

♀ mari similis, sed major et alarum pagina inferiore sæpe maculis et lineis irregularibus indistincte fuscis notata.

*Hab.* MEXICO<sup>1 2 3</sup>, Cuernavaca and Putla (*coll. Oberthür*<sup>4</sup>), Oaxaca (*Fenochio*); GUATEMALA, Chuacus, San Bernardo, Quirigua, below Alotenango, Cerro Zunil, Retalhuleu (*F. D. G. & O. S.*); NICARAGUA, Chontales (*Belt*); PANAMA.

The nearest ally of *M. polyphemus* is the South-Brazilian *M. laertes*, no representative of this group of the genus being known anywhere in the intermediate region. From *M. laertes* (*M. epistrophis*, Hübn., being probably not specifically distinct) its northern congener differs at first sight in the purity of the white of its colour, the Brazilian insect always having a delicate greenish tint pervading its wings; and there are other differences. Both forms seem liable to a considerable amount of individual variation. The dark apex of the primaries in *M. polyphemus* in some individuals is altogether absent; in others it is a strong feature; the dark mark at the end of the cell varies from an evanescent stripe to a prominent streak; the submarginal row of spots on the secondaries likewise varies from a mere indication to a series of conspicuous marks. None of these variations seems associated with any particular locality. On the under-side great variation exists in the size of the ocelli. In Mexican specimens those of the secondaries are usually smaller than in Guatemalan examples; and in the former that beyond the end of the cell is often absent.

*Morpho luna*, described by Mr. Butler from a Mexican specimen, which is now in our possession, is a large male example with the markings more than usually developed; but our Mexican specimens gradually lead up from an almost spotless individual to this extreme form, and we consequently do not see how the distinctness of *M. luna* can be maintained. We arrive at this conclusion, notwithstanding Mr. Butler's strongly expressed opinion to the contrary<sup>4</sup>. It may be remarked that Mr. Butler has never told us what the distinctive characters of his species are to distinguish it from *M. polyphemus*; for in the first instance he seems to have compared it with *M. laertes*<sup>2</sup>, which is not really to the point. As to the difference of locality alluded to by him on the authority of M. Oberthür, we do not attach much importance to the statement; Cuernavaca and Putla are places in Mexico at no great distance apart, and are situated on the same side of the mountain chain.

In Guatemala *M. polyphemus* has a very wide range, being found in suitable localities in the forest districts bordering both oceans, and it also extends its range to an elevation of quite 4000 feet above the sea. These butterflies usually fly at a considerable height from the ground amongst the forest-trees; but on one occasion we met with a number of individuals which were flying low through the little village of San Bernado, in the valley of the Motagua river, and we easily captured several specimens.

The flight of *M. polyphemus* is, like that of other Morphos, rather rapid and undulating.