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On the Genus *Eagris* Guenée, 1863 in Angola (Lepidoptera: Hesperiidae) *

A. Bivar de Sousa & L. F. Mendes

Abstract

An up-to-date is presented on the genus *Eagris* Guenée, 1863 in Angola and a new species, similar to the southern and eastern Africa and Madagascar *E. nottoana* (Wallengren, 1857), is described from the Kuanza Norte province (North East of Angola).

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera; Hesperiidae; new species; new records; Angola.

Sobre el género *Eagris* Guenée, 1863 en Angola (Lepidoptera: Hesperiidae)

Resumen

Se presenta una actualización del conocimiento del género *Eagris* Guenée, 1863 en Angola y se describe una nueva especie de la provincia de Kuanza Norte (Noroeste de Angola) parecida a *E. nottoana* (Wallengren, 1857), del este de África y de Madagascar.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Hesperiidae, especie nueva, nuevas citas, Angola.

Introduction

The genus *Eagris* Guenée, 1863 exclusive from Africa, is known today by less than a dozen species, which caterpillars feed in quite distinct host-plant (LARSEN, 2005) belonging to the Anacardiaceae, Malvaceae, Rhamnaceae, Sapindaceae, Sterculiaceae and Tiliaceae. Three species only were previously assigned from Angola, namely *E. hereus* (Druce, 1875), *E. lucetia* (Hewitson, 1875) and *E. tigris* Evans, 1937. New samples are studied and a new species is described from the South-western Kuanza Norte province. Examined material belongs to the senior author collection (in the text, BS) and is deposited in the arachno-entomological collection of the Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical, in Lisboa, Portugal. Administrative provinces and approximate coordinates of the two only localities from where the genus is precisely known in the country (most samples were assigned exclusively from “Angola”) are the following ones:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Altitude (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quedas do Duque de Bragança **</td>
<td>Malanje</td>
<td>09° 06' S</td>
<td>15° 57' E</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zenza do Itombe</td>
<td>Kuanza Norte</td>
<td>09° 17' S</td>
<td>14° 13' E</td>
<td>ca 100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Presented as a poster in the “XII Iberic Congress of Entomology”, Alicante, Spain, 11-14 September, 2006.

** Old Portuguese name to Calandula
Taxonomic Study

Eagris hereus hereus (Druce, 1875)

Material examined: None

E. hereus was described (DRUCE, 1875, subgenera Tagiades) from “Angola” (none precise location registered). AURIVILLIUS (in SEITZ, 1928, subgenera Sarangesa) and EVANS (1937) report the species from the country (once again without detailed references) and last one assigns that its type-material is deposited in the British Museum (now The Natural History Museum, London, UK). ACKERY et al. (1995) note that the nominate subspecies of E. hereus is known in forests from Cameroon to Angola and remember that the type-locality is Angola. LARSEN (2005) adds Gabon and Central African Republic to its known range. A second subspecies - E. hereus quaterna (Mabille 1890) - flies in West Africa, from Guinea to the western Cameroon.

Eagris lucetia (Hewitson, 1875) (Figs. 1-2)

Material examined: MALANJE: Quedas do Duque de Bragança, 1 ♂, 29-V-1971, (BS-14218); ibid, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 5-IV-1974, (BS-14359, 14541)

AURIVILLIUS (in SEITZ, 1928) and EVANS (1937) notice the species from Angola though always without reference to its precise distribution in the country; last author registers also that the type-material was obtained in “Angola” and is deposited in the British Museum, like that of the preceding species. ACKERY et al. (1995) report E. lucetia as a forest species, from southern Kenya and Uganda to southern Sudan, former Zaire, Congo, Angola, Nigeria and Cameroon; they point, besides, that the caterpillars feed on species of Rhus (Anacardiaceae) and of Allophylus (Sapindaceae).

Eagris multiplagata Bivar de Sousa & Mendes, sp. n. (Figs. 3-11)

Material examined: KUANZA NORTE: Zenza do Itombe, 1 ♂ holotype (BS-14311) and 1 ♂ allo-type, 29-V-1971 (BS-14312).

Description: Forewing length: 16 mm male, 18 mm female. Sexual dimorphism pronounced.

