

SCIENTIFIC NOTE: HOSTPLANT RECORDS FOR THE MYRMECOPHILOUS BUTTERFLY *HARVEYOPE DENSEMACULATA* (HEWITSON, 1870) (LEPIDOPTERA: RIODINIDAE)

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Abstract - Hostplant records are presented herein for *Harveyope densemaculata* (Lepidoptera: Riodinidae) larvae found in myrmecophilous association with *Crematogaster* ants at the Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park, Peru. These are the first hostplant records reported for that species.

Key words: *Crematogaster*; lowland rainforest; Manu National Park; Peru.

The Neotropical genus *Harveyope* Penz & DeVries, 2006 includes five species distributed from Nicaragua south to Brazil (Penz & DeVries, 2006) and its larval hostplants are unknown. Neither HOSTS, the database on world Lepidoptera hostplants maintained by the Natural History Museum, London (<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/research/projects/hostplants/> accessed 15 August 2012) nor Beccaloni *et al.* (2008) list any entry for *Harveyope*.

Harveyope densemaculata (Hewitson, 1870) occurs from Nicaragua south to Bolivia in lowland tropical rainforests. This species was studied in a mature lowland rainforest at Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park (11° 54' S, 71° 22' W), southeastern Peru. Fifteen caterpillars of *H. densemaculata* were found feeding on leaves of *Macfadyena unguis-cati* (Bignoniaceae), *Trichilia* aff. *maynasiana* (Meliaceae), *Serjania* sp. (Sapindaceae), *Sloanea guianensis* (Eleaeocarpaceae), *Paullinia* sp. (Sapindaceae), on an unidentified Bignoniaceae, and on an unidentified Lauraceae. Plant samples were identified by John Terborgh, Duke University, North Carolina, USA.

All caterpillars were found in a forest clearing, distributed in an area of approximately 20 m diameter, in association with *Crematogaster* ants as part of an experiment on ant-caterpillar associations which, due to time constraints, did not provide final results. Three of the caterpillars died before pupation and were preserved in glass vials. Seven disappeared from their hostplant, probably being preyed upon. Two more disappeared after a large tree branch fell and smashed their hostplant. The two surviving caterpillars were left on their hostplants until pupation and then brought back to the field laboratory where the adults emerged, one of which escaped. The remaining individual was identified by G. Lamas, Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru. (MUSM). The three caterpillars that were part of the experiment and the unique adult are preserved in the MUSM.

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