

Two new skippers from Sulawesi (Celebes) (Lepidoptera: Hesperiiidae)

by

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ABSTRACT. — *Halpe damar* and *Acerbas suttoni* are described and figured from single males taken in eastern Central Celebes (Sulawesi Tengah), in March 1980. Both are clearly distinguished from their congeners by facies and genitalic differences. Neither genus is known to be represented east of Weber's line.

Halpe damar sp. n. (figs. 1-3)

The genus *Halpe* Moore, 1878 is generally placed in the *Astictopterus* group (Evans) of Hesperiiinae; some 27 species are included, from India to the Philippines and Sulawesi: all small and brown with hyaline spots. The males of most species have a stigma on the upperside of the forewing. Until now, only *H. beturia* Hewitson has been known from Celebes: its wings are darker, conspicuously branded and marked, and of a typical *Halpe* shape. The new taxon does not seem particularly close to any other *Halpe*, in facies or genitalia.

Description

Male. — Forewing 18 mm; a marked "shoulder" to the costa makes the wing appear unusually broad.

Upperside. — Brown; forewing with small hyaline spots in spaces 2, 3, 6 and 7 and a small upper cell-spot. No forewing brand, but some modified scales are discernible where the brand would be expected.

Underside. — Dull greyish brown; forewing with an additional tiny, non-hyaline spot in space 8, and faint traces of pale submarginal marks in spaces 4-7. Some straw-coloured scales are scattered thinly near the base, above the radius, but there is no pale area in space 1A. Hindwing central band consists of pale patches separated by the brown veins; submarginal series inconspicuous and roughly parallel to termen, ending below vein 6. Cilia pale brown.

Genitalia. — Uncus deeply bilobate, valva much serrated, and cuiller hardly upcurved.

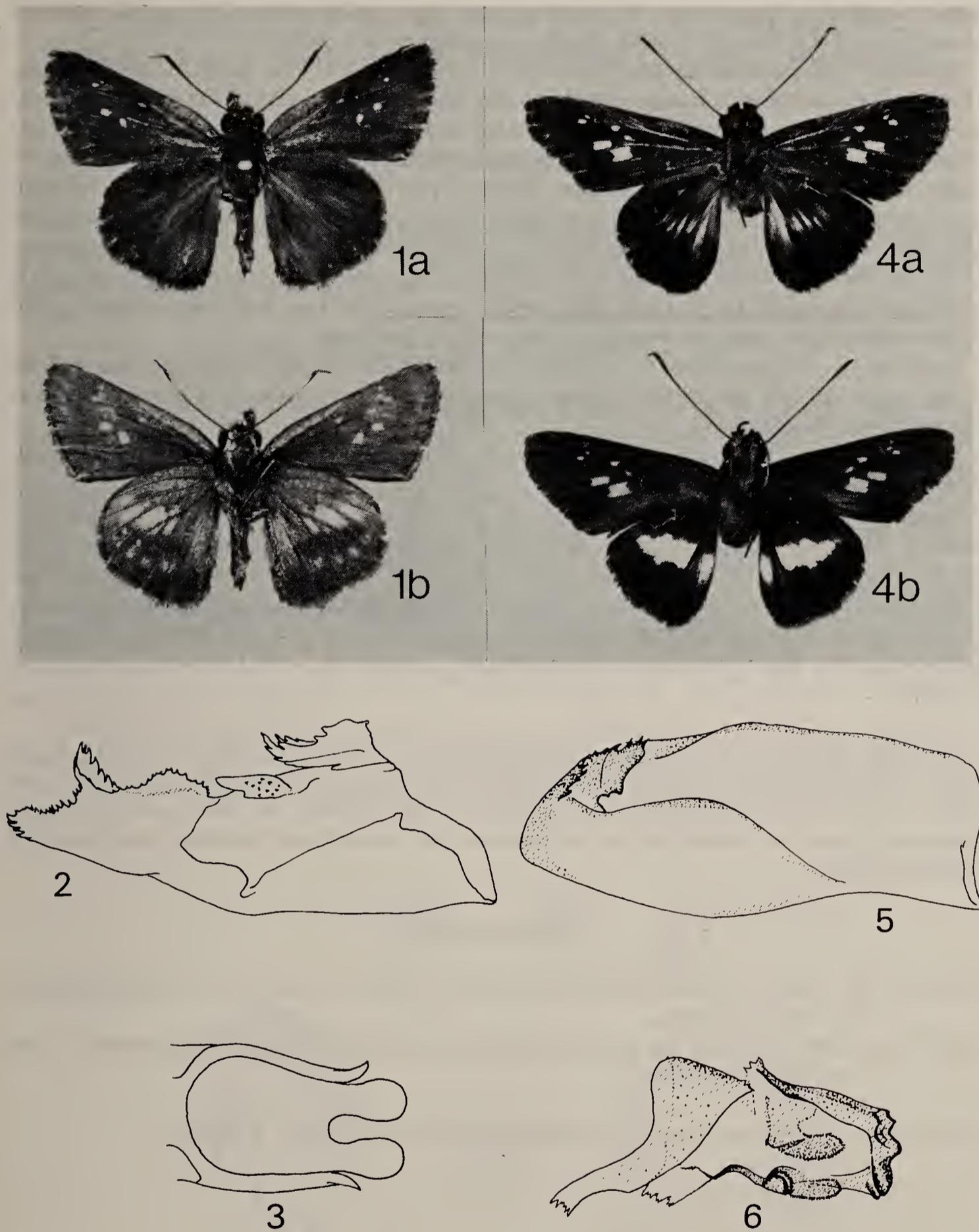
Palpi. — Third segment porrect. Holotype ♂, Indonesia: Sulawesi Tengah, Mt Tambusisi (121° 21' E, 1° 39' S) 1300 m, 9.III.1980 (Bedford Russell) (BMNH, London).

