

A further New Species of *Thestor* Hübner (Lepidoptera:Lycaenidae) from the Western Cape

By C. G. C. DICKSON

Although a well defined species, this *Thestor* bears, on the upperside, the basic pattern of dark markings on a fairly deep yellow-ochreous background which is common to other species of its group, including *Th. strutti* van Son (which has a lighter upperside) and *Th. montanus pictus* van Son. It comes closest, however, to a smaller insect found by Swanepoel between Still Bay and Riversdale (nearer the former locality) on 11th November, 1970, which has more acute forewings, in the male, is of a lighter ochreous colour, has the discal band of the forewings more even on both surfaces, and less perpendicular between veins 1-4, and which shows a difference in the disposition of some of the markings of the underside of the hindwings—to mention several of the more obvious points of dissimilarity. The forewings of the present species (when taking into account the males of the group) are of the less acute shape, as found in *strutti* and certain other species. It is a reasonably large *Thestor*, the females sometimes being quite big specimens.

Thestor rossouwi **spec. nov.**

Male. Upperside.

Forewing. Basal and costal areas dark greyish-brown. A fairly small black spot beyond middle of cell and a large one at its end. Upper portion of the prominent black discal band at about right-angles to costa and the portion below this considerably more basad and at a different angle, and more outwardly placed at the top than the bottom, where it may (as in the holotype) have a final inward curvature in area 1b. The broad distal blackish-brown border, some 2.5 mm. in width, inwardly diffuse and more or less incised, at least as regards its upper half, by rays of the ochreous ground-colour. Veining dark-grey to dark-brown, usually chiefly grey in the situation of the sex-patch (and often with some greyish scaling here on the wing-surface itself). Area 1b at least partially and often largely dark-scaled. A fine black marginal line is present, but is less distinct towards apex. Cilia black at end of veins, with broad white (sometimes greyish-white) intervening spaces—and the wing-surface also white marginally, between the veins and on the inner side of the black line, down to area 2 or 3—but with this light scaling varying in intensity in different specimens.

Hindwing. The whole of cell and a very broad strip below costa, down to vein 5 or a little below it, dark greyish- or blackish-brown, and with less dense, dark scaling over a wide portion of the wing adjoining the inner-marginal concavity, which is rather prominently whitish. Streak at end of cell

noticeably darker than the main area within the cell. Discal band with its upper portion, in areas 4-5 (sometimes with an indistinct more inward marking in area 6), usually (as in the holotype) solidly black and confluent with the dark area below costa; lower portion of band, in areas 2-3, normally much more inwardly placed—but in some specimens (as in the holotype) incompletely developed, or almost absent. The marginal black line more apparent in the hindwing. Cilia very much as in forewing.

Underside.

Forewing. Main portion of wing pale-buff, spotted with black and bordered broadly with shades of grey. A very small blackish sub-basal spot in cell, a small black one well beyond middle and a rather lunulate marking at end of cell. A small black sub-basal spot in area 1b with a black or blackish streak running from it to a black spot below but more outwardly placed than the second one in cell; and a very irregular discal series of black spots as follows:—four in areas 1b-4, in a straight line and lying at an angle similar to the corresponding portion of the discal band on the upperside (but the lowest spot, which may be greyish instead of black, quite in line with the others); and five spots, of which two close to the costa are very small, at the same angle as the upper portion of the band on the upperside. A series of black sagittate markings bounding the buff area outwardly. Costal area broadly grey—whitish-grey beyond the discal bar and where it combines with the apical area; the broad space between the sagittate markings and the distal-margin, grey. Cilia greyish-black to black at end of veins, with broad whitish-grey intervening spaces.

Hindwing. Whitish-grey—in parts almost white; a very irregular and broken discal band, grey with some extremely fine black edging, disposed as on upperside but with an additional portion in areas 6 and 7 much more basad than the following portion, and the band also extended inferiorly. Some less distinct marking present in the more basal portion of the wing, and a black or dark-grey streak at end of cell. Wing-surface lightly irrorated with darker grey; a submarginal series of not always distinct small black sagittate markings. Cilia less dark at end of veins than in forewing.

