

This species was originally described by Hewitson from a Mexican specimen as *Ithomia virginia*<sup>1</sup>, a name he had previously used for an Amazon species of *Ithomia*. This oversight he afterwards corrected, and substituted the name *I. virginiana* when figuring a Colombian insect which he took to be a female of the Mexican form<sup>2</sup>. The differences between the two were subsequently pointed out by Mr. Bates<sup>3</sup>, and are embodied in our diagnoses now given.

*H. virginiana* is by no means a common species; the only Mexican specimens we have seen are those in the Vienna Museum. In Guatemala we only met with it ourselves when visiting the lowland forests of Vera Paz north of the town of Coban. Here, however, it was rare; the few specimens we found were flitting near the forest-paths just like other members of this numerous family. It also occurs in Western Guatemala, Mr. Champion having recently sent us specimens from Zapote, on the slope of the Volcan de Fuego, 2100 feet above the sea. A near ally of *H. virginiana* is found in some of the Andean valleys of Ecuador; and it seems reasonable to suppose that these are the least changed from the protean form, and that a centre of variation has become established in and about the Isthmus of Panama, which has resulted in *H. adelphina*, in which unstable characters are still plainly traceable.

## 2. *Hyposcada adelphina*. (*Ithomia adelphina*, Tab. III. fig. 13.)

*Ithomia virginiana* ♀, Hew. Ex. Butt. *Ith.* t. xviii. f. 112<sup>1</sup>.

*Ithomia adelphina*, Bates, Ent. M. Mag. iii. p. 52<sup>2</sup>.

*Ithomia adelphina*, var., Butl. & Druce, P. Z. S. 1874, p. 332<sup>3</sup>.

Alis anticis nigris, area antillarum basali (stirpe typica) ferruginea (sed interdum fere omnino nigra); dimidio apicali maculis decem albis ornato, duabus ad cellulæ finem, una ultra eam costam attingente, una angulum analem versus, quinque submarginalibus limbum apicalem sequentibus et una interiore positis; posticis ferrugineis limbo apicali nigro, punctis albis trinotato: subtus sicut supra posticis linea subcostali nigra.

*Hab.* NICARAGUA, Chontales (*Belt*); COSTA RICA (*Van Patten*<sup>3</sup>), Caché, Rio Sucio (*Rogers*); PANAMA, Chiriqui (*Ribbe*, *Mus. Staudinger*), Calobre (*Arcé*), Lion Hill (*M. Leannan*<sup>2</sup>).

Mr. Bates's description of this butterfly was based upon specimens sent us from Panama<sup>2</sup>. Subsequent comparison with Colombian examples has shown us that no specific differences can be traced between them, and that therefore the insect described and figured by Hewitson as the female of *I. virginiana*<sup>1</sup> must be referred to *H. adelphina*, a point concerning which Mr. Bates was in some doubt. In Costa Rica and Nicaragua considerable variation exists in this race, chiefly as regards the extent of the ferruginous patch at the base of the primaries. In some specimens this patch is hardly shown at all; in others it is much more apparent. It is, however, essentially uncertain in amount in different examples, and thus cannot be used as a character by which to discriminate these varieties from the typical form. *H. adelphina* appears to be much more numerous than *H. virginiana* in their respective homes.