

**Another new species of *Itylos* from the high Andes of Peru
(Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae)***

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Abstract – *Itylos mira* sp. n., a new polyommatine lycaenid species is described from the high Andes of Peru (type locality: Department Huancavelica, Ñahuimpuquio). A key to the species of *Itylos* is provided, based on characters of male wing pattern. With 4 figures.

INTRODUCTION

Recent studies of lycaenid butterflies in the high Andean region of Peru disclosed a number of species from the subfamily Polyommadini which were new to science. Among these were four species of *Itylos* DRAUDT, 1919, an endemic Andean genus, revised first by NABOKOV (1945) as *Parachilades*. NABOKOV recognized only one species in the genus, *I. titicaca* (WEYMER, 1890) and this view persisted in the scientific literature until very recently (cf. LAMAS 1977, DESCIMON 1986).

Since 1993, however, four new species of *Itylos* have been described (BÁLINT & JOHNSON 1995: 224). The type species of *Itylos* (*Lycaena titicaca* WEYMER, 1890) has a wide distribution (from N Peru to NE Chile and NW Argentina), while all the newly described taxa have to date been recorded only from very limited distributions in Peru (BÁLINT & JOHNSON 1995: fig. 33, BÁLINT & LAMAS 1994: fig. 10 and fig. 4 herein).

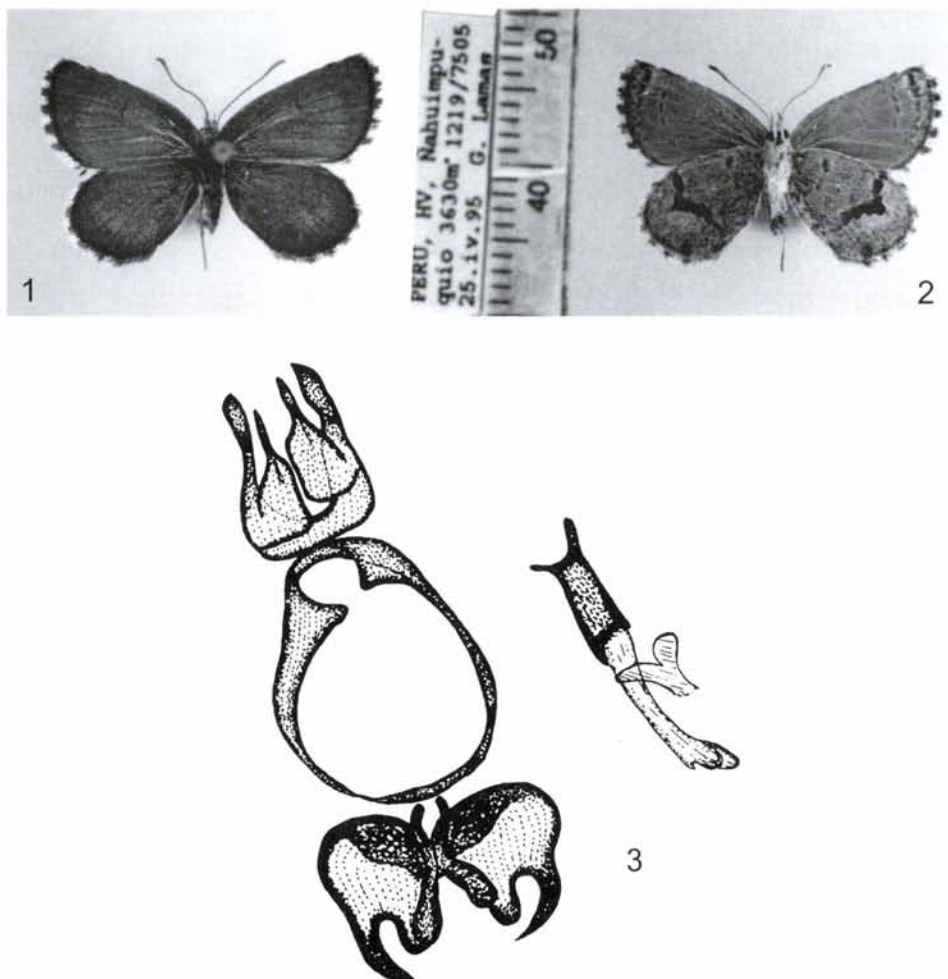
The purpose of this paper is to describe another distinctive new species of *Itylos* also collected recently in Peru. Taxonomic methods and abbreviations follow those of BÁLINT & JOHNSON (1994). All comparative material and documentation are at the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest (HNHM) or the Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima (MUSM).

