

Oxyntes corusca (Herrich-Schäffer) (Lepidoptera, Hesperiiidae), an Overlooked Butterfly Record from Trinidad, W.I., with Notes on the Caterpillar

Evans (1955) records a female of *Oxyntes corusca* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1869) (Hesperiiidae, Hesperinae, Hesperini) from Trinidad in The Natural History Museum, London (NHMUK). However, this record has been overlooked since then (e.g. Cock 2014b) until now, when more recent specimens were located and identified. SAS had an old male specimen in his collection from Andrew's Trace (July 1992), and recently sent images to MJWC to identify. By coincidence, soon after this MJWC found and spread a papered male specimen from amongst material collected by Julius Boos in the Parrylands oilfield in February 1980 (Fig. 1). MJWC dissected this specimen, identified it from Evans (1955) and confirmed the identification from Warren *et al.* (2017). We have not examined the female specimen in the NHMUK.

Oxyntes corusca is similar to *Niconiades* spp. known from Trinidad (Cock 2003) in wing shape, the white discal line on the ventral hindwing, the arrangement of spots of the forewing and the male brands (above and below vein 2 near base and above vein 1). The most obvious difference

is that *O. corusca* has no hyaline spots on the hindwing, which all Trinidad *Niconiades* spp. have. Further illustrations can be seen at Warren *et al.*'s (2017) website *Illustrated Lists of American Butterflies (North and South America)*.

In Costa Rica, the caterpillars feed on various Poaceae, but especially *Olyra latifolia* L. (Janzen and Hallwachs 2018). The pupa is brown and densely covered with a loose white flocculence of powder and fibres (Janzen and Hallwachs 2018). The final instar caterpillars in Costa Rica illustrated by Janzen and Hallwachs (2018) match one from Trinidad documented below that MJWC found but failed to rear (MJWC 04/34), except that in Costa Rica the frons and adfrontals are white rather than yellow.

Specimen MJWC 04/34 was collected on *Olyra latifolia* (herbarium sample MJWC 0305) in a shady clearing in the forest of Inness Field, 16 January 2004, and although the caterpillar moulted to what was almost certainly the final shelter, it died before pupating. The leaf shelter was made from the apex of a leaf and was 85mm long; both sides of the leaf were rolled upwards and joined; the mid-rib at the base of the shelter was flexed and the leaf shelter dangled from this point; the caterpillar rested head upwards with its round head blocking the entrance to the leaf shelter; feeding was basal to the shelter, from both sides of the leaf lamina.

What is here interpreted as the final instar (Fig. 2) measured 19 mm when newly moulted, but poor food quality at this stage suggests it may have been undersized. Head almost round in anterior view, 3.5 mm wide x 3.8 mm high, anteriorly flattened in profile; posterior margin broadly dark brown, darker ventrally; from vertex laterally to stemmata a broad, light brown band with diffuse margins; face brown on epicranium and clypeus, frons and adfrontals pale yellow, strongly contrasting with rest of face; the adfrontal sutures narrowly dark and the adjacent epicranium slightly paler than the rest of the brown epicranium; inconspicuous short, pale, erect setae. Pronotum brown, divided at dorsum. Body dull translucent green; red-brown tinge on T2–T3 and A7–A9; anal plate rounded posteriorly, with broad brown border; spiracles pale brown; legs and prolegs coloured as body, but a little paler. The penultimate instar (Fig. 3) was similar to the final instar, but the head was 2.9 mm wide x 2.9 mm high; darker; the lateral areas of the head not as pale; the frons and adfrontals were more contrasting; pronotum black.



Fig. 1. Male *Oxyntes corusca*, Parrylands oilfield, February 1980 (J.O. Boos) [Coll. MJWC]. Scale bar = 1 cm.



Fig. 2. Final instar of *Oxyntes corusca* collected on *Ultra latifolia*, 16 January 2004, Inniss Field; moulted to final instar 29 January; photographed 6 February; died, 20mm, MJWC 04/34. Above, head and anterior segments; below, anal segments.

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Fig. 3. Head and anterior segments of the penultimate instar of *Oxyntes corusca* collected on *Olyra latifolia*, 16 January 2004, Inniss Field, 22mm, MJWC 04/34.

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