

A NEW GEOGRAPHICAL RACE OF HETERONYMPHA
PARADELPHA (LOWER)
(Lepidoptera, Satyridae)

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Heteronympha paradelpha deervalensis nov.

MALE:

Above.

Forewing black, median vein broadly rich golden brown, a spot at end of cell, a series of large discal and sub-apical spots rich golden brown, a subapical ocellus black with white pupil, a rich golden brown spot below it in area 4, a raised patch of sex scales in cell close to the median vein, dark brown-black.

Hindwing black, a spot at end of cell, a series of discal, and an interrupted series of subterminal spots rich golden brown; a subtornal ocellus black, white pupilled.

Beneath.

Forewing rich brown-black, base broadly dark golden brown, apex reddish brown, spots as above but paler though rich golden brown, ocellus as above.

Hindwing rich yellow-brown suffused reddish brown, a basal, a discal, a subterminal and a terminal broad interrupted waved line rich reddish brown, a small subapical and a subtornal ringed ocellus, black.

FEMALE:

Above.

Forewing as in the male, median vein broadly rich golden brown, spots larger, brighter, and more clearly defined; sex scales absent.

Hindwing as in male, spots larger, brighter and more clearly defined.

Beneath.

Forewing as in the male.

Hindwing markings as in the male but the whole with a light opalescent purplish suffusion.

LOCALITY:

Deervale, Dorrigo, Ebor, at 4,000-5,000 feet during January and February.

This race is considerably darker and richer in colour than specimens of *H. paradelpha* from Victoria and the Blue Mountains; while all Victorian specimens I have seen are lighter in colour than examples from the Blue Mountains, which more closely approximate to the Deervale race.

In Victoria, I have seen specimens of *H. paradelpha* from Ferntree Gully, the Dandenong Mountains in general, Trafalgar, Lorne, Nowa Nowa, and Mallacoota, where it occurs in February and early March. It is a difficult species to capture on the wing, preferring to keep among the tops of trees. On odd occasions, when it comes to the ground, it is very wary and, on being disturbed, immediately returns to the tops of the trees. This does not appear to be the case with specimens of the newly described race taken at Deervale and Dorrigo, where invariably they are to be found flitting close to the ground among low bushes, and visiting flowers of the Dandelion and wild raspberry.

In addition, *H. paradelpha* appears to be very local in Victoria, occurring in small, localised areas only—this habit is much less marked in *deervalensis*, where specimens are encountered over a large area or wherever patches of gum forest occur.

While *H. paradelpha* is generally regarded as a mountain butterfly, occurring in the Blue Mountains in New South Wales, and the Dandenong Ranges in Victoria at over 400 feet, it however occurs freely in localised areas at Lorne, Nowa Nowa and Mallacoota, practically at sea level.