* Polyommatine lycaenids of the oreol biome in the Neotropics, part XII.

***Itylos mira* sp. n.**
(Figs 1–3)

"*Itylos* sp. n. – C-Pe" – BÁLINT & JOHNSON 1995: 224

Diagnosis – Superficially most similar to *I. pnin* BÁLINT, 1993 but larger, with more luminous blue DW, wider and more prominent marginal band, and a prominent FW discoidal line; VHW vertical postmedian band continuous from costa to anal margin; male genitalia also most similar to *I. pnin*, but uncus more reduced, tegumen with extended apical inner margin; currently known from a single high Andean locality in Peru.



Figs 1–3. 1–2 = Holotype of *Itylos mira* sp. n. 1 = dorsal, 2 = ventral;
3 = male genitalia of *I. mira* sp. n. (paratype, gen. prep. No. 713, det. Zs. BÁLINT)

Description (Figs 1–2). Antennae checkered, club below yellowish. Wings: FW costal margin straight, outer margin elongate, anal margin conspicuously short (3/4 of costal length). DFW, DHW luminous blue with intervenal suffusion of black scales, black marginal band wide (especially in DFW apical area), and veins covered with black scales, DFW discoidal line prominent, fringes elongate and checkered. VFW ground colour rufous, marked with pale brown discoidal and darker brown postmedian spots (latter with halos except below vein CuA1); costal area suffused with prominent yellowish grey scales; submarginal pattern distinct at apex but becoming paler and suffused towards tornus. VHW ground colour ash-grey with a bluish hue, basal and discoidal spots in cell Sc+R1 prominently brown coloured with lighter halos, discoidal spot indistinct, postmedial area with blackish brown crescents continuous from costa to tornus (more indistinct at latter), cell