Male: Forewing costal fold present. Upper surface (Fig. 3) dark brown with blackish-brown spots, those on the forewing along one submedian, one median and one postdiscal irregular rows (last one the most well-marked), those on the hindwing along one median and one postdiscal rows, plus a few isolated dots. Three minute hyaline points - the middle one (the more developed) outside displaced relatively to the two remaining spots - between the radials (Fig. 7). Under surface much lighter, yellowish to tawny brown, the dark brown dots as in the upper surface though much more contrasted (Fig. 4).

Female: Ground colour of upper surface (Fig. 5) lighter than in the male though similar, and so, the dark brown dots remain clearly more contrasted. Large hyaline spots along the median area and seven minute hyaline subapical points, as in Fig. 8. Under surface of forewing (Fig. 6) light brown, the hindwing mostly whitish, almost devoid of marginal outer pigment band (only a few vestigial dots are visible), the dark brown dots very well contrasted.

Male genitalia: Uncus distally rounded with a mediolateral pair of extensions, in dorsal and lateral views as in Figs. 9-10. Aedeagus with enlarged distal area its borders clearly toothed. Valves slightly asymmetrical, wide, distally with three points (one clearly smaller), with one big, acute, proximal tooth plus 1-2 more distal smaller teeth (Fig. 11). Subacns conical (Fig. 10), ringed (each ring composed by minute, strongly sclerotized, quite numerous denticulations).

Etymology: From the Latin, multi: several and plagia: ulcer, wound, injury, according to the occurrence of more forewing hyaline, non-scaled, subapical areas than in its eventually most similar species.

Discussion: E. multiplagata Bivar de Sousa & Mendes, sp. n. seems particularly similar to E. nottoana (Wallengren, 1857), known by 3 subspecies (Fig. 12), none of which known to occur along the western African countries: Nominate subspecies flies in South Africa (Eastern Cape, Natal), Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya Uganda and Ethiopia; E. nottoana knysna (Mabille, 1887)
Eagris tigris tigris Evans, 1937

Material examined: None.

EVANS (1937) assigns material from Angola, to which none precise location is reported. The subspecies is known after ACKERY et al. (1995) in damp forested biotypes from eastern Uganda, former Zaire and southern Sudan to Angola, Cameroon, Nigeria and Ivory Coast; a second subspecies (E. tigris kayonza Evans, 1956) flies in the south-western Uganda; LARSEN (2005), when describing one other subspecies (E. tigris liberti Collins & Larsen, 2005 - types from Nigeria, Ghana and Cameroon) considers the nominate subspecies extends along Cameroon and West Africa and that the Central African Republic population will be intermediate to the easternmost nominate subspecies and do not recognizes Evan’s 1956 subspecies.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


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Figs. 1-8.– 1. *Eagris lucetia* ♂, dorsal. 2. *E. lucetia* ♀, dorsal. 3. *E. multiplagata* Bivar de Sousa & Mendes, sp. n., ♂ holotype, dorsal. 4. *E. multiplagata* Bivar de Sousa & Mendes, sp. n., ♀ holotype, ventral. 5. *E. multiplagata* Bivar de Sousa & Mendes, sp. n., ♀ allotype, dorsal. 6. *E. multiplagata* Bivar de Sousa & Mendes, sp. n., ♂ holotype, ventral. 7. *E. multiplagata* Bivar de Sousa & Mendes, sp. n., ♂ holotype, hyaline points of the forewing subapical area. 8. *E. multiplagata* Bivar de Sousa & Mendes, sp. n., ♀ allotype, hyaline points of the forewing subapical area.
Figs. 9-12.– 9. *Eagris multiplagata* Bivar de Sousa & Mendes, sp. n. holotype, uncus, dorsal view. 10. Uncus and subuncus, lateral view. 11. Valves. 12. Known geographical range of *E. nottoana* ssp. and of *E. multiplagata* Bivar de Sousa & Mendes, sp. n. Scales: 0.5 mm.

*E. multiplagata* Bivar de Sousa & Mendes, sp. n. ..............................

*E. n. nottoana* (Walengren, 1857) ...........................................

*E. nottoana knysna* (Mabille, 1887) .........................................

*E. nottoana smithi* (Mabille, 1887) ..........................................