

The identity of *Automeris ophthalmica* Moore, 1883 (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae, Hemileucinae)

V. O. Becker

Abstract

The identity of *Automeris ophthalmica* Moore, 1883, sp. rev. is recognized, based on a specimen reared from a larva that matched the description and illustration of the one from which the female holotype was reared. This finding makes *Pseudautomeris ophthalmica* (Moore), the senior synonym of the following names: *Automeris coronis* Schaus, 1913, syn. n., *Automeris parametea* Bouvier, 1936, syn. n., and *Automeris coronoides* Bouvier, 1936, syn. n.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Saturniidae, Hemileucinae, *Automeris*, identity, synonymy, distribution, Neotropical.

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Resumen

Se reconoce la identidad de *Automeris ophthalmica* Moore, 1883, sp. rev. basándose en un macho criado de una oruga idéntica a la que resultó la hembra que sirvió de base para la descripción de la especie. Este descubrimiento hace de *Pseudautomeris ophthalmica* (Moore, 1883), sp. rev., el sinónimo más antiguo de *Automeris coronis* Schaus, 1913, syn. n., *Automeris parametea* Bouvier, 1936, syn. n., y *Automeris coronoides* Bouvier, 1936, syn. n.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Saturniidae, Hemileucinae, *Automeris*, identidad, sinonimia, distribución, Neotropical.

Introduction

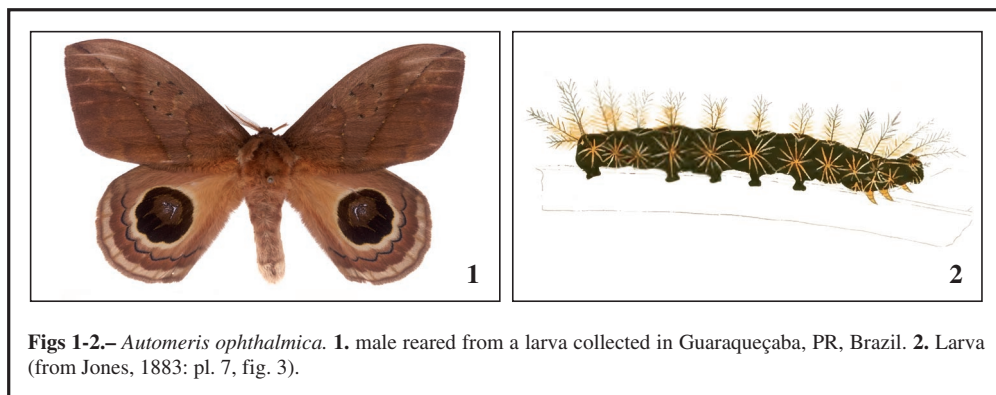
Automeris ophthalmica Moore, 1983, was described from a female, reared from a larva, in São Paulo, Brazil by JONES (1883: 25). This specimen has not been located (LEMAIRE, 2002). As the material belonging to Jones collection has been deposited in NHMUK, Lemaire stated that the name should be kept as unidentified, as the specimen could turn up among unsorted material in some collection or, until a larva (illustrated by Jones), was reared.

Abbreviations

NHMUK	The Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom
PR	Paraná State, Brazil
SC	Santa Catarina State, Brazil
SP	São Paulo State, Brazil
VOB	Vitor O. Becker Collection, Reserva Serra Bonita, Camacan, Bahia, Brazil

Results

A male reared from a larva that fits exactly the description and illustration by JONES (1883: 26, pl. 7, fig. 3) matches the description and illustration of *Pseudautomeris coronis* (Schaus, 1913), by LEMAIRE (2002: 625, pl. 75, figs 5, 6) confirming his suspicion that the holotype of *Automeris ophthalmica* represents the female of the same species. Based in this information, the identity of the species is recognized and the synonymy stands as given below.



Figs 1-2.– *Automeris ophthalmica*. **1.** male reared from a larva collected in Guaraqueçaba, PR, Brazil. **2.** Larva (from Jones, 1883: pl. 7, fig. 3).

Pseudautomeris ophthalmica (Moore, 1883), **sp. rev.** (Figs 1, 2).

Automeris ophthalmica Moore, 1883, in Jones. *Proc. phil. Soc. Lpool*, **37**: 251, pl. 1, fig. 3. Holotype ♀, BRAZIL: SP, São Paulo, XII-1877 (larva), IV-1878 (adult) (Jones) (NHMUK?) [not traced].

=*Automeris coronis* Schaus, 1913. *Ent. News*, **24**: 4. Holotype ♂, BRAZIL: SC, Joinville, (USNM) [not examined], **syn. n.**

=*Automeris parametea* Bouvier, 1936. *Anns Sc. Naturelles, Zool.*, **19**: 475. Lectotype ♂, BRAZIL: [No further data], designated by LEMAIRE, 1973: 75) [lost], **syn. n.**

=*Automeris coronoides* Bouvier, 1936. *Anns Sc. Naturelles, Zool.*, **19**: 475. Lectotype ♂, BRAZIL: [No further data], designated by LEMAIRE, 1973: 75) (location unknown), **syn. n.**

Remarks: An adult male (VOB 723) (Fig. 1), reared from a wholly black caterpillar, with golden yellow scoli and setae, collected at Guaraqueçaba, PR, matching exactly the description and illustration of the larva of *P. ophthalmica* (Fig. 2) was obtained and the adult matches the description and illustration of *P. coronis* (Schaus), presented by LEMAIRE (2002: pl. 75, figs 5, 6). The caterpillar is almost identical to those of *Leucanella* Lemaire, 1969 species, as well illustrated by LEMAIRE (2002: pl. ES10, figs 1-4), except for the setae, wholly yellow in *P. ophthalmica*, whereas white on thorax and on the last two anal segments in *Leucanella* sp.

Despite the fact that the type material of *A. parametea* Bouvier, and of *A. coronoides* Bouvier, are lost or not located, it is very likely that the synonymy proposed by LEMAIRE (1973: 75), who knew the group better than anybody else, is correct.

Distribution: All specimens known were collected along the Atlantic Forest of southern and southeastern Brazil, from the mountains of Rio de Janeiro south to Santa Catarina.

Food plants and biology: JONES (1883: 26) stated that the larva was found feeding on a species of *Iris* (Iridaceae). The larva studied here was found feeding on the leaflets of “Tucum”, a common thorny palm, *Bactris lindmanniana* Drude ex Lindm. (Arecaceae), in the region, in 7-XII-1970, pupated in 18-XII-1979 and emerged in 12-IV-1971.

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