

# *Laemocharis ignicolor* Ménériés (Noctuidae, Arctiinae), a bogus neotropical moth

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**ABSTRACT.** *Laemocharis ignicolor* Ménériés (Noctuidae, Arctiinae), a bogus neotropical moth. The identity of *Laemocharis ignicolor* Ménériés, 1857 is established for the first time and is synonymized under *Cosmosoma erythrarchos* (Walker, 1854), **syn. n.**; lectotypes for *L. ignicolor* and *L. vulnerata* Herrich-Schäffer, [1854] are here designated.

**KEYWORDS.** Brazil; Euchromiina; synonymy; taxonomy.

**RESUMO.** *Laemocharis ignicolor* Ménériés (Noctuidae, Arctiinae), uma falsa mariposa neotropical. A identidade de *Laemocharis ignicolor* Ménériés, 1857 é estabelecida pela primeira vez e sinonimizada sob *Cosmosoma erythrarchos* (Walker, 1854), **syn. n.**; lectótipos para *L. ignicolor* e *L. vulnerata* Herrich-Schäffer, [1854] são aqui designados.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE.** Brasil; Euchromiina; sinonímia; taxonomia.

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Ménériés (1857: 139) described *Laemocharis ignicolor* based apparently on a single specimen - it is very unlikely that he had more than one similar “bogus” specimen available - collected by the Langsdorff expedition in “Minas Geraes”, Brazil. However, as he did not explicitly indicate the number of specimens studied, the specimen which image was examined by the present authors is here designated as the lectotype. The species was never found again, despite frequent collecting in the region by numerous people. Hampson (1898: 185) transferred it to *Sarosa* Walker, but stated he had not seen the type material. Draudt (1915: 52) repeated Hampson’s combination and redescribed the species; however, from his text it is doubtful that he examined any specimen either.

Examination of a colour image of the presumed type of *L. ignicolor* (Fig. 2) clearly shows that Draudt’s figure (1915: pl. 11f) is inaccurate (showing almost no red). Close examination of that colour image (Fig. 2) suggests that the presumed type specimen consists of the head and thorax of a male specimen of *Cosmosoma erythrarchos* (Walker) (Fig. 1) and glued to it is the abdomen of a male specimen of *Aethria haemorrhoidalis* (Stoll) (Fig. 3). *C. erythrarchos* is endemic to the Brazilian Atlantic Forest. The senior author collected it at several localities in the region, including Nova Lima and Santa Bárbara (Caraça Monastery), both near Belo Horizonte in Minas Gerais State. *A. haemorrhoidalis* ranges from México to Brazil. A full synonymy of *C. erythrarchos* is presented below.

Abbreviations used in this work: BMNH, The Natural History Museum, London; MNHU, Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin; ZI, Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg.

## *Cosmosoma erythrarchos* (Walker)

*Glaucopsis erythrarchos* Walker, 1854: 164. Holotype female, BRAZIL: [RJ, Rio de Janeiro] (*H. Low*) (BMNH) [examined].

*Laemocharis vulnerata* Herrich-Schäffer, [1854]: fig. 238. Lectotype male. [BRAZIL: RJ], Rio de Janeiro “Rio” (ZI), here designated [colour image examined]. Synonymized by Walker, 1856: 1607.

*Lagaria vulnerata*; Walker, 1856: 1607; Butler, 1877: 36, pl. 12, fig. 2.

*Laemocharis ignicolor* Ménériés, 1857: 139, pl. 14, fig. 3. Lectotype male [BRAZIL: MG “Minas Geraes”, [1824] (*Ménériés*)] (ZI), here designated [colour image examined]. Kirby, 1892: 149. **Syn. n.**

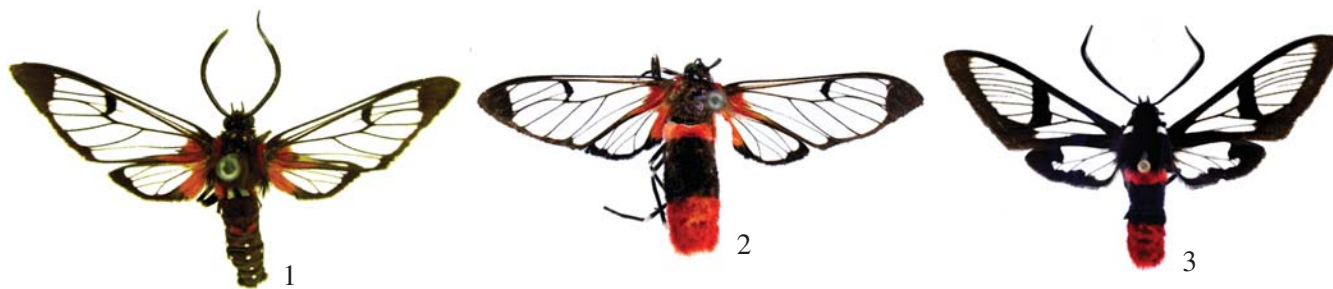
*Rezia erythrarchos*; Kirby, 1892: 149; Watson, 1980: 169.

*Sarosa ignicolor*; Hampson, 1898: 185; Zerny, 1912: 57; Draudt, 1915: 52, pl. 11f.

*Cosmosoma erythrarchos*; Hampson, 1898: 230; Zerny, 1912: 69; Draudt, 1915: 73, pl. 14m.

**Remarks.** *Lagaria* Walker (1854: 169) is a junior homonym of *Lagaria* Dallas, 1852 (Hemiptera) and Kirby (1892: 149) proposed *Rezia* as the objective replacement. It was synonymized with *Cosmosoma* Hübner, 1823 by Hampson (1898: 225), a treatment that was followed by all subsequent authors (Zerny 1912: 67; Draudt 1915: 71; Franclemont 1983: 119; Schmidt & Opler 2008: 21). *Cosmosoma sensu* Hampson (1898: 225) is an assemblage of several groups, mostly unrelated, whose species should be grouped in a number of different genera. As a result a few of the generic names he listed in the synonymy should be revalidated. The second author is working on a classification of the group.

According to Komissarov (1988: 40–42), the Langsdorff expedition, of which Ménériés was one of its members, left



Figs. 1–3. 1, *Cosmosoma erythrarchos* (Walker) male (lectotype of *Laemocharis vulnerata*); 2, *L. ignicolor* Ménétriés, both parts male (type); 3, *Aethria haemorrhoidalis* (Stoll) male.

Rio de Janeiro for Minas Gerais in May, 1824 and returned at the beginning of 1825. Most of this time was spent collecting around Ouro Preto, São João del Rei, and other mining localities in the region, including Serra [Monastery] do Caraça.

*Laemocharis vulnerata* was described from an unspecified number of specimens from the Kaden collection. According to Horn & Kahle (1935–1937: 129), the exotic moths of that collection went to the Zool. Mus. Leningrad (ZI) via N. Ershoff. Dr. S. Sinev stated (pers. comm.) “I have found two specimens of *Laemocharis vulnerata* in our collection, and at least one of them should be the type figured by Herrich-Schäffer”. This is the specimen designated here as lectotype (Fig. 1); the second is designated as paralectotype.

Walker (1856: 1607) considered *L. erythrarchos* to be a junior synonym of *L. vulnerata*. His and Herrich-Schäffer’s works were contemporaneous, and the last was published in separate issues between 1852 and 1858. Fletcher (1979: xii) gives [1854] as the publication date of the plate containing fig. 238, and in such cases, in order to establish priority, it should be regarded as [31.xii.1854]. According to Nye (1975: 6), the publication date of Walker’s vol. 1 is 11.ii.1854.

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