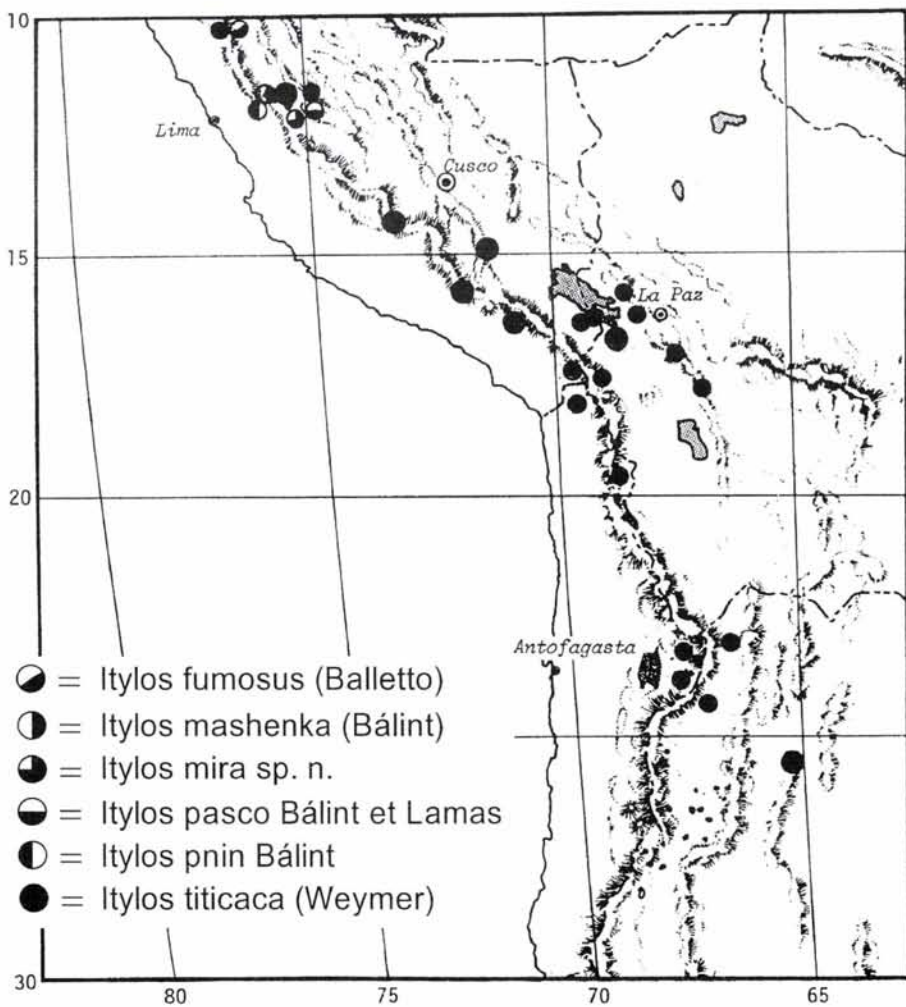


Fig. 4. Distribution of *Itylos* species.

CuA2 with large suffused brown antemarginal spot. FW length: 11 mm (holotype and paratype). Male genitalia (Fig. 3.): Uncus strong, wide and bulbous; gnathos heavily sclerotized at base with straight and elongate apical extension; tegumen weak with extended apical inner margin; valvae rounded with strongly developed anal and apical processes, anal area heavily sclerotized and fused to anal juxtal fork; juxta apically weak, sclerotized and fused with aedeagus at zone; aedeagus long (ca. 1.5× longer than valval radius), subzonal element sclerotized, suprazonal element long (2× longer than subzonal length) and membranous. Female: Unknown.

Type material – Holotype, male: Peru, Huancavelica, Ñahuimpuquio, 3630 m, 12°19'S/75°05'W, 25.IV.1995, leg. G. LAMAS. Paratype, male: Peru, Huancavelica, Ñahuimpuquio, 3630 m, 12°19'S/75°05'W, 25.IV.1995, leg. A. L. VILORIA; gen. prep. No. 713, det. Zs. BÁLINT. Both deposited in MUSM.

Type locality – Peru, Department Huancavelica, Ñahuimpuquio (Fig. 4).

Biology – Unknown.

Etymology – GALYA DIMENT (author of the 1997 volume “Pniinad” on NABOKOV’s Pnin) proposed “Mira”, the first name of Pnin’s beloved who died in a Nazi camp. It is fitting that a butterfly, often representing the human soul, should bear her name.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF ITYLOS BASED ON MALE WING CHARACTERS

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | VHW with intervenal silvery stripes | <i>I. mashenka</i> (BÁLINT, 1993) |
| – | VHW without intervenal silvery stripes | 2 |
| 2. | VHW dark postmedian band entire, evenly rounded | <i>I. fumosus</i> (BALLETTTO, 1993) |
| – | VHW dark postmedian band entire or broken, sharply angled | 3 |
| 3. | VHW postmedian band entire; no basal band | <i>I. mira</i> sp. n. |
| – | VHW postmedian band broken; if entire then with well marked basal band | 4 |
| 4. | VHW postmedian spot in cell M1 half the size of spot in cell M2 | 5 |
| – | VHW spots in cell M1 and M2 of equal size | <i>I. pnin</i> BÁLINT, 1993 |
| 5. | VHW pale basal and postbasal spots separate | <i>I. pasco</i> BÁLINT et LAMAS, 1994 |
| – | VHW dark basal and postbasal spots fused into a wavy band | <i>I. titicaca</i> (WEYMER, 1890) |

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