

NOMENCLATURE OF SOME BUTTERFLY SPECIES

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There is no doubt that the few species of butterflies in New Zealand are easily distinguished and can be quickly recognised. In a very recent popular publication by Salmon (1965) all the species are described and figured, and through this medium will become known to more people than ever before.

However, the same clear situation does not exist in regard to the use of scientific nomenclature for these species in New Zealand and the purpose of this note is to bring changes made overseas to the notice of New Zealand entomologists.

Recently, Common (1964) has published an up-to-date booklet on Australian butterflies which will be a useful reference for the scientific names of species occurring both in Australia and New Zealand.

Family NYMPHALIDAE

Subfamily DANAINAE

Danaus Kluk, 1802

Danaus plexippus (Linnaeus, 1758)

In the early days of New Zealand entomology the 'monarch' butterfly had a variety of names but in more recent years **Danaida** and **Danais** have been used for the genus. The names listed here were in the "Official List of Generic Names in Zoology" (and the corresponding list of specific names) published by the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature in 1958, and therefore must be used.

Danaus chrysippus petilia (Stoll, 1790)

Similarly this species belongs in **Danaus**.

Danaus hamata hamata (Macleay, 1826)

This Australian species, of the same genus, was recorded, in 1944, 1950, and 1961, in New Zealand, as **Danaus melissa hamata**, a combination which is now incorrect.

Subfamily SATYRINAE

The two dark New Zealand mountain butterflies have long been known as **Erebia pluto** Fereday, 1872, and **Erebia butleri** (Fereday, 1879). The generic placing of these species is to be revised in a separate paper.

Subfamily NYMPHALINAE

Precis villida calybe (Godart, 1819)

This is the established name of the Australian form of **Precis villida** Fabricius which is an occasional immigrant in New Zealand.

Family LYCAENIDAE

Lycaena sallustius (Fabricius, 1793)

Lycaena boldenarum White, 1862

Lycaena feredayi (Bates, 1867) (= **L. enysii** (Butler, 1876))

These three New Zealand species have previously been placed in **Chrysophanus** in New Zealand publications. However, Barnes and Lindsey (1922) placed all the 'coppers' in the genus **Lycaena** Fabricius, and Klots (1936) listed the three endemic New Zealand species in that genus. Although they do appear to belong to **Lycaena** these species present a case of discontinuous distribution as all other species of the genus occur in the holarctic region, except for two in Africa. Longstaff (1912) synonymised **enysii** Butler with **feredayi** Bates after comparison of type specimens.

Zizeeria otis labradus (Godart, 1824)

Contrary to the above Lycaenid species the New Zealand 'blue', which occurs in Australia and elsewhere, has long been known in New Zealand as **Lycaena labradus**. As long ago as 1910 Chapman (1910) made **labradus** the type species of his new genus **Zizina**. I have compared the male genitalia of the New Zealand blue butterfly with Chapman's description and excellent photographs of **Zizina labradus** and find them to be conspecific. Since 1910, outside New Zealand, the species has been known under several combinations such as **Zizera labradus**, **Zizina labradus**, and **Zizeeria labradus**. **Zizera** was an early genus erected by Moore in 1881. **Zizeeria**, **Zizina**, and **Zizula** were described by Chapman in 1910. **Zizula** is distinct but there have been differences of opinion as to whether **Zizeeria** and **Zizina** are separate.

Another point arises from Chapman's work of 1910. Chapman discussed the identity of the species named **otis** by Fabricius in 1787. He gave his opinion that **otis** is a synonym of **labradus** and listed **otis** as a variety of **labradus**. However, **otis** predates **labradus** so the species should be known as **otis** Fabricius, 1787.

Corbet and Pendlebury, revised by Corbet (1956), separated **Zizeeria** and **Zizina** recording **Zizina otis** in New Zealand and elsewhere. Couchman (1956) recorded **Zizina otis labradus**. Common (1964) has considered **Zizeeria** and **Zizina** synonymous recording the species as **Zizeeria otis labradus**. I am in agreement with his generic placing.

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