

NOTE

Taxonomic note on three species in the tribe Acraeini Boisduval, 1833 (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Heliconiinae)

Published online: 13 September 2020

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/met.v31i1.16>

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INTRODUCTION

The taxa *Acraea cerasa* Hewitson, 1861, *Acraea kraka* Aurivillius, 1893 and *Acraea unimaculata* Grose-Smith, 1898 in the genus *Telchinia* have always been a problem as they appear to belong to the genus *Acraea* but due to their genitalia, particularly the aedeagus being broad and short as found in the genus *Telchinia*, they were assigned to this genus in Henning & Williams (2010). Pierre & Bernaud (2014) placed these three taxa in *Acraea* but made no reference to Henning & Williams (2010) and therefore did not formally emend their generic assignation. The purpose of this note is to formally place these species in the genus *Acraea*.

SYSTEMATICS

Despite the broad and short aedeagus, which is typical *Telchinia*, the uncus of *A. cerasa* is bifid as is found in some *Acraea* but not in *Telchinia*. The valves are also distinctly shaped with serrations reminiscent of those found in *Acraea* subgenus *Bematistes*. These inconsistencies coupled with the food plant preferences lead us to reassign these three taxa from *Telchinia* to *Acraea*.

Acraea cerasa larvae use the following host plants:

Rawsonia (Achariaceae = Flacourtiaceae)

Drypetes (Euphorbiaceae = Putranjivaceae)

Rinorea (Violaceae)

A. kraka larvae only use:

Caloncoba (Achariaceae = Flacourtiaceae).

The larval host plants of *A. unimaculata* are unknown (References in Williams, 2020).

Plants belonging to Achariaceae are used as hosts by the larvae of 16 species of *Acraea* but by no *Telchinia* species. Violaceae are used by 10 *Acraea* but no *Telchinia* species. Euphorbiaceae are used by two *Acraea* and one *Telchinia* species. It is thus decided that, apart from other characters, *cerasa*, *kraka* and *unimaculata* belong in the genus

Acraea and not in the genus *Telchinia*. The taxonomy is thus emended as follows:

Telchinia (Telchinia) cerasa cerasa (Hewitson, 1861) is emended to *Acraea (Acraea) cerasa cerasa* Hewitson, 1861 **comb. n.**

Telchinia (Telchinia) cerasa cerita (Sharpe, 1906) is emended to *Acraea (Acraea) cerasa cerita* Sharpe, 1906 **comb. n.**

Telchinia (Telchinia) cerasa kiellandi (Carcasson, 1964) is emended to *Acraea (Acraea) cerasa kiellandi* Carcasson, 1964 **comb. n.**

Telchinia (Telchinia) kraka (Aurivillius, 1893) is emended to *Acraea (Acraea) kraka* Aurivillius, 1893 **comb. n.**

Telchinia (Telchinia) unimacuata (Grose-Smith, 1898) is emended to *Acraea (Acraea) unimaculata* Grose-Smith, 1898 **comb. n.**

LITERATURE CITED

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Received: 21 July 2020

Published: 13 September 2020

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