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The taxonomic position of the Neotropical genus *Casandria* Walker, 1857, with new synonymies and combinations (Lepidoptera: Erebidae, Catocalinae)

Vitor O. Becker

Abstract

Casandria Walker, 1857, is transferred from the Nolidae (Collomeninae) to the Erebidae (Catocalinae), as the senior synonym of *Acanthodica* Schaus, 1894. Consequently, the species formerly associated with *Acanthodica* are herein transferred to *Casandria*: *C. albiplena* (L. B. Prout, 1919) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. cabra* (Dognin, 1894) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. chiripa* (Dognin, 1894) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. coelebs* (L. B. Prout, 1919) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. drucei* (Dognin, 1889) (*Calocampa*), comb. n., *C. emittens* Walker, 1857 [= *Agrotis daunus* Druce, 1894]], syn. n., [= *Acanthodica grandis* (Schaus, 1894)], syn. n., *C. fassli* (Zerny, 1916) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. fosteri* (Hampson, 1913) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. frigida* (Jones, 1921) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. hages* (Druce, 1900) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. lignaris* (Schaus, 1894) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. penicillum* (Felder & Rogenhofer, 1874 (*Agrotis*), comb. n., *C. sinuilinea* (L. B. Prout, 1919) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. splendens* (Druce, 1889) (*Agrotis*), comb. n., *C. xylinoidea* (Schaus, 1894) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n. The following species, formerly associated to *Casandria* are herein transferred to *Motya* Walker, 1859: *M. araea* (Schaus, 1911) (*Casandria*), comb. n., *M. flotsama* (Dyar, 1914) (*Casandria*), comb. n., *M. insignis* (Dognin, 1914) (*Casandria*), comb. n., *M. steniptera* (Schaus, 1911) (*Casandria*), comb. n. A table of all taxa formerly associated with both *Casandria* and *Acanthodica* are presented in the “Nomenclature summary”, and illustrations of both the types of *C. emittens* Walker, 1857 and of *A. grandis* Schaus, 1894, as well of a live *C. splendens* (Druce, 1889), are also presented.

Keywords: Lepidoptera, Erebidae, Catocalinae, *Acanthodica*, *Casandria*, new combinations, new synonymies, Neotropical.

La posición taxonómica del género neotropical *Casandria* Walker, 1857, con nuevas sinonimias y combinaciones (Lepidoptera: Erebidae, Catocalinae)

Resumen

Casandria Walker, 1857, es transferida de los Nolidae (Collomeninae) hacia los Erebidae (Catocalinae), como el sinónimo senior de *Acanthodica* Schaus, 1894. Consecuentemente, las especies anteriormente asociadas con *Acanthodica* son aquí transferidas hacia *Casandria*: *C. albiplena* (L. B. Prout, 1919) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. cabra* (Dognin, 1894) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. chiripa* (Dognin, 1894) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. coelebs* (L. B. Prout, 1919) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. drucei* (Dognin, 1889) (*Calocampa*), comb. n., *C. emittens* Walker, 1857 [= *Agrotis daunus* Druce, 1894]], syn. n., [= *Acanthodica grandis* (Schaus, 1894)], syn. n., *C. fassli* (Zerny, 1916) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. fosteri* (Hampson, 1913) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. frigida* (Jones, 1921) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. hages* (Druce, 1900) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. lignaris* (Schaus, 1894) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. penicillum* (Felder & Rogenhofer, 1874 (*Agrotis*), comb. n., *C. sinuilinea* (L. B. Prout, 1919)

(*Acanthodica*), comb. n., *C. splendens* (Druce, 1889) (*Agrotis*), comb. n., *C. xylinoides* (Schaus, 1894) (*Acanthodica*), comb. n. Las especies siguientes, anteriormente asociadas con *Casandria* transferidas hacia *Motya* Walker, 1859: *M. araea* (Schaus, 1911) (*Casandria*), comb. n., *M. flotsama* (Dyar, 1914) (*Casandria*), comb. n., *M. insignis* (Dognin, 1914) (*Casandria*), comb. n., *M. steniptera* (Schaus, 1911) (*Casandria*), comb. n. Se presenta una tabla de todos los taxos anteriormente asociadas con *Casandria* y *Acanthodica* y son también presentados en un “Resumen nomenclatural” e ilustraciones de los tipos de *C. emittens* Walker, 1857 y de *A. grandis* Schaus, 1894, así como en vivo de *C. splendens* (Druce, 1889).

