

**ON AN ABERRANT *PATHYSA (PARANTICOPSIS)*
DELESSERTII DELESSERTII (GUÉRIN-
MÉNEVILLE) (LEPIDOPTERA: PAPILIONIDAE)
FROM BORNEO**

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ABSTRACT

An aberrant form of *Pathysa (Paranticopsis) delessertii delessertii* (Guérin-Ménéville) (1839), collected from Nanga Segera, Sarawak, Southwestern Borneo, on August 29, 1998 is described. Both the normal male species and the aberrant form are figured and compared. The aberrant specimen is currently deposited in the Insect Collections of the Sarawak Forest Research Centre.

ABSTRAK

Bentuk aberan *Pathysa (Paranticopsis) delessertii delessertii* (Guerin-Meneville) (1839), yang diperolehi dari Nanga Segera, Sarawak, Borneo, pada 29 Ogos 1998 diperihalkan. Gambarfoto kedua-dua spesies jantan normal dan bentuk aberan disertakan dan dibandingkan. Spesimen aberan tersebut kini ditempatkan di Koleksi Serangga Pusat Penyelidikan Hutan Sarawak.

INTRODUCTION

Most species will from time to time throw up individuals, which depart from the regular or normal species. These rare varieties, or aberrations as they are usually called, often follow set patterns in different genera and may recur often enough to require names (Corbet & Pendlebury, 1992).

A remarkable aberrant species of the papilionid *Pathysa* (*Paranticopsis*) *delessertii delesserti* (Guérin-Ménéville) 1839 was collected as a single specimen from Nanga Sejera, Sarawak, Southwestern Borneo, on August 29, 1998, and now resides in the Sarawak Forest Research Centre, Insect Collection.

The following description of the normal species of *P.* (*Paranticopsis*) *delessertii delessertii* is based on Corbet & Pendlebury (1992).

SYSTEMATIC NOTES

Pathysa (*Paranticopsis*) *delessertii delessertii* (Guérin-Ménéville) (1839) (Fig.1)

P. (*Paranticopsis*) *delessertii delessertii* is a rather large butterfly with a wingspan of 45 - 50 mm. The wings are normally pale bluish gray with the veins blackened. The wing margin of a normal *P. delessertii delesserti* is black, and there is a row of black, submarginal, interneural spots. The forewing cell has a series of well-defined, elongate, gray spots. Tornus and termen are dark black with conspicuous somewhat triangulate patches in space 1a to b. The underside is paler and with narrower black markings. The female is larger, grayer, and with a large conjoined spots in spaces 3 to 5 on the forewing, and a prominent but smaller black spot in space 7 on the hindwing. Both sexes have a yellow tornal spot on the hindwing, which is paler and rather obscure in the female.

***Pathysa (Paranticopsis) delessertii delessertii* – Aberrant form
(Fig.2)**

Unlike the normal male, the aberrant form is much paler than normal *P. delessertii delessertii*. This is brought about by the absence of some of the black forewing cell bars as well as the discal and especially post discal black markings for the forewing. While for the hindwing, the normal row of prominent post discal black spots also are, for the most part, missing (both upper and underside). Further, the usual yellow patch on the hindwing, underside is very sparse.

To our knowledge, no such aberrant form of this species has ever been reported in Sarawak since the discovery of this rare specimen.

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REFERENCE

Corbet, A.S. and H.M. Pendlebury (1992) *The Butterflies of the Malay Peninsula (4th Edition, revised by J.N. Eliot)*. Malayan Nature Society, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia x + 597 pp.



Fig. 1 A normal *Pathysa(Paranticopsis) delessertii delessertii* Male



Fig. 2 An aberrant form of *Pathysa(Paranticopsis) delessertii delessertii* Male with right hindwing slightly damaged.