

**NABA-NC 2014-14 Panoquina sylvicola**

Draft case prepared by R.I. Vane-Wright & J. Glassberg

**Panoquina sylvicola** (Herrich-Schäffer, 1865) versus **Panoquina lucas** (Fabricius, 1793): potential change of scientific name

*Hesperia lucas* Fabricius, 1793: 339. Type locality: “S. America Islands” [West Indies]. Type material in ZMUK, Copenagen.

*Goniloba sylvicola* Herrich-Schäffer, 1865: 55. Type locality: Cuba. Type material in Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Berlin.

*Panoquina sylvicola* (Herrich-Schäffer); Scudder, 1863: 81.

*Panoquina sylvicola* (Herrich-Schäffer); Watson, 1934: 7.

*Panoquina lucas* (Fabricius); Robbins et al., 1996: 252; Mielke & Casagrande, 2002: 59; Mielke, 2004: 75; Mielke, 2005: 1137.

The species name for the Purple-washed Skipper has been considered for many years to be **Panoquina sylvicola** (Herrich-Schäffer, 1865), and this is how it is listed in the NABA checklist (2nd edition). However, Robbins, Lamas, Mielke, Harvey & Casagrande (1996: 252) explicitly stated that, in their opinion, *sylvicola* (type locality Cuba) is a junior synonym of *Hesperia lucas* Fabricius, 1793 (type locality [West Indies]). Mielke & Casagrande (2002) later reported that they had examined a syntype of *lucas*, which they designated as lectotype, and that this did represent the same species as a syntype of *Goniloba sylvicola* Herrich-Schäffer, 1865 – which specimen they designated lectotype for that nominal species. If so, based on priority, the scientific name of the Purple-washed Skipper would become **Panoquina lucas**, with *G. sylvicola* a junior subjective synonym of the nominate subspecies. Illustrations of both lectotypes (below) appear to demonstrate that this is the case.

[Note: Butler (1870: 262, pl. 3, fig. 4d) would appear to have been ultimately responsible for the identification of *Hesperia lucas* with the butterfly cited by Godman (1901: 616, pl. 104, figs 22, 23) as the type species of his new genus Turesis. *H. lucas* was similarly treated by Evans (1955: 190) and Hemming (1967: 451) as the type species of *Turesis* Godman, 1901. If the synonymy of *lucas* with *sylvicola* is upheld then, in order to preserve stability, it would be necessary to designate the oldest available name synonymous with Godman’s misidentified “*H. lucas*” as the type species of *Turesis* – which is currently taken to be *Goniloba complanula* Herrich-Schäffer, 1869 (e.g. Mielke, 2004: 82; Cock, 2009). Mielke (2005: 1328) explicitly cites *G. complanula* as the type species of *Turesis*. *T. complanula* is a relatively uncommon neotropical skipper, unknown from North America.]

Hemming (1967: 451) insisted that the un-latinized modern [sic] patronymic *lucas* “is subject to automatic correction to the Latinized genitive “*lucasi*” under Article 31(a) of the Code and is here so corrected.” However, this is not a mandatory change under present code (ICZN, 1999: Article 32.5). In general, contemporary lepidopterists (except in continental Europe) prefer original orthography wherever possible.

Current usage, at least as revealed by use of “Google”, appears to favour *lucas* to *sylvicola*, and *lucas* to *lucasi*. Thus a search for “Panoquina lucas” gave 2300 hits, “Panoquina sylvicola” 1750, “Panoquina lucasi” none, “Turesis lucasi” 14, and “Turesis lucas” 154 [on 17th November 2012]. “Turesis complanula” resulted in 646 hits. This suggests that the replacement of both *Turesis lucas* by *Turesis complanula*,

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and *Panoquina sylvicola* by *Panoquina lucas* has been widely accepted, and that the spelling *lucas* is in common use whereas *lucasi* is not.

In passing, it is noted that Hemming (1934: 38) introduced the generic name *Panoquina* as a necessary replacement for *Prenes* Scudder (1872: 81), preoccupied by *Prenes* Gistl, 1848 (Actinopterygii). The generic name is not at issue.

Four questions thus arise. Is the evidence compelling that *Hesperia lucas* Fabricius, 1793, is a senior synonym of *Goniloba sylvicola* Herrich-Schäffer, 1865? If not, then the scientific name of the Purple-washed Skipper in the NABA checklist should remain *Panoquina sylvicola* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1865). On the other hand, even if *lucas* and *sylvicola* are accepted as the same, should *Panoquina lucas* (Fabricius, 1793) be accepted as the scientific name of the Purple-washed Skipper? If the answer to the second question is yes, then it is still necessary to determine the correct form of the species epithet: *lucas* (as in the original orthography), or *lucasi*.

**References**


Southeastern Peru. La biodiversidad del Sureste del Perú, pp. 217–252. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.
