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## TWO NEW GENERA IN THE NEOTROPICAL RIODINID TRIBE NYMPHIDIINI (RIODINIDAE)

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**ABSTRACT.** Two new monotypic Neotropical riodinid genera, *Behemothia*, new genus, and *Protonymphidia*, new genus, are described in the myrmecophilous tribe Nymphidiini, to respectively contain the taxa *godmanii* Dewitz, 1877, formerly treated in *Pandemos* Hübner, [1819], and *sentia* (Hewitson, 1853), formerly treated in *Adelotypa* Warren, 1895. These genera are characterized and their systematic position discussed.

**Additional key words:** cladistics, morphology, Theopeiti.

The butterfly family Riodinidae is almost entirely confined to the Neotropics, where approximately 1300 species or 95 percent of the familial diversity occurs (Heppner 1991). Despite constituting a significant proportion of the Neotropical butterfly fauna in low and middle elevation forest habitats (Robbins 1982, 1993), and containing numerous genera that exhibit fascinating adult and early stage biology (Callaghan 1983, DeVries 1990, 1991, 1997, Hall 1999b), the Riodinidae has received relatively little systematic attention, and the first cladistically derived phylogenies for the group were only very recently generated (Hall 1998, 1999a, Penz & DeVries 1999).

This paper forms part of a broader study to create a natural generic classification for the largest and probably systematically least well understood of the riodinid tribes, the Nymphidiini Bates, 1859 (*sensu* Hall 1999a [=Lemoniini + Nymphidiini of Harvey 1987]) (Harvey 1987, Hall 1999a, b). A recent comprehensive cladistic analysis of the nymphidiine subtribe Theopeiti (*sensu* Hall 1999a), based on the inclusion of all known species (75) and over 100 characters of male and female morphology and wing pattern, indicated the existence of five monophyletic clades worthy of generic status (Hall 1999a, b) (see Fig. 1), however only the single generic name *Theope* Doubleday, 1847, was available for them. One genus, *Archaeonymphpha* Hall, 1998, has subsequently been described (Hall & Har-

vey 1998), another is soon to be described (Hall & Harvey in prep.), and the remaining two are described here to contain the taxa *godmanii* Dewitz, 1877, and *sentia* Hewitson, 1853, currently treated in the genera *Pandemos* Hübner, [1819], and *Adelotypa* Warren, 1895, respectively (Bridges 1994). The terminology for male and female genital and abdominal structures follows Klots (1956) and Eliot (1973), while nomenclature for venation follows Comstock and Needham (1918).

### *Behemothia* Hall, new genus

Figs. 2A–D; 4A–F; 6A–D

**Type species.** *Behemothia godmanii* (Dewitz 1877)

**Description.** MALE: typical forewing length 32–33 mm. *Wing shape:* forewing costa smoothly convex, distal margin rounded, apex markedly falcate; hindwing rounded and slightly elongate. *Venation* (Fig. 4A): four forewing radial veins. *Dorsal surface:* forewing ground color russet-brown, dark brown mark at discal cell end; a narrow postdiscal white band curves from costa to vein Cu2 then becomes lilac as far as anal margin, basal half of wing lilac except for costal, basal and discal russet-brown areas; distal fringe black. Hindwing entirely blue except for russet-brown anal margin and small area of black scaling at base of costal margin; fringe black. *Ventral surface:* forewing ground color brown; white postdiscal band as on dorsal surface but broader and entirely white; basal area of wing black except for brown at costal margin and very base of wing in cell Cu2, and blue in basal half of discal cell and upper portion of cell Cu2; a black spot discernible at proximal edge of basal black in cell Cu2, typically with some lilac scaling distally, another smaller one within brown scaling further towards wing base and a variably prominent one within blue scaling of discal cell. Hindwing ground color brown; dark brown line marks discal cell end, a dark brown

spot towards base of cell Sc+R1 above discal cell; a dark brown post-discal band extends from costa to vein Cu2 then curves inwards in cell Cu2, band displaced proximally in cell Sc+R1 and enlarged into large square surrounded by whitish scaling. *Head*: ventral surface of labial palpi a mixture of pale and dark brown scaling on segments one and two, pale brown on very short third segment, dorsal surface entirely dark brown (Fig. 4B). Eyes bare and brown (in dried specimens), pale brown scaling at margins. Frons dark brown, paler brown at margins and ventrally. Antennae brown with whitish scaling at base of each segment becoming more prominent towards clubs dorsally, narrow nudum region devoid of scaling along inner edge of shaft; flattened clubs brown dorsally and orange-brown ventrally. *Body*: dorsal surface of thorax and abdomen, including patagia, russet-brown, ventral surface pale gray-brown. All legs pale gray-brown; tarsus of foreleg unimerous and elongate, coxa elongate (Fig. 4D); midleg and hindleg with a tibial spur and a group of spines at inner distal tip of tarsal segments one to four, numerous further spines along entire inner distal margin of first tarsal segment (Fig. 4F). *Genitalia* (Fig. 6A, B): uncus more elongate dorsally, separated from triangular tegumen by triangular lateral fenestration; falcis of average size and shape; vinculum broad, especially ventrally, and incomplete dorsally (i.e., not extending around entire anterior margin of tegumen) where it is folded over; valvae rectangular with a prominent angular dorsal projection and a smaller ventral one; aedeagus gradually tapers to a very narrow and slightly undulating tip with a ventral bulge before tip, a single large cornutus is teardrop-shaped in lateral view and crescent-shaped in dorsal view; pedicel short, heavily sclerotized, and broad, especially ventrally. Last tergite a plain rectangle; last sternite rounded anteriorly, produced into two triangular points posteriorly, distal third heavily sclerotized and dorsally invaginated (Fig. 6C).

