

Two unusual varieties of common Malayan *Rhopalocera*

By Major C. F. COWAN

(Received March, 1955)

THE FOLLOWING are descriptions of two surprising aberrations of common butterflies taken by me in Malaya.

1. *Rapala iarbus iarbus* Fab. ab. *chondong* nov. Plate 1

Both sexes above normal.

Below colour normal, markings aberrant; bars at ends of fore- and hindwing cells exaggerated in extent and tone; hindwing postdiscal band absent; forewing postdiscal band oblique from near tornus to below cell bar, thence in spaces 3 to 5 parallel to end of cell, forming with the bar a narrow Y or 'tuning fork'; the lower portion macular and irregular; no markings above vein 6.

Taken at Nee Soon Pipeline, Singapore, about 4 p.m., 11.ix.38. *R. iarbus* was abundant in a dry clearing on this sunny evening and an aberrant specimen was taken. Though many more of this species were examined, only one more example was found, being of the opposite sex. No others, and no intermediates with the normal, have been seen. The two normal specimens figured with the aberrations were taken with them.

2. *Ypthima pandocus corticaria* Btlr. ab. *kosong* nov. Plate 2

Both sexes normal above and below except for the ocelli.

The hindwing ocelli are obsolete or vestigial above, and are much reduced and 'slit-eyed' below, where an extra ocellus appears in space 5. This 'extra' ocellus is not unknown in otherwise normal specimens—a good example from Ampang, Selangor (Coll. Corbet) being figured, underside, for comparison.

But the outstanding feature of the aberration is the complete absence from the forewing above and below of any trace of the characteristic large double ocellus.

One specimen was seen at 4,000 feet on 10.xi.53, at dusk at the beginning of a 4-day visit to Maxwell's Hill, Perak (just above Speedy's Rest House). Despite frequent searches amongst the embarrassing abundance of the species no other was seen until 14.xi.53, the last day, when a ♂ and a ♀ were taken at an interval of ½ hour. These were damaged by ants at Alor Star so the locality was revisited and a second ♀ luckily was secured on 25.xi.53. No intermediates between these and the normal are known. It will be interesting to see if this form is persistent in the Larut Hills.

These two aberrations are quite distinct, but I am convinced, from the circumstances of their capture as well as their general appearance, that they rank as no more than aberrational individuals. Mr. N. H. Bennett, of the Staff of the British Museum (Natural History), kindly examined the ♂ genitalia of the *Rapala* illustrated and found no difference between the two. The *Ypthima* abdomen is damaged. The 4 type specimens, with the normal *Rapala* for comparison, are now in the Br. Mus. *Ypthima* ♀ cotype in my collection.

Explanation of Plates

PLATE 1. *Rapala iarbus iarbus* Fab.

Left pair normal, right pair ab. *chondong*, males above, females below. All from Nee Soon, Singapore Island, 11.ix.1938.

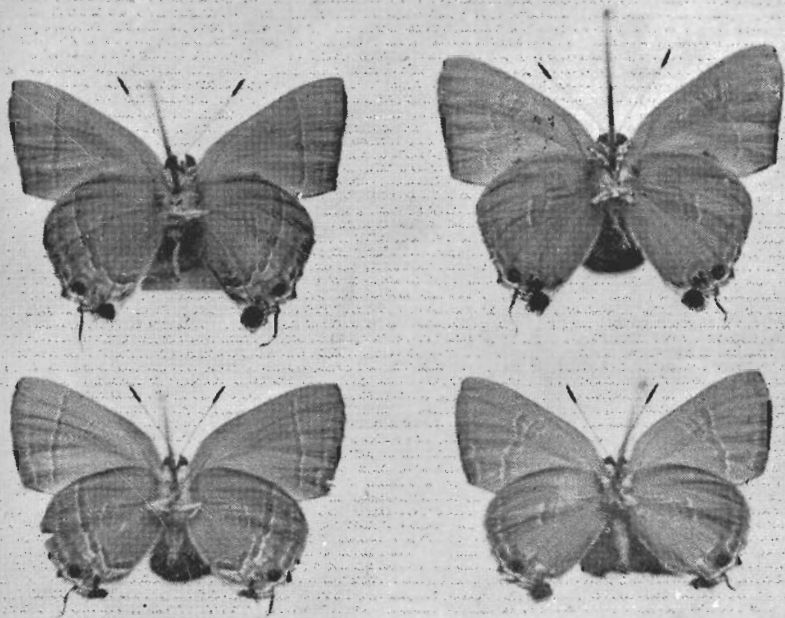
PLATE 2. *Ypthima pandocus corticaria* Btlr.

Top row: Normal males, upperside, from Gunong Jerai, Kedah, 4,000 feet (left) and Gunong Hijau, Perak, 4,750 feet (right).

