

A DAY-FLYING MOTH (PERICOPIDAE) NEW TO TEXAS
AND THE UNITED STATES

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Phaloesia saucia Walker

Phaloesia saucia Walker, 1854. List of specimens of lepidopterous insects in the collection of the British Museum, Part 2, p. 359 (genus and species described from 4 specimens, two from Venezuela, one from Nicaragua, and one from unknown locality); Butler, 1874, Trans. Ent. Soc. London (1874) p. 54; Druce, 1884, Biol. Centr.-Amer., Insecta Lep., Het. 1: 105, t. 11, f. 2; *ibid.*, 2: 384 (1890); Kirby, 1892, Syn. Cat. Lep. Het. 1: 189, n. 1; Dyar, 1911, Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash. 13: 230; Dyar, 1914, Ins. Inscit. Menstr. 2: 63; Hering, 1925, in Seitz, Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde 6: 448; Bryk, 1931, in Strand, Lepid. Cat. Part 45, p. 40.

Cocastria gentilis Boisduval, 1870, Consid. Lep. Guat. p. 88 (synonymy).

Phaloesia fulvicollis Butler, 1875, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) 16: 171 (synonymy).

Phaloesia chalybdea Butler, 1875, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) 16: 171 (synonymy).

Phaloesia venezuelae Butler, 1875, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) 16: 171 (synonymy).

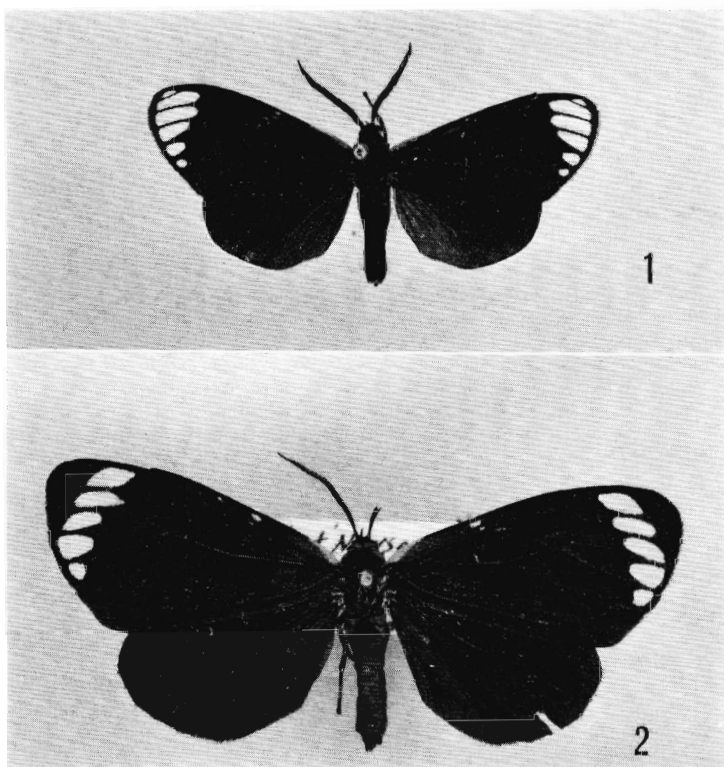
The last four names were placed in synonymy by Druce (1884) to which Butler agreed.

McDunnough (1938) does not list this species as being found in the United States, even though examples had been collected at Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas 28 years earlier. Because few collectors may be familiar with this species, a male and female are illustrated. There is considerable size variation in each sex, possibly due to availability or scarcity of larval foodplant. Of the nine examples collected by the writer, the wing expanse of males ranged from 1¼ to 1½ inches, and of females from 1⅞ to 2 inches.

Dyar described the larva, cocoon, and pupa but did not give its larval foodplant. This species has been collected at or near Brownsville, Texas in April, May, August, October, and November. Collection dates would indicate there are at least three broods in extreme southern Texas where it has been taken by various collectors over the past 60 years. It is therefore considered resident.

