

*CERCYONIS PEGALA TEXANA* (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE: SATYRINAE):  
NEW RECORD FROM THE STATE OF COAHUILA, MEXICO

ARMANDO J. CONTRERAS-BALDERAS\* AND ANDREW D. WARREN

Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas, U.A.N.L., A.P. 425, San Nicolas de los Garza, N.L. Mexico 66450 (AJC-B)

Department of Zoology, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-2907 (ADW)

\*Correspondent: arcontre@fcb.uanl.mx

ABSTRACT—*Cercyonis pegala*, a butterfly whose geographic and temporal distribution in Mexico is poorly known, is reported from Coahuila State for the first time, from the Valle de Cuatro Ciénegas. This area is composed of a unique vegetational community in which *C. pegala* was not formerly known to occur.

RESUMEN—Se registra por primera vez para del estado de Coahuila, del Valle de Cuatro Ciénegas, a *Cercyonis pegala*, un lepidóptero que en México es poco conocida su distribución geográfica y temporal. Además, en el NE de México, se reporta también en una comunidad vegetal diferente a la conocida en esta región.

The genus *Cercyonis* Scudder, 1875 is a Nearctic group of butterflies composed of 4 species, primarily distributed in the western United States and Canada. Three *Cercyonis* species occur as far south as northern Mexico: *C. sthenele* in Baja California Norte (Brown et al., 1992), *C. meadii* in Sonora and Chihuahua (Stanford and Opler, 1993), and *C. pegala* in Nuevo León (de la Maza, 1987).

One species of *Cercyonis*, *C. pegala*, is found throughout most of the United States; currently, 18 geographic varieties, or subspecies, have been described (Pelham, unpubl. data). The variety of *C. pegala* known from Nuevo León is *C. pegala texana* (W. H. Edwards, 1880), originally described from Bastrop, Bastrop County, Texas (Brown, 1964).

On 12 April 1997, the senior author observed 2 individuals of *C. pegala texana* at Poza Orozco (a natural lake), ca. 726 m elevation, Valle de Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila (26°52'22"N, 102°05'17"W). The site is situated at the base of the Sierra de San Marcos, where the dominant vegetation type is known as "matorral microfilo," primarily composed of *Larrea tridentata*. The 2 individuals of *C. pegala* were perched within a *Cassuarina* tree and did not leave the shade of the tree. Adults perched on the bare trunk of the tree and among the lower branches. A third individual, found dead at the base of the tree, was collected as a voucher (Fig. 1).

The first list of butterfly species of Mexico, by Hoffmann (1941), did not include *C. pegala* as

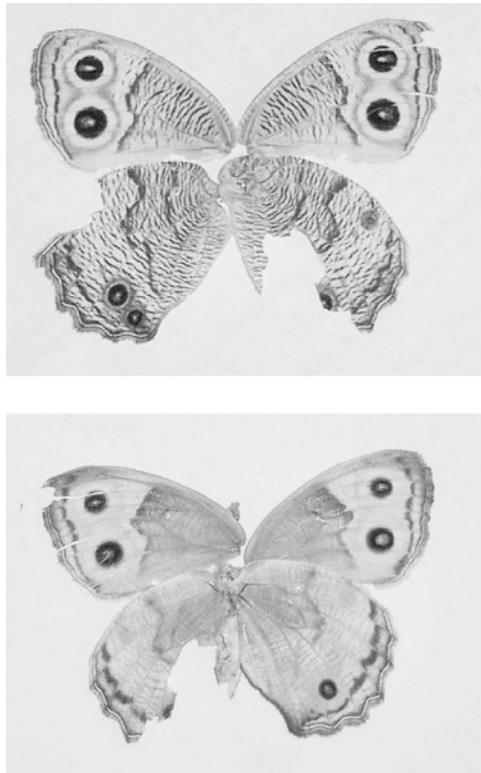


FIG. 1—*Cercyonis pegala* from Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila, Mexico. Top: dorsal view; bottom: ventral view.

part of the Mexican fauna. *Cercyonis pegala* was reported the first time in Mexico by de la Maza (1987:199), who included a photo of a female *C. pegala texana* from Villa de Santiago, Nuevo León. In the text, de la Maza (1987:94) noted that *C. pegala* flies in August in Nuevo León, in oak (*Quercus*) and pine-oak (*Pinus-Quercus*) forests. Apparently, our record of *C. pegala* from Coahuila is the first published record of the species from the state and documents the species in Mexico from a different vegetational community than that around Villa de Santiago, Nuevo León. Additionally, our record of *C. pegala* from Coahuila is the first indication that *C. pegala* possibly flies in 2 annual generations in northeastern Mexico: in April and again in August. We recommend future field studies to further elaborate the geographical and temporal distribution of *C. pegala* in northeastern Mexico.

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