Length of forewing: 16.75-17.5 mm. (17.25 mm., in holotype).

Female. Upperside

Forewing. Very much as in male, apart from absence of sex-marking. In the allotype (a richly coloured specimen) there is a small black elongated marking in area 1b, 6 mm. from base of wing, and, in right wing, a minute black dot beyond this marking. Costa edged with white scaling near apex, but no white scaling adjoining distal margin. Cilia with the light spaces light-grey, less whitish than in the male, and variegated with black along inner third.

Hindwing. Largely as in the male, but with noticeable dark suffusion submarginally—less apparent or tending to disappear towards anal-angle. The broad costal region and the cell not as dark as in all females as is usual in the males but (as in the case of the allotype) lightened by an admixture of ochreous scaling. Upper, more inward portion of discal band in area 6, always at least apparent (very clear in allotype) and often with a patch of ochreous colouring adjoining it outwardly. Inner-marginal area not whitish but either brownish-ochreous (as in the allotype) or dark greyish-brown. Cilia light-grey, with very indistinct dark portions at the end of some of the veins, but with a black or dark-grey line along its inner-third and the space between this and the wing-margin partly darkened.

Underside.

Forewing. Similar to that of male: the black marking at end of cell and most of the spots of the discal band relatively a little larger, even when allowing for the larger size of the female; the black, more or less sagittate markings always large. Broad costal area duller grey than in the male and the whitish-grey area towards the apex reduced. Cilia with the light portions mostly duller than on the upperside.

Hindwing. Ground-colour of a decidedly duller grey than in the male and with a suggestion of a brownish tone. Discal band darker, relatively broader and more continuous—and the other markings towards base also darker, if less distinct against their background in some specimens; the sagittate markings larger than in the male. Distal-margin more broadly, but as sharply, edged with dark scaling inwardly, than in the forewing. Cilia more clearly dark at end of veins than on upperside.

Length of forewing: 19.5-20 mm. (the former measurement, that of allotype).

In both sexes the thorax is black above with brownish-grey hairs, and beneath grey; abdomen similarly coloured, with the scaling, above, brownish-grey. The legs blend with underside of thorax. Palpi blackish or dark brownish-grey above, tipped with light-grey, and light-grey beneath. The short antennae blackish above, white or whitish-grey just before the tip and at least partly whitish or light-grey beneath, with the junctures of the joints dark. A reddish tone may be apparent along the distal two-thirds of the inner side of the antennae. The under-surface of the body tends to be lighter in the male than the female.

♂ Holotype, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE: Farm "Plutrug", Stanford district, 26.xii.1970 (D. J. Rossouw); specimen to be presented by Mr Rossouw to the Transvaal Museum.

♀ Allotype, W. CAPE PROVINCE: data as holotype, including allocation of specimen.

Paratypes presented to British Museum (N.H.), data as holotype, 1.i.1971, one ♂, one ♀ (C.G.C.D.). Rh. 17250 and

Rh. 17257 respectively.

Paratypes in the author's collection, as holotype, 1.i.1971, three ♂♂, one ♀ (C.G.C.D.).

Paratypes in Coll. D. J. Rossouw, as holotype, 26.xii.1970, two ♂♂, one ♀. 2.i.1971, one ♂.

Paratype in Coll. Dr. Jeffrey Kaplan, as holotype, one ♂ (D.J.R.).

Paratype in Coll. E. J. de Villiers, as holotype, one ♂ (D.J.R.).

Paratype in Coll. W. H. Henning, as holotype, 1.i.1971, one ♂ (C. W. Wykeham).

Paratype in Coll. K. M. Pennington, as holotype, one ♂ (D.J.R.). 26.xii.1970 and 17.i.1971.

Paratypes in Coll. D. A. Swanepoel, as holotype, two ♂♂ (D.J.R.).

