

# REDISCOVERY OF *DALLA BUBOBON* IN MICHOCÁN, MEXICO

## (LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE: HETEROPTERINAE)

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**ABSTRACT.**— Four males of *Dalla bubobon* (Dyar, 1921), were collected at Los Chorros del Varal, Los Reyes, Michoacán, Mexico, in July, 1990. Only three other, very old specimens of *D. bubobon* were previously known in collections. A short description of *bubobon* is provided, including illustrations of adults and the male genitalia. *Dalla bubobon* is compared to similar species of *Piruna* and *Dalla* that occur in western and southern Mexico, primarily using genitalic characters.

**RESUMEN.**— Se colectaron cuatro machos de *Dalla bubobon* (Dyar, 1921), en Los Chorros del Varal, Los Reyes, Michoacán, México, en julio, 1990; solo se conocían tres ejemplares antiguos de *D. bubobon* en colecciones. Se presenta una descripción corta de *bubobon*, con ilustraciones de los adultos y los genitales masculinos. Se compara *D. bubobon* con especies muy similares de *Piruna* y *Dalla* del occidente y sur de México, usando la estructura de los genitales principalmente.

**KEYWORDS:** *Amblyscirtes*, *Dalla*, *Dardarina*, distribution, Mesoamerica, Neotropical, *Piruna*, *Quasimellana*, taxonomy, *Windia*.

*Dalla bubobon* (Dyar, 1921) was described from a single male specimen (Fig. 1-2), collected in Guerrero, Mexico, in July, 1920. The specimen is now housed in the United States National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC (USNM). Freeman (1991) reported one male specimen in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA (CMNH), labeled from southern Mexico, collected by Townsend; John Rawlins (pers. comm.) informed us that this specimen is from the Holland collection. There is one additional male specimen, labeled from "Guerrero VII," collected by Hoffmann, in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY (AMNH). All three known specimens of *D. bubobon* are apparently very old, and none are labeled with any specific locality information. Despite subsequent field work in Guerrero by several Mexican lepidopterists, no additional specimens of this strikingly patterned species have been found there.

Since 1989, the junior author has been collecting butterflies in west-central Michoacán, Mexico. Data from all of these specimens will be presented in a future paper on the butterflies of Michoacán, similar to the work recently published by Vargas *et al.* (1996), on the butterflies of Jalisco, Mexico.

Among available skipper specimens from Michoacán were four male *Dalla bubobon*. All four of these specimens are in fresh condition, and were collected at Los Chorros del Varal, Los Reyes, Michoacán, on 21 July 1990. Dorsal and ventral views of one or the four male specimens are shown in Fig. 3-4. Despite repeated collecting trips to Los Chorros del Varal since that date, no additional specimens have been found. The female remains unknown. The specimens will be distributed among the authors' collections, the Museo de Zoológica, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico, in Mexico City, and the American Museum of Natural History, in New York City.

Several other very poorly known species of skippers have been found by the junior author at Los Chorros del Varal, including *Windia windi* Freeman, *Dardarina dardaris* (Hewitson), *Dalla faula* (Godman), *Quasimellana mulleri* (Bell), *Amblyscirtes elissa* *elissa* Godman, and *Amblyscirtes raphaeli* Freeman, none of which have previously been reported from Michoacán. Los Chorros del Varal is located in Municipio Los Reyes de Salgado, in northwest Michoacán. The site where collecting was done is less than 5 km from the border with Jalisco.

Like many species now placed in *Dalla* Mabille, 1904 (=*Eumeisia* Felder & Felder, 1867), and *Piruna* Evans, 1955, *D. bubobon* was first assigned by Dyar to *Butleria* Kirby, 1871. Although Dyar's (1921) original description of *D. bubobon* is sufficient for the identification of the species, he did not describe anything other than the wing pattern, did not provide an illustration of the specimen, and made no mention of the genitalia. Rather than produce a verbose re-description of the wing pattern of *D. bubobon*'s, the following figures (1-4) of *D. bubobon* have been provided.

### **DIAGNOSTIC NOTES, *DALLA BUBOBON***

Dorsally, the palpi are mostly black, with a few orange scales. Ventrally, they are yellowish white, with a few black scales. The base of the palpi are surrounded with a row of long black scales that extend almost to the distal tip of each palpus. The antennae are strongly checkered orange and black, with the club being mostly black dorsally, mostly orange ventrally. The antennal nudum is 12 segments on each of the four Michoacán specimens. Dorsally, the head is clothed in short black or white spatulate scales, and long, slender black or yellowish scales, with a row of white scales around the eyes. Ventrally, the head is covered with spatulate scales that are black basally, white at the ends. The thorax and abdomen are mostly black dorsally, with scattered longer yellowish scales. Ventrally the thorax and abdomen are mostly orange