

NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN BUTTERFLIES IN THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM. No. I.

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It is my intention from time to time to publish notes on any important specimens of butterflies that are received at the Museum. This part contains a fuller description of two rare species, with the first account of the other sex of the known holotype. A new genus and a new race for Australia are also described.

Family ERYCINIDAE.

Libythea geoffroy Godart, 1819.

This species has a wide range from southern Burma through the islands of the Malay Archipelago eastwards to the Solomon and Loyalty Islands. It is very rare in Australia and very little is known of its habits. In Seitz *Macrolepidoptera* it is stated to prefer dried-up river beds and also rests on wet rocks and on the beach. Sometimes in the dry season the butterflies gather in great numbers at wet places on the roads. In the Marquesas a very distinct species, *L. collenettei* Riley, 1928, is found, of which only three females are known. This is perhaps a remarkable extension of *L. geoffroy*, and we may expect to find forms of *Libythea* on the islands between the Solomons and the Marquesas.

The species of *Libythea* are noted for their very long palpi and this species for its sexual dimorphism. The rare eastern Australian race has been known for nearly fifty years, and I now add another smaller race from north-western Australia.

Libythea geoffroy nicevillei Olliff.

Libythea myrrha Godart, Olliff, *Australian Butterflies*, 1889, p. 21. ♀ figured.

Libythea nicevillei Olliff, *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales* (2), vi, 1891, p. 28. Cape York and New Guinea.

Libythea geoffroyi Godt., *Kershaw, Vict. Naturalist*, xvi, 1899, pp. 72-4. Herberston, Qld.

Libythea geoffroyi Godt., *Lower, Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Aust.*, xxxi, 1907, p. 169, sexes reversed; *l.c.*, 1908, p. 317, sexes corrected.

Libythea geoffroy nicevillei Olliff, *Frühstorfer in Seitz, Macrolepidoptera*, ix, p. 771. Lord Howe Island (*loc. err.*).

Libythea geoffroyi nicevillei Olliff, *Waterh. and Lyell, Butterflies of Australia*, 1914, p. 67, figs. 62, 63.