**FEMALE**: differs from male in following ways: *Dorsal surface*: white postdiscal forewing band broader at costa, lilac present on forewing only in tornus as extension of white postdiscal band; fringe dark brown. Hindwing entirely russet-brown except for dark brown scaling at base of costal margin, marking cell end and forming a faint postdiscal band; fringe dark brown. *Ventral surface*: blue scaling at base of forewing absent, basal half of wing a paler dark brown, highlighting two basal dark brown spots in cell Cu2 and three spots in discal cell, one marking cell end, and a postdiscal line of dark brown spots proximal to postdiscal white band. Hindwing an even plain brown color, typically with slightly fainter dark brown markings. *Head*: second palpal segment slightly more elongate (Fig. 4C), ventral surface of third segment a mixture of dark and pale brown scaling. White scaling at base of antennal segments reduced, especially on dorsal surface, considerably broader nudum region along inner edge of shaft. *Body*: foreleg with one or two spines at inner distal tip of tarsal segments one to four (Fig. 4E). *Genitalia* (Figs. 6D): corpus bursae narrow and elongate, signae triangular, tooth-shaped sclerotized invaginations with jagged basal margin; ductus bursae and ductus seminalis unsclerotized; ostium bursae consists of a broad sclerotized band ventrally which narrows laterally and dorsally.

**Diagnosis.** The single species of *Behemothia*, *B. godmanii*, bears little resemblance to any other rioidinid. The combination of its large size, markedly falcate forewing apex, black scaling at the base of the dorsal hindwing and ventral forewing, and russet-brown dorsal ground color covered with lilac and blue scaling in the male is unique.

**Etymology.** The name is derived from the Hebrew word "behemoth", meaning "enormous animal," in reference to the huge size of this species, one of the largest in the Rioidinidae.

**Systematic position:** The genus *Pandemos* was erected by Hübner ([1819]) to include the single new species *arcassa* (a synonym of *pasiphae* Cramer 1775), and Hewitson (1870) and Dewitz (1877) subsequently added *palaeste* and *godmanii* respectively (Stichel 1930–31, Bridges 1988, 1994). However, the only unifying characteristic of these three species is their huge size, and Harvey (1987), D'Abrera (1994) and DeVries

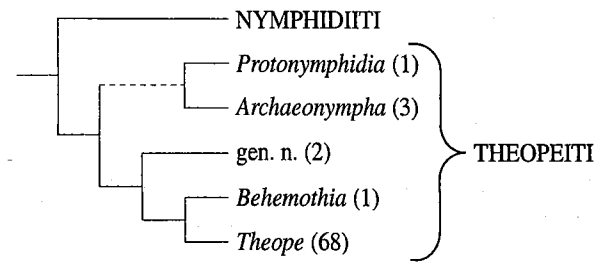


FIG. 1. A generic-level phylogeny for the nymphidiine rioidinid subtribe Theopeiti (*sensu* Hall 1999a), the putative sister clade to the subtribe Nymphidiiti (*sensu* Hall 1999a), adapted from the species-level phylogeny of Hall (1999a). Numbers in parentheses represent the number of species in each genus. The dashed line indicates uncertainty regarding the sister group relationship of *Protonymphidia* and *Archaeonymphia*; *Protonymphidia* may form a distinct lineage at the very base of the Theopeiti.

(1997) all raised doubts as to the monophyly of *Pandemos*. In fact, each *Pandemos* species belongs in a different subtribe of the Nymphidiini (*sensu* Hall 1999a). Harvey (1987), and subsequently DeVries (1997), noted that *palaeste* actually belonged in the genus *Synargis* Hübner, [1819] (subtribe Lemoniaditi (*sensu* Hall 1999a) = Lemoniini Auctt—see Hall & Heppner 1999, Hall 1999a, b), after the early stages and genitalic structures had been examined. Harvey (1987) was also the first to note that *godmanii* was not closely related to *pasiphae*, but its true systematic affinities have remained unknown. However, recent cladistic studies of the tribe Nymphidiini indicate that by virtue of possessing a ventrally positioned spiracle on male abdominal segment three (the character proposed by Harvey (1987) as a synapomorphy for his Nymphidiini) and lacking sclerotized tissue joining the male genitalic valve tips, *godmanii* belongs in the subtribe Theopeiti (Hall 1999a, b). A morphological cladistic analysis of the subtribe Theopeiti (see introduction) indicates that *godmanii* represents the sister clade to the large genus *Theope* (Hall 1999a, b) (see Fig. 1), although the only universal synapomorphy that unites these two clades is the resting posture of their members; all species rest with their wings closed over the body instead of outspread (DeVries 1997, Hall 1999a, b), as is typical for the Rioidinidae. However, *godmanii* lacks the wing pattern and male abdominal synapomorphies that support the monophyly of the recently revised genus *Theope* (Hall 1999b). The large morphological differences separating *godmanii* from its nearest relatives necessitate the description of a new genus for it. *Pandemos* should be regarded as a monotypic genus of the subtribe Nymphidiiti (*sensu* Hall 1999a).

