

Comphotis apachita Hall & Willmott, 1996 (Lepidoptera: Riodinidae): Distribution extension and first record from Brazil

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ABSTRACT: The occurrence of *Comphotis apachita* Hall & Willmott, 1996 is reported for the first time in Brazil, extending its distribution about 1,400 kilometers southeast from the Napo Province, Ecuador.

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Comphotis Stichel, 1910 (Lepidoptera: Riodinidae: Incertae Sedis section) is a Neotropical genus with seven described species (Callaghan and Lamas 2004) which are easily mistaken with species of *Phaenochitonina* Stichel, 1910 (Symmachiini) (see Hall and Willmott 1996 for more details). Four species of *Comphotis* occur in Brazil: *C. clarissa* (Sharpe, 1890) (Goiás), *C. debilis* (Bates, 1868) (Pará), *C. eanes* (Godman, 1903) (Pará) and *C. sophistes* (Bates, 1868) (Amazonas and Pará) (Callaghan and Lamas 2004). *Comphotis apachita* Hall & Willmott, 1996 (Figures 1 and 2) was recently described based on a single male specimen that was found perching in a hilltop lightgap in the Napo Province, Ecuador (Hall and Willmott 1996) and it has not been registered since then.

Between 18 and 20 October 2003, a male specimen of *C. apachita* was observed and collected about 50 km northwest from Bujari (exact location: 09°37'34" S, 68°18'45" W, 200 m) (Figure 3), Acre, Brazil, in a 3-ha patch of well-preserved primary forest. This is the second known record for this species and the first for Brazil, extending its distribution about 1,400 km southeast from its type locality. The voucher specimen is deposited at Coleção

Entomológica Padre Jesus Santiago Moure, Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR). No other specimens of *C. apachita* have been reported from other inventories that were conducted in Acre (Brown and Freitas 2002; Mielke *et al.* 2010). Based on the available data, it is possible that *C. apachita* may occur in specific habitats throughout the Amazon region, especially in lowland areas from Ecuador, Peru and Brazil.

The butterfly fauna from the Amazon region is poorly studied, unveiling numerous gaps on the knowledge about the occurrence and distribution of several species. Therefore, the Amazon region is a high priority area for conducting butterflies inventories (Santos *et al.* 2008). There is only one butterfly species that occurs in this biome which is included in the Brazilian Red List of Threatened Species, reflecting the current lack of knowledge about its fauna (Freitas and Marini-Filho 2011). Furthermore, it is important to emphasize the need to intensify the development of specific and well-sampled inventories in the Amazon region in order to document its diversity. Brown and Hutchings (1997) reported that new species of butterflies were recorded during each new visit to



FIGURES 1–2. Male specimen of *Comphotis apachita* Hall & Willmott, 1996 from Brazil; dorsal view (1); ventral view (2). Scale bar = 5 mm.

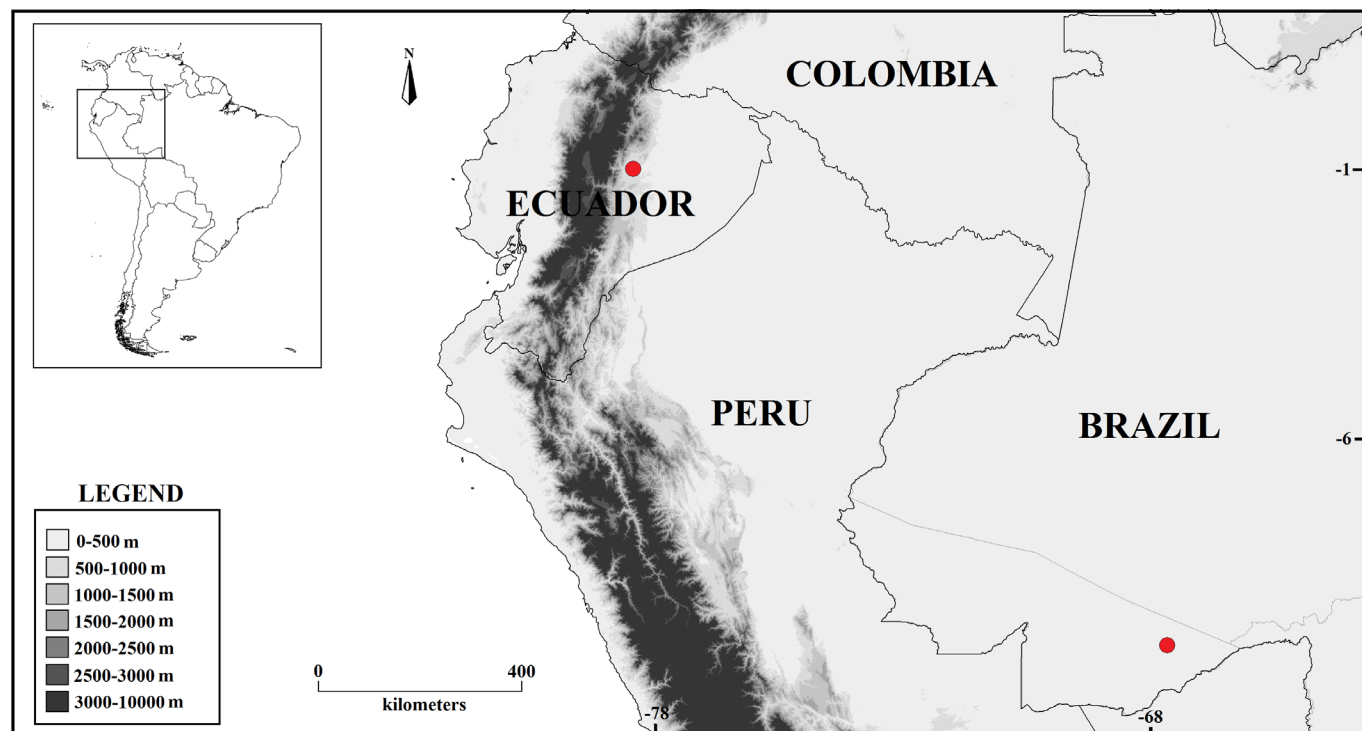


FIGURE 3. Distribution map of *Comphotis apachita* in Ecuador and Brazil (Acre State).

previously sampled areas within the Amazon. This is common in Riodinidae, since some species fly during restricted periods of the day or year. Additionally, several species are restricted to small populations, and may be spatially rare even if they have wide distributions (e.g., Callaghan 1978; DeVries 1997).

Examined material. Brazil, Acre, 50 km northeast of Bujari, 18-20-X-2003, 1 male, Mielke & Casagrande leg., DZUP 26.491 (DZUP).

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