

BEBEARIA BANKSI, NOUVELLE ESPÈCE
(Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae)

J. HECQ * & T. LARSEN **

* 23, rue des Haies Germaines, 6032 Mont-sur-Marchienne, Belgique.

** Couldharbour Lane, 358, GB SW9 8PL London, UK

The new species was discovered when LARSEN was reviewing the last of eight raw video-tapes of butterflies from Ghana taken by John BANKS in December, 1997. It will be edited into a video on African butterflies to be available from E.W. Classey.

It was recorded along a small track in Kakum National Park, Ghana, where LARSEN spent about 45 days over the past five years, without seeing anything like it.

When John BANKS was informed that it seemed to be new, but that it was necessary to see the underside, he consulted his notes, to find that his wife Pat has also videoed it. Her video showed the underside, and the butterfly obligingly opened its wings so that it was clear that the underside and the upperside was the same.

John and Pat BANKS received much help and assistance from the Ghana Wildlife Department which has also done much to help research on West African Butterflies.

Type locality : Ghana, Kakum National Park (Abrafo), XII.1997.

Description

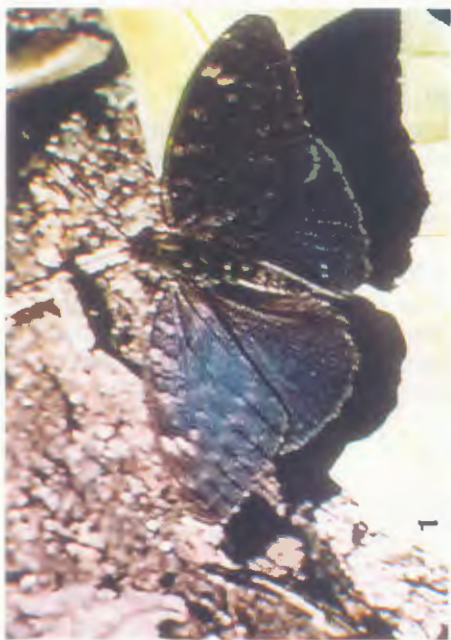
Espèce à rapprocher de *B. abesa* Hew 1869.

Recto. Couleur bleu, assez brillant en lumière vive (soleil). Frange blanche bien visible. Ensemble des macules de la zone costale de l'aile antérieure bien visibles également et particulièrement les subapicales 4, 5 & 6 qui sont blanc bleuâtre. Les cellulaires apparaissent aussi nettement sous un certain angle. Aile postérieure uniforme.

Verso caractéristique. Gris, non brunâtre. Parsemé de petites macules noires, nettes : les cellulaires de l'aile postérieure, une courte et une longue, caractérisent bien l'espèce ; ensuite, les cellulaires de l'aile antérieure sont disposées par couples ; d'autres sont distales et submarginales, aux deux ailes, celles des premiers intervalles de l'aile antérieure étant les plus visibles ; il y a aussi trois costales à l'aile postérieure.

Type

Under the Code, it is completely acceptable to describe a new species from photographs. The taxon must be described in words (Art. 13a (i)) but, of course, the photograph should be included. The holotype will be treated as the specimen which appears in the photograph, and not as the illustration itself. Art. 73a (iv) reads : « Designation of an illustration of a single specimen as a holotype is to be treated as designation of the specimen illustrated ; the fact that the specimen cannot be traced does not itself invalidate the designation. »



Bebearia banksi n. sp. 1. Male HT, upperside ; 2. Male HT, underside. 3. Male HT, underside. 4. Second specimen.