

Pedaliodes proerna proerna (Hewitson, 1862)

Pronophila proerna Hewitson, 1862:9, pl. 4, fig. 29. (male, Colombia, Bogotá, pur. from Stevens, 56-142, Hewitson Coll., LECTOTYPE, herein designated, [BMNH, examined]).

Pedaliodes proerna (Hewitson); Butler, 1867b:267.

Material examined.— VENEZUELA: 1 male, via Delicias, ca. 1700m, [no date], F. Rey *leg.* [AFN]; 1 male, selva nublada arriba de Betania, 2400-2480m, 24 Aug 1996, A. Vilorio, V. Carrizo & L. E. González *leg.*; 1 male, selva arriba de Betania, 2400-2460m, 28 Aug 1996, A. Vilorio, V. Carrizo & J. & A. González *leg.* [MALUZ]; 3 males, 2 females, Betania, 2200-2300m, 16 Apr 1996, T. Pyrcz & F. Rey *leg.*; 2 males, 2 females, same locality, 2700m, Aug 1987, T. Pyrcz [TWP].

Remarks.— *Pedaliodes proerna* has been largely misidentified by all consulted authors. This includes Adams (1986), particularly the populations he found in the Central and Occidental Cordilleras,

where *P. proerna* is sympatric or parapatric with several barely marked dark brown *Pedaliodes*, some of them then undescribed. Adams (1986) points out correctly that the individuals from the Cordillera Oriental have a white-speckled wedge. The largest individuals, with the largest white wedge, occur in the Upper Chama Valley (Cordillera de Mérida) and belong to the subspecies *P. proerna fumaria* Thieme. However, what was overlooked by Adams is that *P. proerna* is obviously polymorphic, at least in the Cordillera Oriental population, including El Tamá. Our material from El Tamá shows that there is huge variation in the color and shape of the hindwing underside anal wedge. Such variation is not common for the genus *Pedaliodes*. Males which are closest to the type have a relatively short whitish wedge, wavy or v-shaped on its basal edge. Other specimens have a straight inner edge, and longer and better marked wedge; some lack any white anal speckling at all, but have a well defined straight postmedian line; and others have the same shape of the anal wedge as typical but with a brick-red overcast. These red specimens were misidentified partially by Adams (1986, and pers. comm.) with *P. praemontagna*. All these specimens belong definitely in *P. proerna* as they share the same wing shape, upperside color, scent patch and male genitalia. In females polymorphism is less obvious. *Pedaliodes proerna* is a representative of the lower cloud forest pronophiline fauna. It occurs in Betania at around 2200-2300m, but it flies down to 1500m on the eastern slopes of the Cordillera de Mérida.