

The lost taxon *Phalaena phadima* Stoll, 1782, recognized as *Megalopygidae* (Insecta: Lepidoptera)

Vitor O. Becker

Abstract

The identity and taxonomic placement of *Phalaena phadima* Stoll, 1782 is established and removed from *Prorifrons* Barnes & McDunnough, 1911 (Lasiocampidae) to *Megalopyge* Hübner, [1820] (Megalopygidae), as the senior synonym of *Hydrias lecca* Druce, 1890, syn. nov.

Keywords: Insecta, Lepidoptera, Lasiocampidae, Megalopygidae, *Prorifrons*, *Megalopyge*, identity, distribution, Neotropical.

El taxón perdido *Phalaena phadima* Stoll, 1782, reconocido como *Megalopygidae* (Insecta: Lepidoptera)

Resumen

Se establece la identidad y la ubicación taxonómica de *Phalaena phadima* Stoll, 1782 siendo removida de *Prorifrons* Barnes & McDunnough, 1911 (Lasiocampidae), hacia *Megalopyge* Hübner, [1820] (Megalopygidae), como el sinónimo más antiguo de *Hydrias lecca* Druce, 1890, syn. nov.

Palabras clave: Insecta, Lepidoptera, Lasiocampidae, Megalopygidae, *Prorifrons*, *Megalopyge*, identidad, distribución, Neotropical.

O táxon perdido *Phalaena phadima* Stoll, 1782, reconhecido como *Megalopygidae* (Insecta: Lepidoptera)

Resumo

A identidade e a posição taxonômica de *Phalaena phadima* Stoll, 1782 é estabelecida, sendo removida de *Prorifrons* Barnes & McDunnough, 1911 (Lasiocampidae), para *Megalopyge* Hübner, [1820] (Megalopygidae), como sinônimo sênior de *Hydrias lecca* Druce, 1890, syn. nov.

Palavras-chave: Insecta, Lepidoptera, Lasiocampidae, Megalopygidae, *Prorifrons*, *Megalopyge*, identidade, distribuição, Neotropical.

Introduction

Phalaena phadima Stoll, 1782 was described from a female from Surinam. It was transferred to *Hylesia* by Hübner ([1820]), to *Dirphia* by Walker (1855) and to *Plateia* by Kirby (1892) (Saturniidae). Draudt (1927), following Schaus' advice, included it in *Prorifrons* Barnes & McDunnough, 1911 (La-

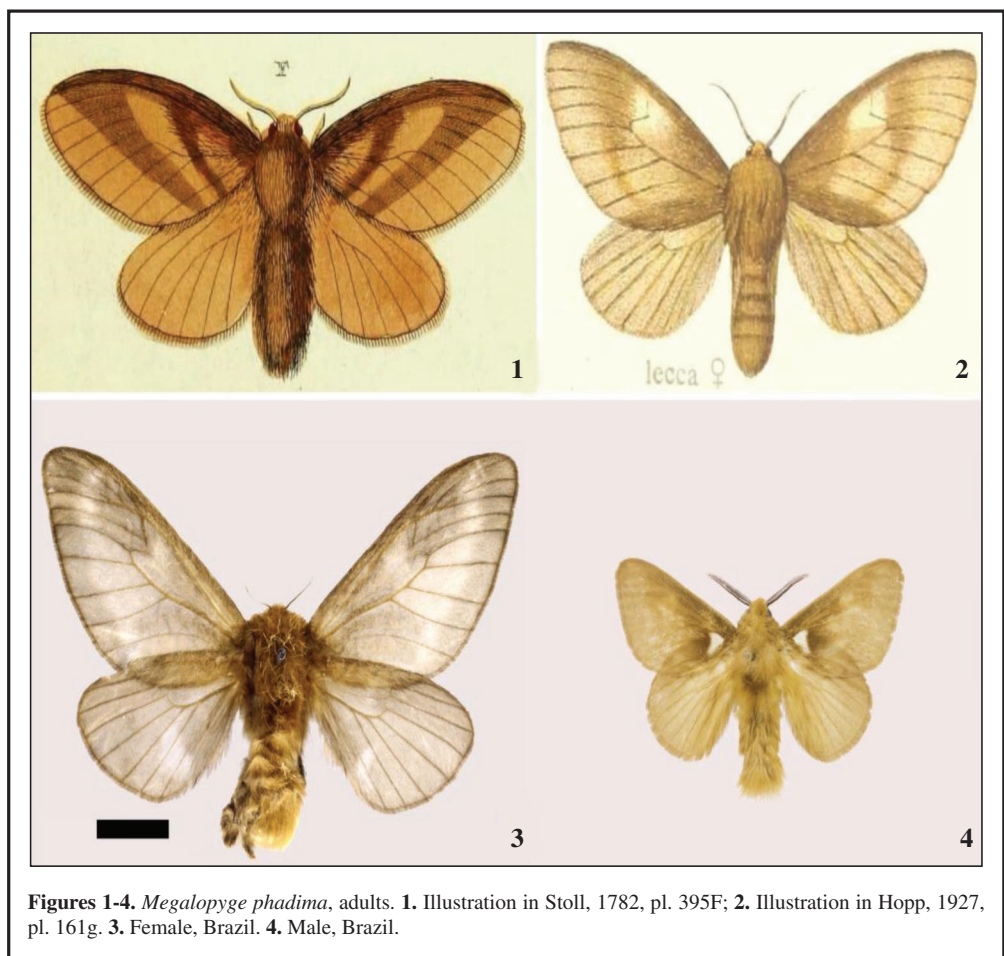
siocampidae). Examination of material in the collections revealed that it belongs to the Megalopygidae, as discussed below.

