

# A New Species of Hairstreak and New Records for the United States (Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera, Lycaenidae)

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## *Strymon buchholzi* new species

**MALE.** *Upper surface.* Primaries: grayish-black in color with a large dark black discal spot within the cell. Secondaries: grayish-black becoming slightly lighter near the anal lobe. There is a black marginal spot in interspace  $Cu_1$  which is slightly capped by a dull orange semicircle on the inner side. There is a dull orange spot in the anal lobe. One male has two indistinct gray spots above the black marginal one. The fringe is sordid white. A single tail is present which is black tipped with white and averages 3 mm. in length.

*Under Surface.* Both pairs of wings are gray in coloration. There is a very indistinct submarginal row of gray bars. The submesial row of bars forms nearly a straight line on the primaries which curves slightly inward at the tip.  $O_{11}$  the secondaries this row of bars forms nearly a straight line, however it is very irregular, from the anal angle to the costa. This submesial row of bars is orange on the inside and white on the outside. The black marginal spot in interspace  $Cu_1$  is situated 2 mm. from the submesial row and is crowned inwardly with orange. There is a black and orange spot in the anal lobe.

**Body.** Black on the dorsal side to the tip. There is a slight orange shading on the sides of the last three abdominal segments. Gray beneath.

Expanse, 27 mm.

**FEMALE.** Differs from the male in having the discal spot at the end of the cell on the primaries missing and the orange coloration both above and on the lower surface of the secondaries is more pronounced around the black marginal spot in interspace  $Cu_1$ . There is also a black spot in interspace  $Cu_2$ . The body is somewhat lighter in coloration and the orange is missing from the sides of the abdomen near the tip end.

Expanse, 28 mm.

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Described from three specimens, two males and one female. One male was collected by Stallings and Turner, Feb. 16, 1948, at Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico. I collected the other male on Nov. 24, 1946, at Pharr, Texas (feeding upon *Mentha arvensis* L.); and the female, also at Pharr, Oct. 14, 1944 (feeding upon *Gomphrena globosa* (L.)).

*Holotype*, male, Nov. 24, 1946, Pharr, Texas; and *allotype*, female, Oct. 14, 1944, same locality, are in my collection. One male *paratype*, Feb. 16, 1948, Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico, in the collection of Stallings and Turner, Caldwell, Kansas.

This new species is named for Mr. Otto Buchholz, Roselle Park, New Jersey, outstanding collector of Lepidoptera.

This new species slightly resembles *Strymon melinus* Huebner, but there are several marked differences. The distinct black discal spot in the cell that is present in *buchholzi*, is indistinct in *melinus*. The general shape of the submesial row of bars differs considerably in *buchholzi* from that in *melinus*. The row of bars lacks the black on the inner side which is present in *melinus* and is situated farther from the margin of the wing, being at least 2 mm. from the black spot in interspace  $Cu_1$ ; whereas in *melinus* the row of bars is close to this spot, often making contact with the orange-red inner side. The general ground-color beneath is darker gray in *buchholzi* than in *melinus*. This new species also resembles somewhat the Mexican species *Strymon bebrycia* (Hewitson), there are, however, marked differences. The color bordering the marginal spot in interspace  $Cu_1$  is red in *bebrycia* and is distinct, and the submesial row of bars on the under surface of both pairs of wings is bordered outwardly with brown. On the other hand, in *buchholzi* the border of the row of bars is distinctly white. The spot in the anal lobe in *bebrycia* is scarlet instead of orange, and the lilac tint of the under surface of *bebrycia* is absent in *buchholzi*.

*Strymon zebina* (Hewitson)

Mrs. E. J. Kelso collected a fresh female specimen of this species during December, 1935, at Pharr, Texas, feeding on *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. This individual is the first record of this species in the United States.

*Strymon rufofusca* (Hewitson)

This Mexican species has never been recorded previously north of Monterey, N.L., Mexico. I took five specimens eleven miles south of Pharr, Texas. One male (Nov. 23, 1946), one male (Dec. 15, 1946), one female (Dec. 7, 1946), one female (Dec. 21, 1946), and one female (Dec. 1, 1947). These specimens were feeding on *Mentha arvensis* L. and *Mentha spicata* L.

*Strymon cyphara* (Hewitson)

This is another new hairstreak record for the United States. Mrs. E. J. Kelso of Pharr, Texas, took two specimens, and I five, at or near Pharr. Mrs. Kelso's two specimens were males, and were feeding on *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd., during December, 1935. My specimens were collected as follows: one female (May 6, 1945) eleven miles south of Pharr, feeding on *Ligustrum japonicum* Thunb.; the other four individuals were collected at Pharr: one female (May 12, 1945); one female (May 20, 1945); one female (Aug. 24, 1945), feeding on *Lantana horrida* L.; and one female (Nov. 4, 1945), feeding on *Solidago altissima* L.

The resemblance of this little species to *Strymon beon* Cramer on the lower surface may account for this species' never having been recorded for the United States. On the upper surface it can be recognized at once by the distinctive brownish coloration in the males and the lack of blue above in the females.

*Strymon echnion* (L.)

While collecting specimens of *Strymon clytie* Edwards eleven miles south of Pharr, near an irrigation canal, May 22, 1948, I collected a beautiful male specimen of this species. On the lower surface its resemblance to *clytie* is striking; the metallic bluish-black coloration above is, however, distinctive. This is another new hairstreak record for the United States.

*Thecla facuna* Hewitson

This rare South American hairstreak is now reported for the United States for the first time, from three specimens taken near Hidalgo, Texas. I found these about one hundred yards southeast of the first gate entering La Reforma Ranch. On July 23, 1945, I found a female sitting on the ground beneath a large Texas Ebony tree (*Pithecolobium flexicaule* (Benth.) Coulter, and on August 9, 1945, I found two males flying around this same tree. This little species

lacks tails and is characterized by being light blue over the discal area on the upper surface, becoming darker toward the costa and margins of the wings. On the lower surface of the secondaries it is a uniform green color.

I wish to acknowledge the help of Mr. Don B. Stallings and Dr. J. R. Turner in the proper identification of these species of hairstreaks.

## Further Observations on *Calpodes evansi* Freeman<sup>1</sup> (Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera, Hesperiiidae)

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This beautiful tropical-American skipper is figured here for the first time. The purplish-blue sheen present on the lower surface of the secondaries does not show in the photographs; nevertheless, this sheen, and the broad, indistinct white band, characterize this species. There is very little sexual dimorphism; the females are only slightly darker on the lower surface and have a somewhat more elongated wing shape than the males. Generally speaking, the habits of both sexes are very similar as to flight and flower preferences. Of the four specimens that I have collected, three were feeding upon *Eupatorium Parryi* Gray, and the fourth was resting on the leaves of a large lily in a city flower garden. Apparently this skipper is more abundant than would be indicated by the six known specimens in the American Museum of Natural History and my collection, as I have seen no less than ten specimens feeding upon *Eupatorium Parryi* in the Pharr area. This plant very often grows in places where cacti and tangled vines are abundant, and the capture of specimens is very difficult. *Calpodes evansi* has the characteristically bold flight of the large skippers and is one of the most nervous feeders that I have ever seen. They seldom remain more than five seconds on a blossom and when disturbed fly up and away at tree top level.

In the Pharr area this species is single-brooded, making its appearance on the wing during the first of October and then not being seen after the first week of November. Of the

<sup>1</sup>Described in *Ent. News*, Vol. LVII No. 8, Oct., 1946, pp. 185-187.

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