Paratypes in Coll. C. W. Wykeham, as holotype, 1.i.1971, nine ♂♂, one ♀ (C.W.W.).

This is a fairly constant species in colouring and marking and the male in particular is readily distinguishable from other species of the group, on external characters alone. The ochreous portions of the upperside may in some examples be distinctly darker than in the majority of specimens of this species.

The male genitalia, which are figured in the plate, are referred to hereunder.

Uncus forked at about two-fifths of its length from base; the entire length not quite as long as in some allied species. *Falces* long and curved; roundedly angled nearer base. *Labides* basally very broad; decreasing in width towards the well rounded distal end, though still remaining broad; some very small serrations on the dorsal margin, towards the distal end. *Valves* of the characteristic broad form, the upper projection being, in this species, well produced and the lower projection of about the same length (or a little longer) but of almost even width (slightly constricted in the middle) to its rounded end. *Aedeagus* thick basally and decidedly robust as far as the beginning of the distal portion, which terminates acutely. *Juxta* moderately broad and with curved margins in the lateral view. *Saccus* rather thick and of about average length for this genus.

Several distinct differences have been apparent, in the preparations that have been made, between the genitalia of this species and the one found by Swanepoel. In these preparations the uncus is shorter in the former species; there is less reduction in the width of the labides towards the distal end; the valves have a narrower upper projection at the distal end and a considerably longer lower one, which is not tapered as in the other species (its length not apparent in the figure); the basal portion of the aedeagus is more robust; and the saccus is thicker.

The discovery of this butterfly was directly due to Mr Rossouw going out on the occasion in question specially to

search for a new species of *Thestor* and his choosing the most likely locality for this purpose. It is therefore most fitting that this fine Lycaenid should bear his name. For several seasons he had been exploring the wide mountainous area above Hermanus itself, with very interesting results. Amongst the butterflies he encountered there were the comparatively rare and localised species *Poecilmitis nigricans* (Aur.) and *Thestor montanus montanus* van Son; also what appears to be a somewhat divergent form of *Th. dukei* van Son. The writer and his nephew, C. W. Wykeham, were introduced to the locality near Stanford by Mr Rossouw on 1st January 1971, and were able to procure a useful series of the new *Thestor*. Another, very distinct, member of the genus (*Entomologist's Record*, **83**: pp. 155, pl. vi, 15th May 1971) was found by Dr Jeffrey Kaplan near Greyton, not far from Hermanus, on 25th December 1970; and it is astonishing that a second new *Thestor* should have been discovered by Mr Rossouw, quite independently, on the following day.

Mr Rossouw has supplied the following note relating to his butterfly:—"I discovered this handsome species of *Thestor* on the 26th of December 1970 on a mountain peak on the farm "Platrug" in the Stanford district. It was Mr Charles Dickson of Cape Town who originally aroused my interest in the mountain ranges to the east of Hermanus—an area that has not been worked well enough in the past.

"The species behaves in the typical *Thestor* way by suddenly rising up before one's feet and settling down again on another spot a few seconds later. It looks rather dark on the wing, with a flush of the light underside now and then. I was also struck by its fondness of settling on low vegetation. The species seems to prefer the northern side of the peaks".

"Blencathra", Cambridge Avenue, St. Michael's Estate, Cape Town.

Ross-shire and Sutherland Lepidoptera Records

By DEREK C. HULME

(Continued from *Ent. Rec.*, **82**: 124-127)

PART THREE — ROSS-SHIRE 1969

The following were additions to my Ross-shire list given in Part One. All were observed at Muir of Ord (NH55) except for the first and last named species.

Parage aegeria L. A small colony found at Munloch (NH65) on 27th July was recorded in detail in *Ent. Rec.*, **81**: 284.

Phalera bucephala L. One on 13th June.

Orgyia antiqua L. A larva on blackcurrant on 1st August.

Cybosia mesomella L. A welcome addition taken on 29th June.

Released after examination.



Dickson, C G C. 1971. "A further new species of *Thestor* Hubner (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) from the Western Cape." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 83, 155–159.

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