A NEW ORMISCODES FROM CHILE
(LEPIDOPTERA: SATURNIIDAE: HEMILEUCINAE)

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ABSTRACT.—Ormiscodes penai n. sp. is endemic to Chile, known only from a restricted area between 30°S and 33°S. It is distinct from other Ormiscodes (sensu stricto not sensu Michener, 1952) by the combination of several superficial characters which are indicated below. Male and female are illustrated, their genitalia are figured and taxonomic relationships are discussed.

RESUMEN.—Ormiscodes penai n. sp. es una especie endémica de Chile, sólo se conoce entre los 30° y los 33° S. Se distingue de las otras especies de Ormiscodes, sensu stricto (no sensu Michener, 1952) por la combinación de varios caracteres superficiales los cuales se indican más abajo. Se ilustran el macho y la hembra, la estructura de la armadura genital, y se discute su relación con otras especies.

KEY WORDS: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Dirphia, distribution, Ormiscodes penai n. sp., South America, taxonomy.

Ormiscodes was described by Blanchard (1852) for Bombyx cinnaomea Feisthamel, 1839 (type species by monotypy). Catocephala Blanchard and Thauma H. Edwards, which were formerly included in Dirphia and several related genera, the large complex thus delimited being divided in nine subgenera, which were either raised or reinstated to full generic status in more recent literature (Lemaire and Venedictoff, 1989; Wolfe, 1994; Beutelspacher and Balcazar, 1994). As presently accepted, Ormiscodes contains twelve species, all neantarctic, except O. shapiroi, an inhabitant of the Cordillera de Santa Marta, in northern Colombia, whose inclusion in Ormiscodes is questionable.

Ormiscodes can be defined by the following combination of characters: antennae of male quadripectinate, terminal bristles of basal rami shorter than setae, antennae of female bidentate; tegulae usually with some long, lanceolate scales much extending basal rami shorter than setae, antennae of female bidentate; tegulae usually with some long, lanceolate scales much extending basal rami shorter than setae, antennae of female bidentate; tegulae usually with some long, lanceolate scales much extending basal rami shorter than setae, antennae of female bidentate; tegulae usually with some long, lanceolate scales much extending basal rami shorter than setae, antennae of female bidentate; tegulae usually with some long, lanceolate scales much extending basal rami shorter than setae, antennae of female bidentate; tegulae usually with some long, lanceolate scales much extending basal rami shorter than setae, antennae of female bidentate; tegulae usually with some long, lanceolate scales much extending basal rami shorter than setae, antennae of female bidentate; tegulae usually with some long, lanceolate scales much extending basal rami shorter than setae, antennae of female bidentate; tegulae usually with some long, lanceolate scales much extending basal rami shorter than setae, antennae of female bidentate; tegulae usually with some long, lanceolate scales much extending.

Ormiscodes penai Lemaire & Parra, new sp.

Diagnosis.—O. penai is closely allied to O. rufosignata (Blanchard). It is characterized by its relatively small size, the large white areas on all four wings, the strongly angulate antemedial line of the forewing and the white fringes of the wings above and below.

Description.—Wingspan:♂43-45mm,♀51mm.

MALE (Fig. 1): Antennae rusty yellow. Labial palpi and frons rusty-brown. Thorax dorsally dark brown, lanceolate scales light gray; tarsi black. Abdomen dorsally black, lateral bands and anal tuft yellow. Forewing: Length 22-23mm; ground color blackish-brown, suffused with white between the discal spot and the inner margin; antemedian area almost pure white; antemedial line dark brown, strongly dentate, the longest tooth greatly produced on the cubitus; postmedian line lunate, slightly convex (not turning inward under the costa), dark brown, underlined proximally with yellow, distally with white; submarginal band scalloped, distally doubled with white; discal spot white, well prominent. Underside plain gray with the postmedian area abundantly suffused with whitish; postmedian line and submarginal band very contrasting; a tiny white discal spot. Hindwing: baso-median area whitish, postmedian line and submarginal band brown, the latter broadly bordered with white; discal spot white, quite prominent. Underside colored as on forewing below; discal spot absent, other markings contrasting. Fringes white on all four wings above and below. Male genitalia (Fig. 3): differ from those of O. amphinome (Fabricius) and O. rufosignata by the narrower and apically sharp ventral plate of the transtilla.

FEMALE (Fig. 2): Similar to male except for the usual sexual characters. First abdominal segments dorsally yellow, other segments dark brown, intermixed with a few yellow hairs, especially on the anal tuft. Female genitalia (Fig. 4): median, shield-like, postvulvar sclerotization not as large and heavily sclerotized as in O. rufosignata; corpus bursae very small.

Immature stages.—Unknown. Those of “O. marginata” (a junior subjective synonym of O. amphinome) were described by Weigert and Angulo (1974); those of the same species and O. cinnaomea by Parra et al. (1985).

Types.—Holotype♂. CHILE.—Aconcagua, SE. of Zapallar, W. of Catapilo, 12/13 Mar 64 (L. E. Peña G.); Allotype♀; same data as holotype (both specimens in BMNH); Paratypes: in BMNH 4♂; same data as holotype, 5♂, Chile, Coquimbo (registered 93-168); in Museu Nacional d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris, 2♂, same data as holotype; in Museo de Zoología de la Universidad de Concepción, Concepción, 1♂, Chile, Viña del Mar, 23 Apr 53 (L. E. Peña G.).
Etymology.—This species is named in honor of Dr. Luis E. Peña Guzman, who collected most of the specimens in the type series.

Distribution.—As indicated above, this species is known only from Chile, in a restricted area between 30°S and 33°S, a distance of only 300 air km between the northernmost locality (Coquimbo) and the southernmost (Viña del Mar).

Flight period.—September to April/May.

Variation.—Very little variation in size and ground color was observed in the specimens examined; sexual dimorphism reduced.

Remarks.—O. penai is closely related to O. rufosignata and to O. amphinome, especially by the structure of male and female genitalia. It is very likely sympatric with O. rufosignata in the northernmost of the range of the latter, but not with O. amphinome which is very widely distributed in Chile from the province of Talca (35°S) to Magallanes, as far south as Ushuaia (55°S) (Madsen et al., 1980) and at about the same latitudes in Argentina.

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