Palabras clave: Lepidoptera, Erebidae, Catocalinae, *Acanthodica*, *Casandria*, nuevas combinaciones, nuevas sinonimias, Neotropical.

Introduction

Casandria Walker, 1857 is a monotypic genus described in the Noctuidae, which present a peculiar position at rest: wings rolled along the body, looking like dead twigs (Figure 4). It has been used, by early authors (Schaus, 1894, 1906; Hampson, 1912; Dyar, 1914; Dognin, 1914; Draudt, 1940), to accommodate species that are not congeneric with *C. emittens* Walker, 1857 the type-species, who they treated in the Sarrothripinae, to include several species (transferred herein to *Collomena* Möschler, 1890, *Motya* Walker, 1859, and *Neostictoptera* Druce, 1900). This confusion about its identity was first created by Walker (1857, p. 606) who described two species: *C. emittens*, the type species, and, surprisingly, again, as *Agrotis emittens* (Walker, 1859, p. 737), based on the same specimen: a female from the Dominican Republic, deposited in the Oxford Museum Collection, England! This kind of incorrection is commonly found throughout Walker’s work. Good examples are his treatment of several Chrysauginae (Pyralidae) species, that he described in the Tortricidae (Ragnot, 1891, p. 114), and the case of *Etiella zinckenella* (Treitschke, 1832), that he described four times in four different genera proposed by himself (Whalley, 1973, p. 8). Schaus (1896, p. 638), examined the types of the species described by Walker deposited in the Oxford Museum Collection, listing *C. emittens* as an unidentified species, and transferring *A. emittens* to *Acanthodica*, a genus he had described two years before (Schaus, 1894, p. 241). Further confusion was created by Schaus (1906, p. 108), when he described *Casandria chirica*, from Mexico, establishing a concept that was followed by himself, and by several subsequent authors (Dyar, 1914, Dognin, 1914; Hampson, 1918), as can be seen in the list of species given below. Following Schaus’ concept, *Casandria* was treated in the Sarrothripinae [now Collomeninae, Nolidae], by Hampson (1912, p. 350), who synonymized six genus names, and included 18 species, but curiously did not treat *C. emittens* Walker, 1857, the type species of *Casandria*. However, curiously he listed the name at the end of Sarrothripinae (Hampson, 1912, p. 454), as one of the unrecognized species. Nye (1975, p. 104), examined the female specimen, compared the two original descriptions, and concluded that they fit the characters of this specimen, recognizing it as the holotype of both names, transferring *Casandria* to the Catocalinae. Poole (1989, p. 209) followed Nye’s concept, retained *Casandria* in the Catocalinae, and revalidated three of the six synonyms, assigning most of the 18 species to these synonyms, except for five species that were left as *Casandria* of authors.

Results

The type specimens of nearly all the names involved were examined revealing that *Acanthodica grandis* Schaus, 1894 is a junior synonym of *Casandria emittens* Walker, 1857, and that the five unplaced species also belong in the Collomeninae, and are here assigned to *Motya* Walker, 1859. All these changes are summarized below.

Nomenclature summary

(The list of countries gives the type locality only, not distribution).

EREBIDAE
CATOCALINAE

Casandria Walker, 1857

- = *Acanthodica* Schaus, 1894, **syn. n.**
= *Cassandria* Hampson, 1918, misspl.

