

SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF HYPOJAMIDES CATOCHLORIS (BOISDUVAL) (LEPIDOPTERA, LYCAENIDAE)

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SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF *HYPOJAMIDES CATOCHLORIS* (BOISDUVAL)
(LEPIDOPTERA, LYCAENIDAE)

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Abstract

Based mainly on the character of female genitalia, *Hypojamides* is synonymized with *Nacaduba* resulting in the new combination *Nacaduba catochloris* (Boisduval).

Introduction

Hypojamides catochloris (Boisduval) is one of the most mysterious lycaenids, which is known to occur on Tahiti Island. Since its description in 1832, the species had never been recorded until Collenette captured a further specimen in 1925, which has been deposited in the British Museum (Natural History). Originally the species was described under the genus *Lycaena*. Butler (1874) suggested that the species might prove to be *Danis*. Subsequently Druce (1892) considered it to be *Nacaduba* without any morphological basis. In 1928, Riley erected the genus *Hypojamides* for *catochloris* based on the single female captured by Collenette. He considered that the genus is most closely related to *Thysonotis* (junior objective synonym of *Danis*) judging from the general appearance. On the other hand, Eliot (1973) provisionally placed *Hypojamides* in the *Nacaduba* section in his higher classification of Lycaenidae.

By courtesy of the staff of the British Museum, I dissected the specimen and recognized that *catochloris* should belong to the genus *Nacaduba* Moore, [1881].

Nacaduba ca tochloris (Boisduval) comb. nov.

(Fig. 1, 2)

Lycaena (?) *catochloris* Boisduval, 1832. Voy. "Astrolabe," Faun. ent. 1(Lep.):78

Lycaena (3) *catochloris* : Butler, 1874. Proc. zool. Soc. Lond., 1874 : 286.

Nacaduba (?) *catochloris* : Druce, 1892. Proc. zool. Soc. Lond., 1892 : 440.

Hypojamides catochloris : Riley, 1928. In Poulton & Riley. Trans. ent. Soc. Lond., 1928 : 466-467.

Female genitalia (Fig. 2). Apophysis anterioris slender, about 1/5 as long as 8th tergum. Intersternal pouch relatively shallow, well sclerotized anteriorly. Corpus bursae globular and relatively small ; signa a pair of inwardly projecting spines, situated on the posterior portion of corpus bursae. Caudal portion of ductus bursae weakly sclerotized, with a weak swelling ventrally.



Fig. 1. *Nacaduba catochloris* (Boisduval) comb. nov. A : Female, upperside. B : *Ditto*, underside.

