

# Rediscovery of *Vadina hodeei hodeei* (Oberthür, 1881) in Colombia (Lepidoptera: Castniidae)

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## Abstract

We report on a specimen of *Vadina hodeei hodeei* (Oberthür, 1881) collected in 2019 and several more collected in 2024. As far as we can ascertain, the previously most recently collected dated specimen was in 1931, so the subspecies hadn't been collected for 88 years.

**Keywords:** Lepidoptera, Castniidae, *Vadina*, Colombia, Ecuador.

## Redescubrimiento de *Vadina hodeei hodeei* (Oberthür, 1881) en Colombia (Lepidoptera: Castniidae)

## Resumen

Informamos sobre un ejemplar de *Vadina hodeei hodeei* (Oberthür, 1881) recolectado en 2019, así como varios más en 2024. Basados en información a nuestra disposición, el ejemplar fechado más reciente conocido hasta ahora databa de 1931, por lo que esta subespecie no se había recolectado desde hacía 88 años.

Palabras clave: Lepidoptera, Castniidae, *Vadina*, Colombia, Ecuador.

## Introduction

In 2022, we published a revision of the Castniidae genera *Amauta* Houlbert, 1918 and *Divana* Miller, 1982 in which we described the new genus *Vadina* Worthy, González & Zilli, 2022 for *Castnia hodeei* Oberthür, 1881. In this paper (Worthy et al. 2022), after examining 33 institutional and private collections worldwide, we listed all known specimens of *V. hodeei*, which amounted to 12 males and 6 females. Apart from one male, the most recent specimen that carried a date was collected in 1931. The other male was collected at Quípama, Boyacá, Colombia in April 2019 by local collectors. Our friend Dirk Casteleyn was contacted by Javier Muñoz and was asked if he could identify the specimen. Dirk immediately recognised it as *V. hodeei*; it is now in his collection and is the first record of *V. hodeei* for 88 years!

After this, no more specimens were found in subsequent years until 2024, when Javier offered us eight males and one female. All of these specimens were collected at Otanche, Boyacá, Colombia in May 2024 by local collectors; Otanche and Quípama are only about 15 km from each other in the Magdalena valley. It is very surprising that after only one specimen was seen in the 93 years since the previous one was collected, so many should have been caught in one year, especially since Otanche is a fairly heavily collected locality, from where a lot of Lepidoptera, including several species of Castniidae, are regularly supplied (Salazar, 1999; Miller, 2008); it is well within the previously published range of the taxon (González et al. 2013; Worthy et al. 2022).

The current depositories of these new specimens are as follows: 4 ♂, 1 ♀ in coll. R. Worthy (Figures 1-5); 1 ♂ in coll. D. Casteleyn; 1 ♂ in coll. R. Hulsbosch; the remaining 2 ♂ are still with J. Muñoz. The full data of all previously collected specimens are listed in Worthy et al. (2022), along with photographs of the types.

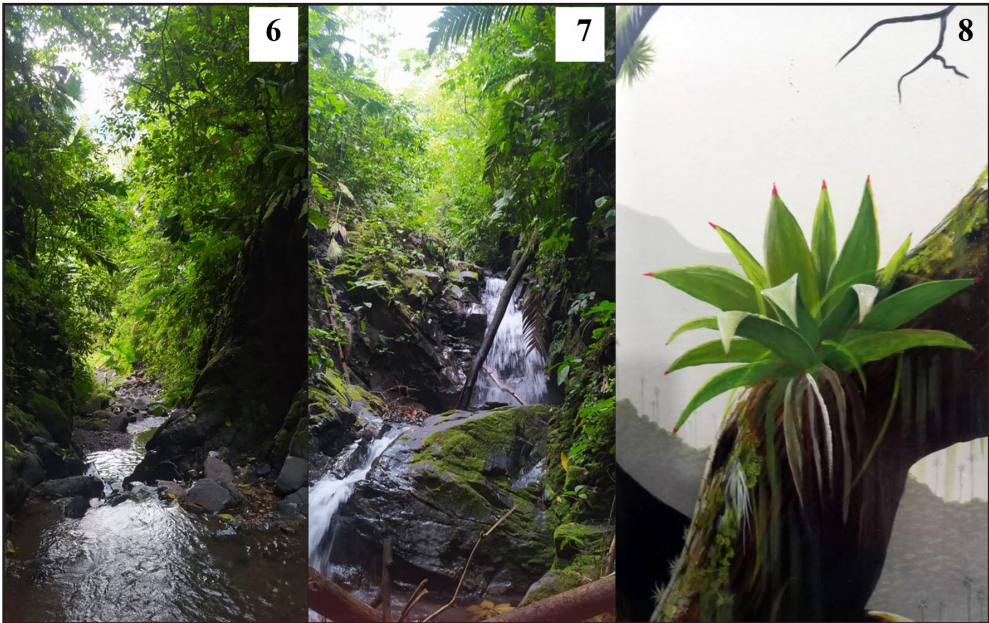
**Figures 1-5.** *Vadina hodeei hodeei* (Oberthür, 1881) adults. 1-4. males; 5. female; all specimens: Otanche, Boyacá, Colombia, May 2024, 500 masl (coll. R. Worthy).



In our previous paper (Worthy et al. 2022), we listed 22 ♂ and 5 ♀ of *V. hodeei kruegeri* (Niepelt, 1927) which we examined, Males of this subspecies are now regularly collected in Esmeraldas department in northwest Ecuador, although we have not been informed that any further females have been collected. We are now aware of 25 more males in the collection of Ramon Hulsbosch with the following data: ECUADOR PROV., Esmeraldas, Alto Tambo ♂, 00°53'N - 78°31'W, 1-30-XI-2016, 780 m, Coll. M. Bolaños, H. Thöny.

All recent specimens of *V. hodeei hodeei* have been found in the Magdalena Valley and we are told that it only flies in April and May at about 6:00 p.m. They fly in stream valleys (Figs. 6-7) and both sexes are regularly seen visiting an unidentified bromeliad (Figure 8).

**Figures 6-8.** Habitat and host of *Vadina hodeei hodeei* (Oberthür, 1881) in the Magdalena Valley, Otanche, Boyacá, Colombia. **6-7.** Stream valleys where the subspecies typically flies. **8.** Unidentified bromeliad visited by *Vadina hodeei hodeei* (Oberthür, 1881).



This flight time ties in with what we reported in our previous paper (Worthy et al. 2022) for *V. hodeei kruegeri*, which we stated is crepuscular. More recent information is that subspecies *kruegeri* flies in Ecuador near a small river in Chuchuví, Esmeraldas from May to November for only about 15 minutes per day between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m. (Ismael Aldas, pers. comm.).

### Acknowledgements

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### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no known financial interest or personal relationship that could have influence the work presented in this article.

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