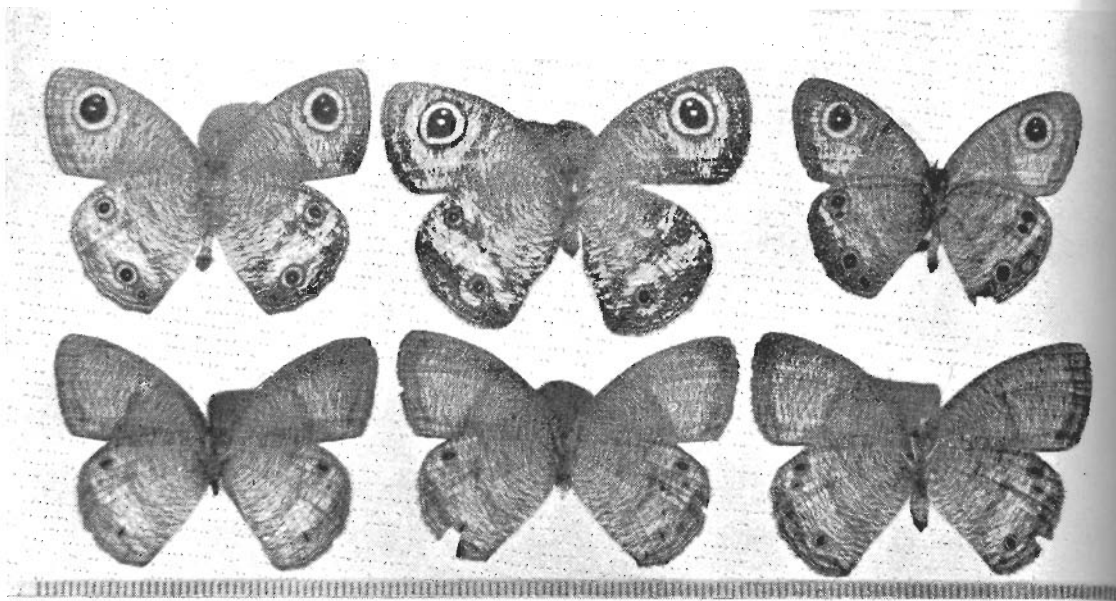
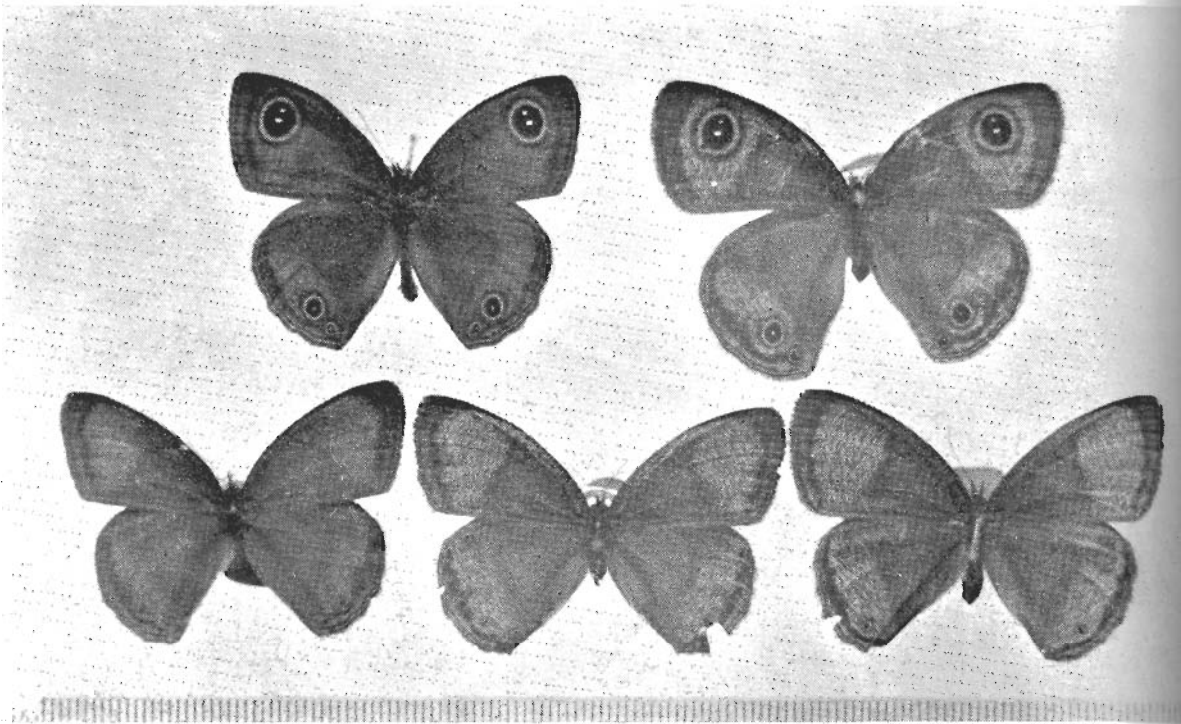
Second row: *Ab. kosong*, upperside, Maxwell's Hill Perak, male holotype (left), female allotype (centre), female cotype in author's collection (right).

Third row: Normal males, underside, the specimens shown in top row, with the addition (at right) of a male from Ampang, Selangor, having an extra ocellus.

Fourth row: *Ab. kosong*, underside, specimens shown in second row.



Aberration of *Rapala iarbus iarbus* Fab. (C. F. Cowan).



Aberration of *Ypthima pandocus corticaria* Btlr. (C. F. Cowan).