

NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN BUTTERFLIES IN THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM. No. 2.*

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(Figure 1.)

Candalides Hübner, 1819.

This genus was first mentioned in the Verzeichniss, 1819, when Hübner used it for two very dissimilar species. Of these, Scudder (1875) selected as the genotype *C. xanthospilos* Hübn.

The *absimilis* group of *Candalides*.

The first mention of any species of this group was by Felder 1862, when he described *Holochila absimilis* from Ash Island, Hunter River, N. S. Wales, received from A. W. Scott. Felder (1865) gave good figures of both sexes.¹ I saw the holotype male at Tring Museum and there is no doubt that it is the species with a uniform blue upperside without any appearance of sex scales on the forewing when viewed either directly or obliquely. I have for long been of the opinion that I have had in the collection at least two species under the name *absimilis*. When Dr. C. P. Ledward found at Burleigh Heads, South Queensland, two distinct types of larvae, I was forced to make an investigation which gave rather surprising results, shown below.

The females of all the species will be very difficult to separate, but, as far as I am able, I give characters from specimens in the Museum collection which will help to distinguish them. I also include the two somewhat similar species described by Semper,² where he used the genus *Holochila*. I have seen the types of all the species and their synonyms.

Candalides helenita Semper, 1878. (Figure 1a.)

Male. Upperside greenish-blue, with a trident sex mark on veins 2, 3 and 4 of forewing.

Female. Upperside black, with a large central white patch on both wings, that of hindwing reaching apex, without any blue scales. Underside almost wholly silky-white with very few dark markings, the terminal black spots on hindwing very small. Readily recognized.

Semper's holotype male bears an old label, "Cap York", which is therefore the type locality. It is also found as far south as Cairns and Kuranda, where it has been recorded throughout the year. The female described by Semper, and afterwards figured by Druce, 1902, and seen by me, is a small female of *margarita*. Synonyms are *androdus* Miskin, 1890, Cape York, and *subargentea* G. Smith and Kirby, 1896, Cape York.

Candalides margarita Semper, 1878. (Figure 1b.)

The male has the trident sex mark on the forewing upperside, but the general colour is blue tinged with purple. The female upperside is similar to *helenita*, but has basal blue scales on both wings. The underside of both sexes is more heavily marked than in *helenita*, especially the terminal spots of hindwing.

The holotype male bears an old label, Bowen, which must be taken as the type locality. Semper described and Druce figured (1902) the female as *helenita*.

* For No. 1, see RECORDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, vol. xx, no. 3, p. 217, 1938.

¹ Felder.—Reise der . . . Novara . . . 1857-1859, Zool. ii, 2, 1865, p. 261, tab. xxxii, figs. 14-16.

² Semper.—*Journal des Museum Godeffroy*, v, 14, 1879, pp. 161-162. (Separate issued in 1878.)