Remarks. — The specimen was taken from a typical *halpe* perch, about four metres above ground on a sapling, in the morning sun. Other *Halpe* were present, some of them certainly *beturia*; at first glance, this insect's wing-shape made its captor think it was a female.

The type locality was on the edge of a small clearing in primary jungle near the lower limit of the moss-forest. The name *damar* is taken from the native name for the clearing (Tambusisi Damar); "damar" is the gum secreted by the locally abundant *Agathis* tree.

Acerbas suttoni sp. n. (figs 4-6)

The genus *Acerbas* de Nicéville, 1895 is generally placed in the *Unkana* sub-group of the *Plastingia* group (Evans) of Hesperiiinae. Including the present taxon, it contains seven known species, three of which appear to occur only in Sulawesi (*azona* (Hewitson, 1866), *latefasciata* de Jong, 1982 and *suttoni* sp. n.); the genus ranges from Burma to the Philippines and to Sulawesi. All the species are dark brown with pale spots on the forewing and a white area on the hindwing; they are generally found in lowland forest, and none is common. The genus is characterised by the long antennae and the produced forewing cell.



Figs 1-3. *Halpe damar* sp. n. 1 ♂, holotype a. upperside, b. underside; 2. inner view of left valva; 3. dorsal view of uncus. Figs 4-6. *Acerbas suttoni* sp. n. 4. ♂, holotype a. upperside, b. underside; 5. inner view of left valva; 6. inner (ventral) view of uncus.

Description

Nearest to the Bornean race *dorka* Evans of *A. duris* Mabille, but the hindwing white band is greatly reduced, and there is no trace of yellow scales.

Male. — Forewing 18mm. Head and front of thorax with bronze-green scales; antennae

black, considerably longer than half forewing costa. Apex of forewing cell produced. Origin of forewing vein 2 (Cu2) nearer to wing-base than to origin of vein 3 (Cu 1).

Forewing. — Upperside blackish brown, with seven whitish hyaline spots: three sub-apical, of which the uppermost is minute and the lowest and largest is distad of the others; two cell-spots, the larger being near the cell's apex and the smaller close to the origin of vein 3; and two large, roughly rectangular spots, overlapping in interspaces 2 and 3, that in space 2 being the larger and having its inner margin near origin of vein 3. Cilia brown. Upperside blackish brown, with traces of a central band, represented by heavily sullied whitish interneural streaks from mid-dorsum to just below vein 6 (M 1). Cilia brown, fading to greyish towards tornus. Underside similar, but the irregular central band is conspicuously white and sharply defined; it is broken in interspace 1a (3A) and tapers towards apex from 3 mm at dorsum to 1 mm at vein 6, above which some faint pale marking is discernible. Cilia brown.

Genitalia. — Valva nearest to *A. duris*, but cuiller less strongly developed and without strong spines. Uncus, viewed from above, is truncate: slightly broader, and more indented at centre of apex, than in *duris*.

Holotype. — ♂, Indonesia: Sulawesi Tengah, Ranu River (121° 30'E, 1°50'S), sea-level, 24.III.1980 (Sutton) (BMNH, London).

Remarks. — The single known example of *suttoni* was found in a MV trap at Operation Drake's "Walkway Camp" in dense, rather dry, alluvial swamp forest some 5 km from the north shore of Teluk Tomori and a few hundred metres from the Ranu River. The forest is high (over 30 m) and densely infested with rotan (? *Calamus* spp.). No doubt the insect was dislodged from its roost by the torrential storm the night before, and was then drawn to the nearby light-source. The insect was found in the trap by Dr. S. Sutton of Leeds University, for whom it is named.

Acknowledgements. — I am very grateful to Mr. G. E. Tite, of Tring, and to Dr. R. de Jong, of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie at Leiden, for much help and advice, especially in respect of the examination and depiction of the genitalia. My thanks are also due to Operation Drake for enabling me to visit Sulawesi, and to the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) for the photography.

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