

# HOLZINGER *HELICONIUS* COLLECTION TO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, VIENNA, AUSTRIA (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE: HELICONIINAE)

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**ABSTRACT.**— The *Heliconius* Collection of Ruth and Helmuth Holzinger was donated to the Museum of Natural History, Vienna, in 1996. The collection consists of about 2,900 specimens, including many types. It was integrated into the main collection of the Museum, giving an overall total holding of about 7,000 specimens in the genus.

**KEY WORDS:** Austria, collections, museums, Neotropical, South America.

An incomparable, formerly privately owned collection of Neotropical butterflies is now housed in the Museum of Natural History (Naturhistorisches Museum Wien), in Vienna, Austria: Ruth and Helmuth Holzinger's *Heliconius* Collection. This life work of the extraordinary couple includes some 2,900 specimens and is the basis of their recent monograph (Holzinger and Holzinger, 1994).

The Holzinger Collection was integrated into the main collection of the Museum by the second author (Fig. 1) during 1996. With the addition of the Holzinger Collection, the Museum's Heliconiinae collection now includes between 6,500 and 7,000 specimens. The genus *Heliconius* Kluk forms the main part of the collection, and includes more than 120 type specimens. Holzinger specimens can be identified by an extra label noting the provenance and the date of receipt.

The collection follows Holzinger and Holzinger (1994). In the drawers, each subspecies is presented with a distribution map for geographic orientation (Fig. 2-3). Color photographs of types which are not in possession of the Museum of Natural History are integrated, thus enabling direct comparison with available types (Fig. 4). An inventory of the Heliconiinae collection is available for guests of the Museum as a list of type specimens.

## REFERENCES CITED

Holzinger, H., and R. Holzinger

1994. *Heliconius and Related Genera, Lepidoptera Nymphalidae: the Genera Eueides, Neruda and Heliconius*. Venette: Sciences Nat. 328pp.



Fig. 1. Astrid Keber examining specimens from the Holzinger Collection.

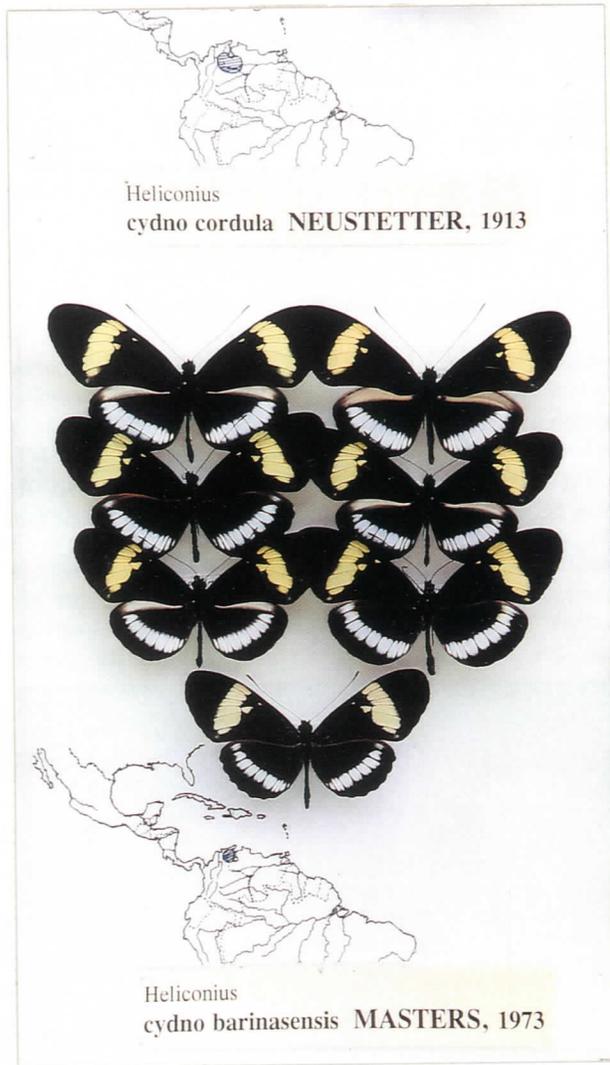


Fig. 2-4. Holzinger Collection at the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien: 2) Detail of a drawer showing specimens with distribution map (upper left); 3-4). Drawers showing examples of specimen arrangements in the collection (reduced, right column).