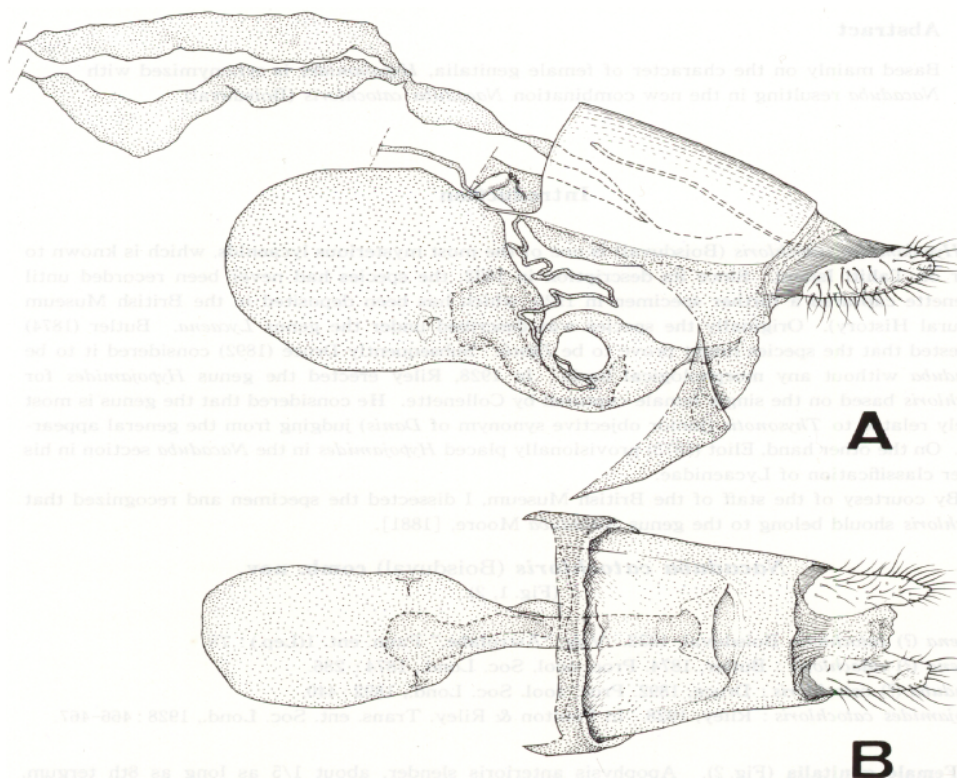


Fig. 2. Female genitalia of *Nacaduba catochloris* (Boisduval) comb. nov. A : Internal reproductive organs, lateral aspect. B : *Ditto*, ventral aspect.

Ductus seminalis gradually swollen toward the point of attachment to ductus bursae. Ostium opened at the middle of 8th abdominal venter.

REMARKS. The above description has been based on the specimen of *catochloris* which is preserved in the British Museum (Natural History), labelled "Fautaua Valley,/Tahiti,/Near Stream,/2,500 ft. 11. 3. 25./St. George Expedn./C. L. Collenette."

In 1989, Hara and Hirowatari {described *Nacaduba tahitiensis* based on 28 males and 3 females from Tahiti Island. All the specimens were collected by Mr. Hara on September 18, 1988. As they pointed out, *tahitiensis* resembles *catochloris* in having green metallic scales on the underside of hindwing, but is clearly discriminated from the latter by the green scales which are present only in the inner area of submarginal lunulae. Previously Holloway (1983) had recorded a series of '*catochloris*', but Hara and Hirowatari overlooked it and regarded the female specimen in the BMNH as a unique one. Recently I was able to examine the series, by courtesy of Dr. Holloway, and confirmed that the series consists of only one female *catochloris* and seven *tahitiensis*. The comments of Holloway (1983) on the systematic position of '*catochloris*' apparently refer to *tahitiensis*.

In the female genitalia, the two species are separable as follows : in *catochloris* the bursa copulatrix is relatively short, about 2× as long as the 8th tergum, but in *tahitiensis* it is about 3X as long as the 8th tergum ; in *catochloris* the signa are situated on the posterior portion of corpus bursae, but in *tahitiensis* they are nearly at the middle of corpus bursae ; in *catochloris* the caudal sclerotized portion of ductus bursae with a weak welling ventrally, but it is represented by a prominent condyle in *tahitiensis*.

Discussion

Concerning the systematic position of '*Lycaena catochloris*', Butler (1874) added a short comment in his list of diurnal Lepidoptera of the South Sea Islands, "I suspect that this is a *Danis*". Though Druce (1892) had never examined the specimen, he considered it might turn out to be a *Nacaduba* because *Danis* had not been known to occur among these islands of South Pacific Ocean.

Riley (1928) erected the genus *Hypojamides* based on a single female of *catochloris* which had been obtained by Collenette in 1925. He considered that the genus is most related to *Thysonotis* judging from the general characters, such as palpi, antennae and wing venation. Riley also pointed out that *Hypojamides* may be separated from *Thysonotis* by the position of the origin of vein 2 of forewing which is much nearer to vein 3. However, by these characters, *Hypojamides* can not be separable from *Nacaduba*. Moreover in *catochloris*, the veins 11 and 12 of fore wing are anastomosed briefly at the middle, and then divergent again. This is also characteristic of some genera of the *Nacaduba* section. In the female genitalia, the corpus bursae of the species is very small bearing a pair of developed signa ; the ductus seminalis is gradually swollen toward the attachment point to ductus bursae. These features apparently congruent with the character of the genus *Nacaduba* which I (1986) pointed out.

The further discussion of the systematic position of *catochloris* should await the discovery of the male.

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specimens.

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