantic rain forest, are distinct species. Redescriptions, taxonomic notes, illustrations of male and female genitalia, and up-to-date distribution maps for the taxa are given.

Keywords: Anaeini; taxonomy; *Piper*

Resumo

A taxonomia de *Memphis leonida* (Stoll) é revisada e os nomes atualmente reconhecidos como sinônimos ou subespécies são analisados. Lectótipos são designados para *Papilio leonida* Stoll e *Paphia porphyrio* Bates, e um novo status é proposto para *Memphis editha* (Comstock), **stat. nov.**, uma espécie atualmente reconhecida como subespécie de *M. leonida*. Contudo, caracteres da genitália e de formato e padrão de coloração das asas sugerem que *M. leonida*, distribuída na bacia Amazônica e Guiana, e *M. editha*, distribuída na floresta Atlântica, são espécies distintas. São apresentadas re-descrições, ilustrações das genitálias de machos e fêmeas e mapas de distribuição atualizados para os taxa estudados.

Palavras-chave: Anaeini; taxonomy; *Piper*

Introduction

The Neotropical genus *Memphis* Hübner includes 61 species and 112 subspecies (Lamas 2004). The most complete taxonomic treatment provided to date for the species currently within *Memphis* was given by Comstock (1961). In this study, all genus names previously proposed (including *Memphis*) were synonymized or regarded as subgenera of *Anaea* Hübner, and eight major species groups within subgenus *Anaea* (*Memphis*) were recognized (Comstock 1961). The species groups were based chiefly on the morphology of male genitalia and wing shape, venation, pattern and color. Later authors reinstated or proposed new genera names for some of those species groups: Rydon (1971) erected *Fountainea* Rydon and reinstated *Cymatogramma* Doubleday, and Salazar & Constantino (2001) erected *Annagrapha* Salazar & Constantino and *Rydonia* Salazar & Constantino. However, only *Fountainea* and *Memphis* are currently accepted (Pyrz & Neild 1996; Lamas 2004), the former including species from group I, IV, and V, and the latter, species from the remaining five groups (Lamas 2004).

Memphis leonida (Stoll) was included in species group VIII, the largest of the Comstock's (1961) species groups, which included the type species of *Memphis*, *M. polycarmes* (Fabricius). According to Comstock (1961), species in this group have the following characters: moderately stout thorax; strong sexual dimorphism; outer mar-