Specimens observed and collected by the writer have been in thick brush or on the edge thereof, making it difficult to catch except when feeding on blossoms. This dense and often thorny habitat probably accounts for the tattered condition of some specimens.

The earliest known records for the United States are three examples in the U. S. National Museum. A female bears the labels "Brownsville, Tex., Nov. 30, 1910"; "Sweeping weeds, STC., Nov. 20, '10"; and "*Phaloesia*



Figs. 1,2. *Phaloesia saucia* Walker, dorsal view; Brownsville, Tex., 3.IV.1957 (R. O. Kendall). 1, Male (expanding 1.5"); 2, female (expanding 2.0").

saucia". The other two specimens, a ♂ and ♀ collected in copula, Brownsville, Texas April 7, 1929, F. H. Benjamin (♂ very battered and worn).

The writer has collected nine examples at or near Brownsville. In April 1957 it was found fairly common, but not realizing it to be a good catch, only a few examples were taken. Specific dates are: 2 April 1957 (1♂, 2♀♀), 3 April 1957 (2♂♂, 1♀), 7 November 1969 (2 fresh ♀♀ feeding on blossoms of *Eupatorium odoratum* L.), 9 November 1969 one sight record, and 10 November 1969 (1♀). Other examples were seen on 7 November but the habitat made it impossible to catch them.

Jack E. Lipes (1962) found it at Brownsville in early May and again in August. In personal correspondence, he informed the writer of taking it in flight 7 August 1961.

Michael A. Rickard (personal communication) collected it at Brownsville 31 May 1968 (1♀), 25 October 1969 (1♂), and 8 November 1969 (1♀).

Acknowledgments

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Literature Cited

- LIPES, JACK E. 1962. Season Summary (1961). News Lepid. Soc. No. 3.
MCDUNNOUGH, J. 1938. Check list of the Lepidoptera of Canada and the United States of America—Part I, Macrolepidoptera. Mem. S. Calif. Acad. Sci. 1.

NOTES ON THE USE OF NET-TRAPS AT PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

In past issues of this journal, I came across two articles dealing with the preparation and use of net-traps provided with baits to catch certain species of high flying forest butterflies, especially *Charaxes* and other rarely seen nymphalids. Presently there seems no record to show that such type of traps have been tried in the Philippines.

During the writer's fourth expedition to Palawan for the further study of the biology of the rare *Trogonoptera trojana* and other papilionids of the forest, we took along huge mosquito nets. These we intended to use as a hatchery for forest butterflies, and for closeting immatures right on their host plants. With the latter, we were unsuccessful, but we found other uses for these large nets.

We selected river bends or spots where two creeks converge, and also promising creeksides, and near these we hung the mosquito nets, using nearby trees or poles to hold them. The lower edges of the nets were about five inches above the ground and held firmly with stone anchors. Between July and October, the mountain creeks and streams at Palawan have a heavy traffic of roving pierids, certain nymphalids, and some papilionids. Three nets were constantly in use. Two of medium sizes were installed permanently by the creekside, and a very large one was set at several places.

In an issue of this journal in 1958, the author discussed his experience in the use of baits to attract butterflies. This time, because of the duration of our stay in the forest, an opportunity to try baiting butterflies once more presented itself. At first we used overripe fruits of the ates (*Anonas squamosa* L.) which we placed on the balcony of our hut. This was at an altitude of about one thousand feet in a densely forested valley. Early each night, some three species of Underwing Moths often came to the bait. These moths showed a high preference for this fruit over several others like guavas, jackfruit, and papaya.

Beginning in the month of August when it was less windy than in July, we set the nets. In its early phase, our baiting attempt concentrated on the use of overripe fruits, mashed pineapple jam with rum and tid-bits from our table. In this case, we were able to collect a fine series of forest butterflies such as a female *Zeuxidia*, euthalids, *Adolias*, *Pantoporia*, *Precis*, *Phalanta*, *Eulepis*, *Charaxes*, *Libythea*, and some moths. Some of these visitors came at twilight, but most of them, by day. In a small coppice near a large creek, thousands of flies of several species swarmed into the trap.