

ON THE FEMALE OF *PROSOTAS MAPUTI* FROM THE PHILIPPINES (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE)

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ABSTRACT.— The hitherto unknown female of *Prosotas maputi* Semper, 1889, is described and figured for the first time from a single specimen captured on the Island of Mindoro (Philippines).

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG.— Das bislang unbekannte Weibchen von *Prosotas maputi* Semper, 1889, wird anhand eines einzelnen Exemplares von den Philippinen (Mindoro) erstmals beschrieben und abgebildet.

KEY WORDS: Asia, distribution, Mindanao, Mindoro, *Nacaduba*, Polyommatiniae, Southeast Asia, taxonomy.

While examining a small collection of lycaenid specimens from the Island of Mindoro (Philippines) collected in 1996, a single female specimen of *P. maputi* has been determined within the lycaenid material. Although *P. maputi* is a species that has already been described by Semper (1889) from the island of Mindanao (Philippines) and has been known for a long time, it is obviously a very rare species that is — except for a few scattered records in the literature — almost unknown and seldom represented in collections. All the previous records of this species refer to male specimens only and up to now the female of *P. maputi* has to be regarded as unknown, as it has never before been described or figured.

Prosotas maputi (Semper, 1889)

(Fig. 1-2)

- * 1889. *Chilades* ? *maputi* Semper: 170, pl. 32 fig. 26.
- ? 1895. *Nacaduba* *elsa* Grose-Smith: 509.
- 1963. *Nacaduba berenice* *maputi*.— Tite: 78.
- ? 1963. *Prosotas elsa*.— Tite: 96, fig. 60-61.
- 1988. *Nacaduba berenice* *maputi*.— Bridges: I.212.
- ? 1990. *Nacaduba elsa*.— D'Abra: 344.
- 1990. *Prosotas maputi* — Takanami: 75, fig. 19-20, 25.
- 1995. *Prosotas maputi*.— Treadaway: 69.

Holotype: In the Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg (SMF), Frankfurt am Main.

Locus typicus: Eastern Mindanao (Rio Maputi and Saloc).

Material examined: a single female specimen: Philippines, Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro, 17 Dec 1996; leg. G. Layron/Marinduque. Deposited in SMF.

Description of the female of *Prosotas maputi*

FW length = 12mm, Upperside of forewings with a very broad light brown border of about 1.5mm at the costal margin, increasing to 3mm in space 4 and to 3.5mm at tornus. Discal and basal area of FW with a shining blue metallic patch, filling most of the lower half of the cell and basal parts of spaces 1-3. Cilia uniformly brown. The hindwing is brown with just a few scattered blue scales within the cell and at the base of spaces 3-4. At the outer margin there is a series of black marginal spots and a black marginal hairline. The black spot in space 2 is scattered with a few whitish scales. Underside yellowish-brown with brown spots edged with dark brown and a white margin. On the forewing they are arranged as a postbasal (faintly developed), discocellular and a postmedian band, with spots in spaces 3-5 shifted to the outer margin. Marginal 2 white and one brownish line from apex to tornus, between them pairs of dark brown spots present in each space. Underside markings of hindwing arranged in 3 bands, as in the forewing but the outer series of brown marginal spots enlarged and with u-shaped outline. The spots in space 2 and 6 are the largest ones.

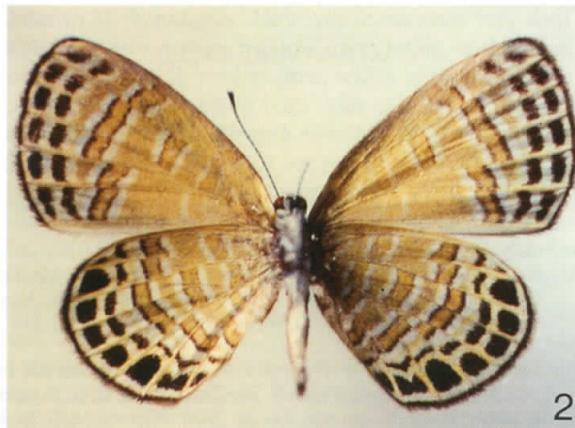


Fig. 1. *Prosotas maputi* SEMPER 1889: 1) dorsal and 2) ventral surface of the female.

Remarks.— In contrast to the male holotype (FWL = 10mm), in which the upperside of the wings are — except for a 1.5mm dark brown marginal border — colored almost completely blue, the female exhibits blue scales only within a small blue metallic patch on the forewings. The hindwings are colored almost completely brown and only a few scattered blue scales can be observed.

Within the genus *Prosotas* Druce, 1891, the species *P. maputi* is one of the most conspicuous species, differing strongly from all other known *Prosotas* species because of its unusual wing pattern of the ventral surface. Even Semper (1889:170) himself was not

sure about its generic affinities and his assignment of *P. maputi* to *Chilades* Moore, 1881, in the original description was doubtful. This was most probably because of its peculiar wing pattern, which is very close to that observed in *Nacaduba* Moore, 1881, and at first sight the species could be well regarded as belonging to this genus.

Aside from genitalia structure, *Nacaduba* superficially differs mainly in having a black tornal spot with an orange halo and a hind-wing tail at vein 2. This is also the case in many species of the genus *Prosotas*, but there are also a few tail-less species in the latter genus. In the development of the male genitalia, the close relationship to *Prosotas* becomes evident. Just as in the remaining species of this genus (Tite, 1963), *P. maputi* has rather primitively shaped, hook-like valvae with a strongly curved tip (Takanami, 1990:fig. 25) and the generic assignment to *Prosotas* seems to be reasonable.

Takanami (pers. comm., Feb 1999; 1990:76) considers *Prosotas elsa* (Grose-Smith, 1895) from Amboina as conspecific with *P. maputi*. Grose-Smith (1895:509) assigned it to *Nacaduba* in the original description, but recognized similarities with *Chilades* and *Zizera*. Just as *P. maputi*, this species is insufficiently known, and the type specimen was figured up to the present just by D'Abra (1990:344). It closely resembles *P. maputi* and could be conspecific or more probably a separate subspecies: genitalic examination may shed light on this question.

Distribution.— The distribution of *Prosotas maputi* is restricted to the Philippines. According to Takanami and Seki (1997) and Treadaway (1995), it is an "uncommon to local" species found on the islands of Mindanao and Marinduque. The new record proves its occurrence on Mindoro.

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