

Nota científica

The identity of *Taygetis vrazi* Kheil, 1896 (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae, Satyrinae)

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Through the kindness of Dr. F. Krampl, of the National Museum (Natural History) of Prague, Czech Republic [NMPC] I have recently had the opportunity to examine a male syntype of *Taygetis vrazi*, described in 1896 from Venezuela by Napoleon Manuel Kheil [1849-1923], a Czech lepidopterist whose collection is preserved at the NMPC (VÁVRA 1924).

Taygetis vrazi was described by KHEIL (1896a), based on two male syntypes, one from the Río Atabapo, Venezuela, belonging to his personal collection, the second from the Río Negro (in Brazil), deposited in Otto Staudinger's collection, in Berlin, Germany. This taxon was illustrated twice by KHEIL (1896a, b), in his original proposal, and in an account of the Lepidoptera collected by the Czech naturalist Enrique Stanko Vráz during his travels in South America, after whom the butterfly was named.

Since its original proposal, *Taygetis vrazi* has been cited very few times in the literature, and has remained an obscure and enigmatic species, as no further specimens seem to have been reported. WEYMER (1910), in his treatment of the Neotropical satyrines, regarded it as a form of «*Taygetis*» [nowadays *Pseudodebis valentina* (Cramer, [1779]), and GAEDE (1931) followed suit. FORSTER (1964) considered it as possibly synonymous with *Taygetis rectifascia* Weymer; this opinion is quite surprising, as the original figures of *vrazi* and *rectifascia* clearly show them to be different entities. FORBES (1953) did not include *vrazi* in his key to the species of *Taygetis*. Finally, D'ABRERA (1988) wrongly illustrated as *Taygetis vrazi* a specimen of *Pseudodebis dubiosa* Forster. In all probability, none of these authors (with the possible exception of Weymer) ever saw a true specimen of *vrazi*.

The male syntype of *vrazi* in Staudinger's collection (housed nowadays in the Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany) has not been

located. However, examination of the male syntype held at NMPC (fig. 1) shows conclusively that *vrazi* is a member of the genus *Harjesia* Forster, 1964. A female specimen (fig. 2), virtually identical to the male syntype (except for being slightly larger: forewing length is 29 mm in this female, vs. 28 mm in the syntype), is housed in the collections of the Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Peru. The latter comes from PERU, Loreto, Río Samiria, Estación Biológica Pithecia, at 180 m elevation, and was collected on 07 November 1979 by V. Pacheco.

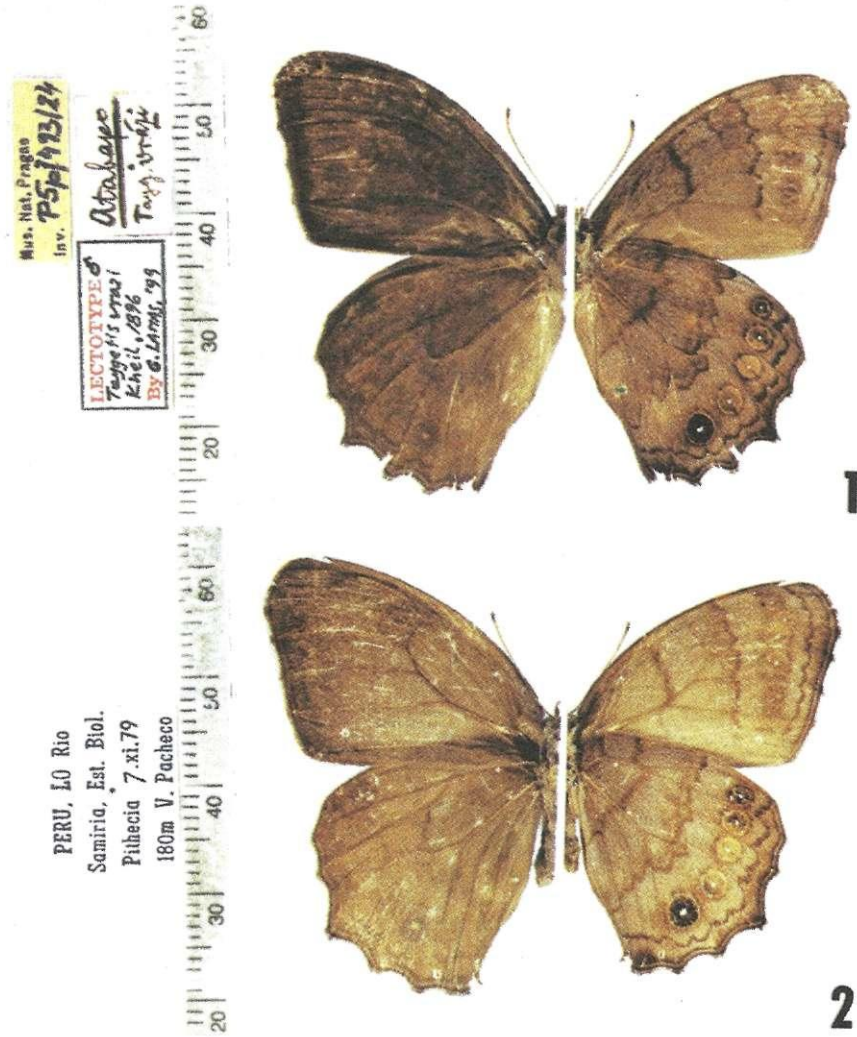
The distribution of *Harjesia vrazi* (Kheil), **comb. n.**, is thus shown to extend at least from northeastern Peru to northwestern Brazil (upper Río Negro) and southern Amazonas state (Venezuela). Without doubt, it should occur in easternmost Colombia, and possibly also in eastern Ecuador.

I designate here as **Lectotype** of *Taygetis vrazi* Kheil the male syntype held at NMPC, illustrated on fig. 1 and bearing the following labels: (i) «Atabapo/Tayg. vrázi» [rectangular, white, handwritten with black ink]; (ii) «Mus. Nat. Pragae/Inv. P5p/493/24» [rectangular, light orange, printed and handwritten with black ink]; and (iii) «LECTOTYPE ♂/Taygetis vrazi/Kheil, 1896/G. Lamas des. '99" [rectangular, white, printed with red lettering and handwritten with black ink]. The abdomen is contained in a gelatin capsule, pinned with the specimen.

Literature

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FIGURES 1-2.-*Harjesia vrazi* (Kheil). 1. Lectotype male (Venezuela); 2. Female (Peru). Upper side at left, under side at right.