

Pedaliodes cledonia molesta PYRCZ, n. ssp.

(Figs. 73, 74, 161, 185)

Pedaliodes cledonia THIEME, 1905: 108, 109, pl. 2, fig. 14.

Pedaliodes cledoina [sic] THIEME; WEYMER, 1912: 259, pl. 55, row b [figure erroneous].

Pedaliodes cledonia THIEME; D'ABRERA, 1988: 858, 859, fig.

TYPE SERIES:

Holotype ♂: Peru, Amazonas, Rodríguez de Mendoza, Cedro, 2200-2400 m, 28.IX.1998, B. Calderón leg., MUSM; **Allotype** ♀: Peru, Amazonas, Rodríguez de Mendoza, Cedro, 10.IX.1998, 2200-2400 m, B. Calderón leg., TWP; **Paratypes** (33 ♂♂ and 1 ♀): 1 ♂: Peru, Amazonas, Rodríguez de Mendoza, Cedro, 2200-2400 m, 27.IX.1998, TWP; 3 ♂♂: same data but Cedro, 2000-2300 m, VII-VIII.1998, T. PYRCZ leg., (2 MZUJ, 1 BMNH); 1 ♂: same data but 2200-2400 m, 24.X.1998, B. Calderón leg., 1 ♂: same data but 02.VIII.1998, TWP; 1 ♂: same data but 2.IX.1998, TWP; 1 ♂: same data but 02.VIII.1998, TWP; 3 ♂♂: same data but no date, TWP; 1 ♂: same data but 26.IX.1998, TWP; 2 ♂♂: same data but 31.VIII.1998, TWP; 3 ♂♂: same data but III.2003, MUSM; 1 ♂: same data but 29.VIII.1998, T. PYRCZ leg., TWP; 2 ♂♂: same data but 25.VIII.1998, TWP; 1 ♂: Amazonas, Rodríguez de Mendoza, Qda. Pirruro, 1600-1800 m, VII-VIII.1998, T. PYRCZ leg., TWP; 1 ♂: same data but 1600-1800 m, 02.IX.1998, B. Calderón leg., TWP; 1 ♂: same data but III.2003, TWP; 4 ♂♂: Cedro, Rodríguez de Mendoza, 2300-2400 m, XI.1998, MBLI; 2 ♂♂: Molinopampa 2900-3100 m, I.2001, B. Calderón leg., PB (data unreliable); 1 ♂: same data but IX.2002, PB; 1 ♂: Pomacochas, La Sonada, 1500-3000 m, IX-X.2000, B. Calderón leg., PB; 1 ♂: Abra Pardo Miguel, 2200-2400 m, III.2002, B. Calderón leg., TWP; 1 ♂: Abra Pardo Miguel, 2200-2400 m, III.2002, B. Calderón leg., TWP; 1 ♀: Rodríguez de Mendoza, El Cedro, 2000-2300 m, VI-VIII.1998, T. PYRCZ leg., TWP.

DIAGNOSIS: *P. cledonia cledonia* THIEME found in southern Peru (Cusco) differs in a more acute FW apex and lighter yellow HWV markings. In the highlands of Chachapoyas *P. cledonia molesta* can also be confused with the sympatric *P. petri*, in which however the HWV orange markings are restricted to the anal area. Superficially *P. cledonia molesta* is also similar to the nominotypical subspecies of *P. polla* (HEWITSON) from Colombia.

DESCRIPTION: Male (Fig. 73): *Head, thorax and abdomen:* same as in the nominotypical subspecies. *Wings:* FW (length: 25-27 mm; mean: 26.3 mm; n=22) apex subacute, outer margin slightly concave; outer margin wavy. FWD and HWD uniformly dark-brown, glossy; fringes brown; androconial patch as illustrated (Fig. 185). FWV uniformly medium brown, dull. HWV medium brown with faint ripple-like pattern on the entire surface, suffused with brick red and orange gradually more intense towards anal margin; a faint anal wedge made of sparse yellow scales gradually narrowing and fading away and reaching into cell M2-M3, with dentate basal margins in cells Cu1-Cu2, M3-Cu1 and M2-M3 and diffuse outer margins; a single, yellow submarginal dot in Cu1-Cu2.

Male genitalia (Fig. 161): As illustrated, not differing noticeably from the nominotypical subspecies.

Female (Fig. 74): Similar to the male but lighter on both the dorsal and ventral surface; brick and orange suffusion fainter and restricted to the anal area.

ETYMOLOGY: This subspecies owes its epithet, *molesta* - troublesome, to its difficult taxonomy and problematic systematic status.

Pyrcz, 2004; Genus 15 (4): 539, f. 73-74, 161, 185;

REMARKS: *P. cledonia molesta* occurs in mid-elevation cloud forests slightly above 2000 m generally, which is below the altitude band occupied by the nominotypical southern Peruvian subspecies which is commonly found at 2700-2800 m. *P. cledonia molesta* is not restricted to the highlands of Chachapoyas as it is also found in central Peruvian provinces of Huánuco, Junín and Pasco.