Material and methods

This work is based on the pertinent literature and on the material deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (USNM) and the author's (VOB) collections.

Results and discussions

Examination of the material and literature revealed that the species does not belong to the Lasiocampidae, being herein transferred to the Megalopygidae.



Figures 1-4. *Megalopyge phadima*, adults. **1.** Illustration in Stoll, 1782, pl. 395F; **2.** Illustration in Hopp, 1927, pl. 161g. **3.** Female, Brazil. **4.** Male, Brazil.

Megalopyge phadima (Stoll, 1782), **comb. nov.** (Figures 1-4)
Phalaena phadima Stoll, 1782. *Uitlandische Kapellen.* 4, 220, pl. 395F
Type (&), SURINAM: No further data (presumably lost)

Hylesia phadima Hübner, [1820]. *Verz. bekannter Schmett.*, 186
Dirphia phadima Walker, 1855. *List Specimens lepid. Insects Colln. Brit. Mus.*, 6, 1381
Plateia phadima Kirby, 1892. *Synonymic Cat. of Lepid. Heterocera*, 791
Prorifrons phedima Draudt, 1927. *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde* 6, 569, misspl.
Hydrias lecca Druce, 1890. *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 1890, 504. **Syn. nov.**

Type (&&), ECUADOR: Sarayacu (Buckley) (NHMUK) [examined].

Remarks: This species has remained unrecognized since its description, being placed, in the several catalogues, in different genera and even families, as mentioned above. Currently it remains in the Lasiocampidae, where Draudt (1927, p. 569) included it, following some advice by Schaus: "...according to SCHAUS' assertion, is a *Prorifrons*;" This association seems unjustified. Firstly because of its size, color, and pattern. Female *Prorifrons* are much larger, at least twice as large as this species, and the forewings show conspicuous blackish dots, in the vein interspaces, along termen and tornus. Secondly because no species of *Prorifrons* has been recorded from the Amazonian-Guianan region (Draudt, 1927, pp. 568-572). The original illustration (Figure 1), as expected for its time period, is rather crude. However, after examination of hundreds of female specimens from different families of neotropical moths, it was found that the best match to its description, illustration, particularly the wing venation, and geographical distribution, is the female of *Megalopyge lecca* (Druce) (Megalopygidae), a common and widespread species throughout the Amazon region, extending south along the Atlantic coast of Brazil, as far South as Santa Catarina. Apparently Hopp (1935, 1092, pl. 161g) was the first to associate both sexes of the species, as *M. lecca* (Druce), and the female illustrated by him (Figure 2), is a better match to Stoll's figure (Figure 1), as the female illustrated here (Figure 3) is rather faded and descaled. *H. lecca* was originally described from an unspecified number of males, presumably a single one, the type.

Acknowledgements

Diego R. Dolibaina, Serra Bonita Reserve, Camaçan, Bahia, Brazil, prepared the illustrations; Scott E. Miller and Talitta Simões (USNM), supplied data from the material in the collection; Scott E. Miller, reviewed the manuscript, made several corrections, and suggested some changes that improved the article.

References

- Barnes, W., & McDunnough, J. H. (1911). The Lasiocampid genus *Gloveria* and its allies. *Contributions to the natural history of Lepidoptera of North America*, 1(2), 1-17, pls. 1-4.
- Draudt, M. (1927-1928). Lasiocampidae. In A. Seitz. *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde* (Vol. 6, pp. 565-628). A. Kernen.
- Druce, H. (1890). Descriptions of new species of Lepidoptera Heterocera from Central and South America. *Proceedings of the zoological Society of London*, 1890, 493-520, pl. 42, 43.
- Hübner, J. (1816-[1826]). *Verzeichniss bekannten Schmettlinge* [sic]. Augsburg.
- Hopp, W. (1934-1935). Megalopygidae. In A. Seitz. *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde* (Vol. 6 1071-1101). A. Kernen.
- Kirby, W. F. (1892). *A Synonymic Catalogue of Lepidoptera-Heterocera*. Gurney & Jackson.
- Stoll, C. (1781-1782). In P. Cramer, *De uitlandische kapellen voorkomende in de drie waerld-deelen, Asia, Africa en America* (Vol. 4). S. J. Baalde.
- Walker, F. (1855). *List of the specimens of lepidopterous insects in the collection of the British Museum*, 6, 1259-1508.

V. O. BECKER

Vitor O. Becker
Reserva Serra Bonita
P. O. Box 01
45.880-000 Camacan, BA
BRASIL / BRAZIL
E-mail: becker.vitor@gmail.com
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9904-1176>

(Recibido para publicación / *Received for publication* 11-I-2023)
(Revisado y aceptado / *Revised and accepted* 15-IV-2023)
(Publicado / *Published* 30-IX-2023)

Derechos de autor: El autor(es). Este es un artículo de acceso abierto distribuido bajo los términos de la Licencia de Reconocimiento 4.0 Internacional de Creative Commons (CC BY 4.0), que permite el uso, distribución y reproducción sin restricciones en cualquier medio, siempre que se cite al autor original y la fuente. / **Copyright:** The author(s). This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.