

## The first record of the butterfly *Memphis d. dia* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae, Charaxinae) in Costa Rica

### Primer registro de la mariposa *Memphis d. dia* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae, Charaxinae) en Costa Rica

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#### Resumen

Se registra la presencia de *Memphis dia* (Godman & Salvin, 1884) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae, Charaxinae) en Costa Rica por un espécimen recolectado en la Zona Protectora El Rodeo (09°54' 76.6"N; 84°16' 89.5"W) el 4 de abril del 2012.

**Palabras clave:** Nuevo registro; Costa Rica; biodiversidad.

#### Abstract

The presence of *Memphis dia* in Costa Rica (Godman & Salvin, 1884) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae, Charaxinae) is reported herein, based on a specimen collected El Rodeo (09°54' 76.6"N; 84°16' 89.5"W) on April 4, 2012.

**Keyword:** New record; Costa Rica; biodiversity.

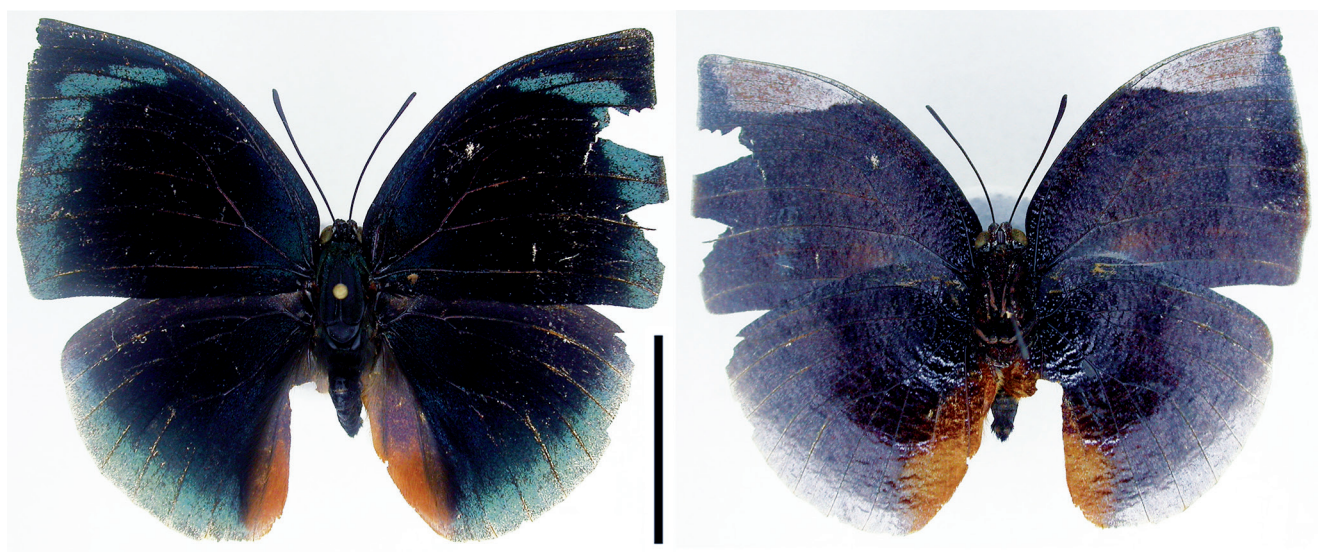
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The butterfly genus *Memphis* (Hübner 1819) is from Mexico throughout the Neotropics including the islands of Trinidad and Tobago (DeVries 1987). According to Lamas (2004) it includes 62 species and 112 subspecies. Recently, *Memphis marylena* Choimet, 2009 was described in Costa Rica and *Memphis aureola pueblaensis* Dottax & Salazar, 2009 in Mexico. In Costa Rica, 23 species occur from sea level up to 1700 m on both continental slopes (DeVries 1987).

A male individual of *Memphis dia* (Fig. 1) was collected manually by the first author on April 4, 2012 at Finca El Rodeo, 1000 m elevation, Mora, San José (09°54'76.6"N, 84°16' 89.5"W). The collecting site is an open area adjacent to a secondary growth forest in a protected zone approximately 20 km W of San José City. The specimen is deposited in the Córdoba-Alfaro collection (CPCA).

*Memphis dia* was not cited in any Costa Rican major butterfly lists such, as DeVries (1987). No records of this species are in the most important collections in the country, such as the National Museum of Costa Rica (MNCR) and the National Institute of Biodiversity (INBio). However, the presence of *Memphis dia* in Costa Rica was expected since Godman & Salvin (1884) described it from Panamá and later De la Maza (1987) reported it from Mexico.

El Rodeo presents some characteristics of Costa Rican North-western dry forest but in the undisturbed areas the butterfly community specific composition resembles more the wet forest habitats. A previous butterfly list for El Rodeo reported a total of 336 species (Vega & Gloor 2001) where Nymphalidae was the most diverse family, with 166 species, including seven of *Memphis*. It is remarkable to find a new *Memphis* species in an



**Figure 1.** *Memphis d. dia* (Godman & Salvin, 1884): male (dorsal and ventral surfaces) – Costa Rica, San José Province, Mora, El Rodeo, (09°54'76.6"N; 84°16'89.5"W), 1000 m, 4-IV-2012. Scale: 2 cm.

area where extensive collecting efforts have been done (Vega & Gloor 2001, Murillo-Hiller & Nishida 2004, Choimet 2009). Information concerning new records of this species are important to understand whether this species belongs to this community or if the record represents a migrant individual coming from a drier habitat as happens with many other *Memphis* species (DeVries 1987). More records like this will help us learn how many species are actually resident in this habitat and how they fluctuate throughout the year.

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