



TAXONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE GENUS *MEGISTO* (SATYRIDAE) IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES.

PART I: TYPES, TYPE LOCALITIES, AND TAXONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS OF THE AVAILABLE NAMES.

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ABSTRACT. The genus *Megisto* Hübner, 1819 in the eastern United States and southeastern Canada is currently comprised of the original epithets *Papilio eurytus* Fabricius, 1775, *Papilio cymela* Cramer, 1777, *Papilio eurytris*, Fabricius, 1793, and *Neonympha eurytris viola* Maynard, 1891. Because the eastern *Megisto* is considered by some, including the present author, to contain two or more sibling species, the types and type localities of each of these names were studied. Where no type was found and no type locality fixed, typification was established by lectotypification or neotypification and a type locality was fixed. The taxonomic relationship of these taxa were then overviewed. No syntypic specimens were located for *P. cymela* and thus a neotype was designated and the type locality fixed as: Colleton County, South Carolina. *P. eurytus* and *P. eurytris* are different spellings of the same Fabrician taxon. Syntypes of *P. eurytus/eurytris* were found in Glasgow, Scotland, and considered to represent a different species than *P. cymela*. A lectotype was designated for *P. eurytus/eurytris* and the type locality fixed as Berkeley County, South Carolina. The type specimens of *N. eurytris viola* were not located but are possibly at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard. Its type locality is Enterprise, Volusia County, Florida.

FOUNDATIONAL EASTERN *MEGISTO* NAMES

The first taxon to be described in the Modern genus *Megisto* Hübner, 1819 was *Papilio eurytus* Fabricius, 1775. This name is however a junior primary homonym of *Papilio eurytus* Linnaeus, 1758 (a central African nymphalid known today as *Pseudacraea eurytus*), and as such, is an available but permanently invalid name in zoological nomenclature. The next oldest name is *Papilio cymela* Cramer, 1777. In 1781 and 1793 Fabricius again published on the taxon he named *eurytus*. In both instances, he repeated verbatim his 1775 original description: however, in the 1793 publication the spelling was given as *eurytris*. The 1793 text also differed in that therein the origin of the specimens was attributed to Banks while in the 1775 and 1781 texts they were attributed to Hunter. In both 1781 and 1793, Fabricius synonymized his taxon with Cramer's *cymela*, establishing that he then viewed these as the same taxon.

The situation today is that the oldest available name *cymela* has long and consistently been applied to a ventrally light tan, late spring to early fall entity, flying widely in the eastern states and southeast Canada. This name is thus established by prevailing usage to a specific taxon regardless of what the original types may have been (or are) and what the original description states. In these investigations, and by this author's taxonomic concept, the two syntypes of *eurytus/eurytris* represent a different species than *cymela*.

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