<i>albiplena</i> (L. B. Prout, 1919) (<i>Acanthodica</i>), comb. n.	Colombia
<i>cabra</i> (Dognin, 1894) (<i>Acanthodica</i>), comb. n.	Ecuador
<i>chiripa</i> (Dognin, 1894) (<i>Acanthodica</i>), comb. n.	Ecuador
<i>coelebs</i> (L. B. Prout, 1919) (<i>Acanthodica</i>), comb. n.	Colombia
= <i>caelebs</i> Draudt, 1940, misspl.	
<i>drucei</i> (Dognin, 1889) (<i>Calocampa</i>), comb. n.	Ecuador
<i>emittens</i> Walker, 1857	Dominican Republic
= <i>daunus</i> Druce, 1894 (<i>Agrotis</i>), syn. n.	Mexico (Ver)
= <i>emittens</i> Walker, 1857 (<i>Agrotis</i>)	Dominican Republic
= <i>grandis</i> Schaus, 1894 (<i>Acanthodica</i>), syn. n.	Mexico (Ver)
<i>fassli</i> (Zerny, 1916) (<i>Acanthodica</i>), comb. n.	Bolivia
<i>fosteri</i> (Hampson, 1913) (<i>Acanthodica</i>), comb. n.	Paraguay
<i>frigida</i> (Jones, 1921) (<i>Acanthodica</i>), comb. n.	Brazil (SP)
<i>hages</i> (Druce, 1900) (<i>Acanthodica</i>), comb. n.	Colombia
<i>lignaris</i> (Schaus, 1894) (<i>Acanthodica</i>), comb. n.	Peru
<i>penicillum</i> (Felder & Rogenhofer, 1874) (<i>Agrotis</i>), comb. n.	Guatemala
= <i>pamela</i> Schaus, 1906 (<i>Acanthodica</i>)	Brazil (Pr)
<i>sinuilinea</i> (L. B. Prout, 1919) (<i>Acanthodica</i>), comb. n.	Peru
<i>splendens</i> (Druce, 1889) (<i>Agrotis</i>), comb. n.	Panama
= <i>apicimacula</i> Maassen, 1890 (<i>Magusa</i>)	Ecuador
<i>xylinoides</i> (Schaus, 1894) (<i>Acanthodica</i>), comb. n.	Ecuador

NOLIDAE
COLLOMENINAE

Collomena Möschler, 1890

<i>chirica</i> (Schaus, 1906) (<i>Casandria</i>)	Mexico (Ver)
<i>filifera</i> (Walker, 1857) (<i>Laphygma</i>)	Dom. Rep.
= <i>inflexa</i> Morrison, 1875 (<i>Laphygma</i>)	USA (Fl)
= <i>*elota</i> Möschler, 1890	Puerto Rico
<i>fugax</i> (Dyar, 1914) (<i>Casandria</i>)	Panama
<i>haematopis</i> Hampson, 1912) (<i>Casandria</i>)	Argentina
<i>illegitima</i> (Dyar, 1914) (<i>Casandria</i>)	Panama
<i>interstitia</i> (Dyar, 1914) (<i>Casandria</i>)	Panama
<i>leucopis</i> (Schaus, 1910) (<i>Casandria</i>)	Costa Rica
<i>metaphaea</i> (Hampson, 1912) (<i>Casandria</i>)	Panama
<i>murora</i> (Dyar, 1914) (<i>Casandria</i>)	Panama
<i>olivaris</i> (Dyar, 1912) (<i>Casandria</i>)	Mexico (Ver)
= <i>olivaris</i> Hampson, 1912 (<i>Casandria</i>)	
<i>siopera</i> (Dyar, 1914) (<i>Casandria</i>)	Panama

Motya Walker, 1859= *Lussa* Grote, 1883= *Pleurasympieza* Möschler, 1890*abseuzalis* Walker, 1859

Brazil (RJ)

= *nigroguttata* Grote, 1883 (*Lussa*)

USA (Fl)

= *smithii* Möschler, 1890 (*Pleurasympieza*)

Puerto Rico

= *tumidicosta* Hampson, 1898 (*Stictoptera*)

Grenada

araea (Schaus, 1911) (*Casandria*), **comb. n.**

Costa Rica

arcuata (Schaus, 1910) (*Casandria*)

Costa Rica

ferrocana (Walker, 1857) (*Laphygma*)

Dominican Republic

= *nigriscripta* Walker, 1865 (*Laphygma*)

Dominican Republic

flotsama (Dyar, 1914) (*Casandria*), **comb. n.**

Panama

griselda (Dyar, 1914) (*Casandria*)

Panama

insignis (Dognin, 1914) (*Casandria*), **comb. n.**

French Guiana

mythias (Schaus, 1921) (*Casandria*)

Guatemala

purpurscens (Schaus, 1911) (*Casandria*)

Costa Rica

= *steniptera* Schaus, 1911 (*Casandria*), **comb. n.**

Costa Rica

Neostictoptera Druce, 1900= *Aeschradia* Hampson, 1912*amplipennis* (Hampson, 1912) (*Casandria*)

Brazil (SP)

chlorotica (Schaus, 1910) (*Casandria*)

Costa Rica

mammida (Druce, 1898) (*Apamea*)

Guatemala

melanographa (Hampson, 1912) (*Casandria*)

French Guiana

**nigropuncta* Druce, 1900

Colombia

stroca (Schaus, 1906) (*Iscadia*)

Brazil (Pr)

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