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## Distributional records of Brahmaeidae and Saturniidae species from Laos (Lepidoptera: Brahmaeidae, Saturniidae)

L. Racheli & T. Racheli

### Abstract

Some distributional records for a single Brahmaeidae species and for three Saturniidae species from Laos are given. These records improve the recent checklist of the species known to occur in this country.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Brahmaeidae, Saturniidae, records, Laos.

### Citas sobre la distribución de las especies de Brahmaeidae y Saturniidae de Laos (Lepidoptera: Brahmaeidae, Saturniidae)

### Resumen

Se da la distribución de un sola especie de Brahmaeidae y de tres de Saturniidae de Laos. Estas citas mejoran la reciente lista de especies presentes en este país.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Brahmaeidae, Saturniidae, citas, Laos.

### Introduction

At present, the Brahmaeidae and Saturniidae of Laos count a total of two and twenty-seven recorded species, respectively (BROSCH *et al.*, 1999). In contrast, a total of twenty-five Saturniid species from Laos are reported by U. & L. H. PAUKSTADT ([www.wildsilkmoth-paukstadt.de](http://www.wildsilkmoth-paukstadt.de)) (last updated July, 13, 2005). According to the checklist compiled by BROSCH *et al.* (1999), most species are known on a single specimen or their presence in Laos has been based only on old records from literature. During a recent field expedition to Laos in June-July 2005, some species belonging to these moth families have been collected. All of them have been previously recorded from Laos by BROSCH *et al.* (1999) and for this reason the distributional data reported below must be considered like an improvement of that checklist.

All the specimens have been collected by Adam Cotton and Tommaso Racheli using a light-trap with a vapour mercury lamp. All the specimens have been collected in a single site and they are labelled as follows: LAOS, Boli Kham Xai province, Road n. 8 (Ban Pakha to Lak Sao), Nahin distr., Ban Tabak, Nam Thun, River bridge, 350 m, 19-29-VI-2005, A. Cotton & T. Racheli leg. The specimens examined are stored in the collection of the senior author except for the single male of *Attacus atlas* (see below).

### Brahmaeidae

*Brahmaea (Brahmophthalma) hearsey* White, [1862]

A single male specimen has been examined. This species has been yet recorded by BROSCH *et al.* (1999) for Laos.

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## Saturniidae

*Attacus atlas* (Linnaeus, 1758)

A single worn male of this species arrived at the light but it has been not collected given its worn condition.

*Antheraea (Antheraeopsis)* sp. near *youngi* Watson, 1915

Two specimens (one male and one female) belonging to the monophyletic group *Antheraeopsis* Wood-Mason, 1886 have been examined. Usually, *Antheraeopsis* is treated as a subgenus of *Antheraea* Hübner, [1819] (e. g. NÄSSIG & TREADAWAY, 1998; PAUKSTADT *et al.*, 2000) although the use of the subgenus concept is questionable. It is here used awaiting for a necessary taxonomic revision of the genus *Antheraea* s. l.

*Antheraea (Antheraeopsis) castanea* has been reported for Laos by BROSCHE *et al.* (1999) but there is too much confusion regarding the status of this taxon and some related ones, e. g. *assamensis* (Helfer, 1837) and *youngi* Watson, 1915 (see comments by NÄSSIG & TREADAWAY, 1998: 288). According to PAUKSTADT & PAUKSTADT (2004), the range of *Antheraea (Antheraeopsis) youngi* extends in southern Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Borneo, Sumatera and Java. In the same context, they pointed out that the identification of the population from northern Thailand, Laos and Vietnam needs confirmation. For this reason, the two specimens from Laos reported above are here tentatively assigned near *youngi* without further speculation regarding their identification.

*Loepa anthera* Jordan 1911

A total of six males and a single female of this species have been examined. According to the recent distributional data given by VINCIGUERRA (2005 and references therein), the range of this species extends from India (Assam) through the P. R. China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos to Vietnam.

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