

ON A NEW BRAHMAEA FROM THE NETHERLANDS
EAST INDIES (LEPIDOPTERA, HETEROCERA)

by

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As a result of a trip which I made to S. and C. Celebes in the middle of the year 1936 I am now much pleased to describe a new *Brahmaea* form, which was sent in by a native collector in one male specimen only. Though abundantly different from Continental species one is forced to see at once

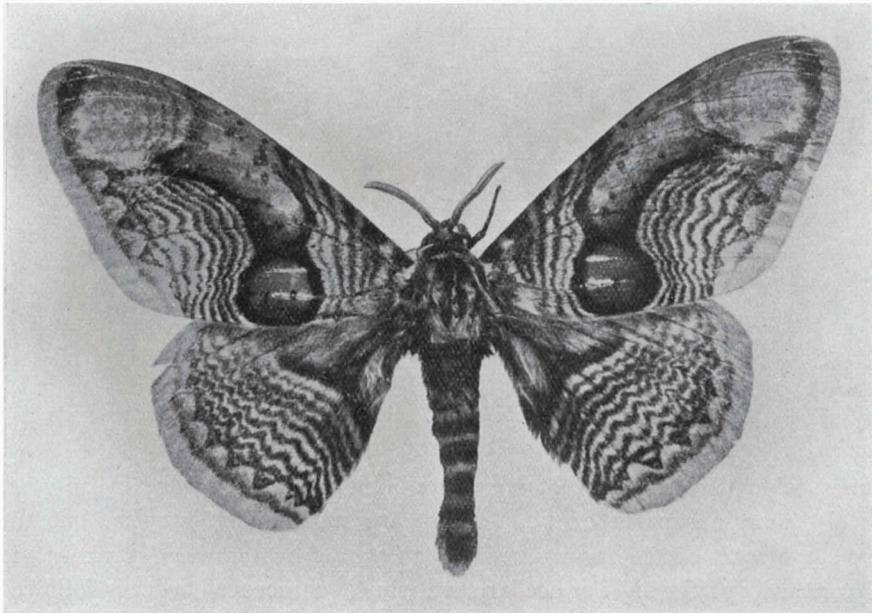


Fig. 1. *Brahmaea hearseyi celebica* nov. subspec. Upper surface, natural size.

the very near relationship between this new form and *Brahmaea hearseyi* White, as a subspecies of which I will describe it here.

Brahmaea hearseyi celebica nov. subspec. (figs. 1 and 2).

♂. Small (wing length 58 mm only). Upperside: groundcolour light greyish buff as in typical *hearseyi* marked with unsharp brown undulated

lines and dark spots much like in that subspecies, but different in the following points:

the undulated area of fore and hind wings is filled up with dull uniform light greyish buff between the undulated lines, whereas typical *hearseyi* shows a more vivid buff and is bordered basally with a thin white line at each interspace; the inwardly directed points of the undulated

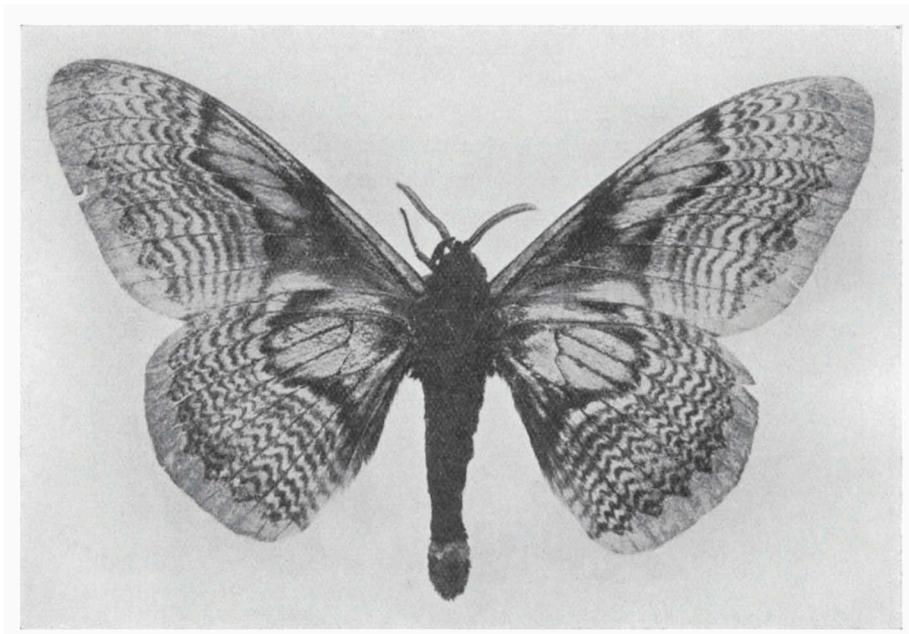


Fig. 2. *Brahmaea hearseyi celebica* nov. subsp. Lower surface, natural size.

lines, which are sharp in *hearseyi*, are blunt or even rounded in *celebica*;

the marginal parts of both wings are monotonous greyish, but the subapical part of the forewing shows an ochraceous border outwardly and backwardly of the big flat ocellar spot, which ochraceous border is followed inwardly by a faint white zigzag line beneath the elongate deep black apical spot;

the white dentate lines which divide the big apical ocellar spot of *hearseyi* into some 7 parallel bands are reduced to faint white vein spots in *celebica* but the thin black line of the basal part of that ocellus which runs parallel to the white lines in *hearseyi*, is threefold and continuous in *celebica*;

the dark brown outer marginal line of the broad discal band shows a double tooth at the same place as typical *hearseyi* but this tooth is more

produced and therefore reaches nearer to the margin of the fore wing; the discal band itself shows the brown ringlets on the veins much reduced and only in small number;

the basal part of the fore wing shows six blackish parallel lines in *celebica* instead of seven in *hearseyi*.

Underside: duller than in *hearseyi*; the undulated lines are broader and have no sharp teeth where crossing the veins; the subbasal dark bands of fore and hind wings are almost completely filled up with ground colour and the remaining borders are duller brown.

Thorax black with yellowish buff borders to the loose parts and stripes of the same colour in the middle.

Abdomen with broad continuous black rings above and quite black beneath (yellowish in typical *hearseyi*!), valves yellowish.

Type ♂, unique, Nanggala, district Rantepao, Central Celebes, X. 1936, in the Leiden Museum. There is another ♂ from Bolaäng Mongondou, N. Celebes in the Zoological Museum of Amsterdam in collection of the late Mr. van den Bergh, which agrees with my description.

This discovery of a *Brahmaea* species in the central part of Celebes not only enlarges the known area of this group considerably (it was mentioned in literature from Borneo and recently I saw a *hearseyi* form caught in East Java in the collection of Mr. Dupont, Buitenzorg¹), and these were to my knowledge its extreme boundaries to the east), but also adds a remarkable element of continental-asian origin to the list of species of a country which lies on the borders of the australian area.

However, the more the island of Celebes becomes known the more one gets convinced that it contains an old asian layer of species over which later invasions have alternately strewn papuan, philippine and southern archipelagic elements.

1) Meanwhile this form has been described as the new subspecies *Brahmophthalma hearseyi lughti* Dupont (Ent. Med. Ned. Indië, III, 1937, no. 1, pl. 2 fig. 2). It is a very light subspecies, quite the reverse of the very dark Celebes form described above.