

GENERAL NOTES

Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society
66(3), 2012, 175–176

URBANUS SIMPLICIUS (STOLL) IS AN ESTABLISHED RESIDENT ON GRENADA, WEST INDIES (HESPERIIDAE: EUDAMINAE)

Additional key words: Caribbean, distribution, skipper, Progress Park, St. Andrew

Urbanus simplicius (Stoll, 1790) is a frequently encountered Neotropical skipper butterfly, ranging from northern Argentina through South and Central America to southern Texas, USA (Evans 1952; Rickard 1977), where it appears to be a non-established stray from Mexico (Neck 1996; a single record also exists for California, see Tilden 1976). Its distribution extends from South America into the Caribbean on Trinidad and Tobago, where the species is locally abundant (Evans 1952; Cock 1982, 1986; Smith et al. 1994), and a single record exists for the Windward Islands, from Grenada (Smith et al. 1994). Throughout its range, *U. simplicius* is commonly found in disturbed habitats of many types, as well as undisturbed tropical forest. The larval foodplants for *U. simplicius* are herbaceous legumes (Fabaceae), including *Tipuana tipu* (Benth.) Kuntze in Brazil (Silva et al. 1968), *Phaseolus vulgaris* L. in Argentina (Hayward 1969; also in California, see Tilden 1976), *Glycine max* (L.) Merr. in Uruguay

(Biezanko et al. 1974), *Puearia phaseoloides* (Roxb.) Benth. on Trinidad (Cock 1986), and species of *Arachis* L., *Calopogonium* Desv., *Centrosema* (DC.) Benth., *Desmodium* Desv., *Galactia* P. Browne, *Phaseolus* L., *Rhynchosia* Lour., *Teramnus* P. Browne and *Vigna* Savi in Costa Rica (Janzen & Hallwachs 2011).

As reported by Smith et al. (1994), *U. simplicius* has been known from Grenada by a single female specimen collected in February 1986, at St. Paul, St. George Parish. They speculated that the individual was likely a stray from Trinidad or Tobago. *Urbanus simplicius* was not found on Grenada during a brief survey in 1995 (Cock 2002), and we are unaware of other captures of this species on Grenada before 2011.

On 20 September 2011, during field activities for a Lepidoptera Identification Workshop held 19–23 September 2011 at the Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation (WINDREF) on the



FIG. 1. Collecting locality—Progress Park, St. Andrew Parish.

campus of St. Georges University, St. Georges, Grenada, the first two authors collected seven males and two females of *Urbanus simplicius* at Progress Park in St. Andrew Parish (N12 08.033 W61 37.176), a disturbed habitat about forty feet above sea level (Figure 1). Progress Park is south of Pearls Airport and about 1 km west of the coastline of Great River Bay. The park is an agricultural area with small fields, some of which were overgrown with Guinea Grass, *Panicum maximum* Jacq., and some which were being used as cultivated plots with various vegetables. There were a few houses in the vicinity. The specimens of *U. simplicius* represent 35% (> 1/3) of the total number of hesperiid specimens collected that day. Given the local abundance of *U. simplicius* in St. Andrew Parish, we believe the species to be an established breeding resident on Grenada. We urge field workers on Grenada to monitor the distribution and abundance of this species on the island, and to determine local larval foodplants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the sponsors of the Lepidoptera Identification Workshop, the Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for their assistance in making the workshop a success, and the participants for their assistance with collecting.

LITERATURE CITED

- BIEZANKO, C. M., A. RUFFINELLI & D. LINK. 1974. Plantas y otras sustancias alimenticias de las orugas de los lepidópteros uruguayos. *Revista do Centro de Ciencias Rurais* 4(2): 107-147.
- COCK, M. J. W. 1982. The skipper butterflies (Hesperiidae) of Trinidad. Part II. A systematic list of the Trinidad and Tobago Hesperiidae. *Occasional Papers. Department of Zoology. University of the West Indies (St. Augustine, Trinidad)*. No. 5: 1-47.
- . 1986. The skipper butterflies (Hesperiidae) of Trinidad. Part 4, Pyrginae (second section). *Living World, Journal of the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club* 1985-1986: 33-47.
- . 2002. *Proteides mercurius grenadensis* Pinchon & Enrico (Hesperiidae) in Grenada, with notes on *Nyctelius nyctelius* Latreille (Hesperiidae) and other Lepidoptera observed, October 1995. *Living World, Journal of the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club* 2002:45-48, 2003: 76.
- EVANS, W. H. 1952. A catalogue of the American Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum (Natural History). Part II. Pyrginae. Section I. London, British Museum. 178 pp. + pls. 10-25.
- HAYWARD, K. J. 1969. Datos para el estudio de la ontogenia de lepidópteros argentinos. *Miscelánea. Instituto Miguel Lillo. Universidad Nacional de Tucumán* 31: 1-142.
- JANZEN, D. H. & W. HALLWACHS. 2011. Dynamic database for an inventory of the macrocaterpillar fauna, and its food plants and parasitoids, of Area de Conservacion Guanacaste (ACG), north-western Costa Rica (nn-SRNP-nnnnn voucher codes) <<http://janzen.sas.upenn.edu>>.
- NECK, R. W. 1996. A field guide to the butterflies of Texas. Gulf Publishing Co., Houston, Texas. xvii + 323pp.
- RICKARD, M. A. 1977. A record of *Urbanus simplicius* (Hesperiidae) for the USA. *Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society* 31: 138.
- SILVA, A. G. D'A., C. R. GONÇALVES, D. M. GALVÃO, A. J. L. GONÇALVES, J. GOMES, M. DO N. SILVA & L. DE SIMONI. 1968. Quarto catálogo dos insetos que vivem nas plantas do Brasil seus parasitos e predadores. Edição ampliada do "3º catálogo dos insetos que vivem nas plantas do Brasil" de autoria do Prof. A. M. da Costa Lima. Parte II. Insetos, hospedeiros e inimigos naturais. Índice de insetos e índice de plantas. Rio de Janeiro, Ministério de Agricultura. I:xxvii + 622pp.; 2:[viii] + 265pp.
- SMITH, D. S., L. D. MILLER & J. Y. MILLER. 1994. The butterflies of the West Indies and south Florida. Oxford University Press, Oxford. [vi] + 264pp, 32pls.
- TILDEN, J. W. 1976. *Urbanus simplicius* (Stoll), a new record for California. *Journal of Research on the Lepidoptera* 15(1): 40.

DELANO S. LEWIS, *McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA; email: dlewis@ufl.edu*, THOMSON PARIS, *Florida State Collections of Arthropods, Department of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, and the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA; email: thomsonparis@ufl.edu*, ANDREW D. WARREN, *McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA; email: andy@butterfliesofamerica.com*.

Submitted for publication 14 Nov 2011; revised and accepted 18 January 2012.