

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Gynandromorphism in *Periga circumstans* Walker (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae)

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Neotropical Entomology 34(4):699-700 (2005)Ginandromorfismo em *Periga circumstans* Walker (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae)

ABSTRACT - This note reports the occurrence of gynandromorphism in *Periga circumstans* Walker in Brazil. The specimen was collected in Igaratá, state of São Paulo. General aspects and photograph of the insect are presented.

KEY WORDS: Anomaly, moth, wing, antenna, genitalia, caterpillar

RESUMO - Esta comunicação relata a ocorrência de ginandromorfismo em *Periga circumstans* Walker. O espécime foi coletado em Igaratá, SP. São apresentados aspectos gerais e fotografias do inseto.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Anomalia, mariposa, asa, antena, genitália, lagarta

Saturniidae caterpillars of the *Lonomia* and *Periga* genera are often found cohabitating. These genera are gregarious and live in clusters of hundreds of specimens, in tree trunks of edible fruits such as loquats (*Eriobotrya japonica*) and avocados (*Persea americana*) (Moraes 2003). In 1989, *Lonomia obliqua* Walker gained importance because humans developed hemorrhage when in contact with its strains (Wen & Duarte 2003). In contrast, no hemorrhagic accidents have been reported as caused by the *Periga* species. Nonetheless, *P. circumstans*, a coffee plantation pest (Gallo *et al.* 2002), causes burnings in plantation workers, during harvest by stripping the coffee tree branches.

This scientific note reports the occurrence of gynandromorphism in *P. circumstans*, and contributes to the knowledge of this still insufficiently known species.

During collection, *P. circumstans* Walker caterpillars were sometimes found nearby colonies of *L. obliqua*. Citations about *P. circumstans* Walker are rare, particularly those concerning its biology (Travassos 1973, Motta 2002), and reports on its morphologic anomalies, such as gynandromorphism, have not been found.

In July 1995, a *P. circumstans* gynandromorphous adult was collected in a luminous trap, at the Muranos farm in Igaratá, SP (23°11'15,0" S, 046°05'24,3" W). The specimen was photographed, killed, and stored (# IBSP919) in the Coleção Entomológica do Instituto Butantan. In dorsal position, the specimen body is divided symmetrically in length, presenting male external features on the right and female ones on the left (Fig. 1). Sexual dimorphism occurs in the antennae (Fig. 2) and wings (shape, size, and color). The genitalia was removed and clarified,

showing general male characteristics with uncus and valva deformities (Fig. 3).

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Figure 1. Gynandromorphism of *P. circumstans* (dorsal) (left: female; right: male).

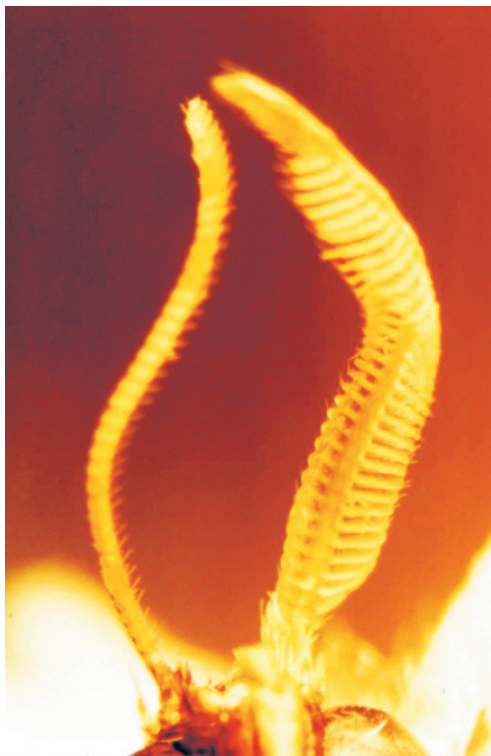


Figure 2. Female (left) and male (right) antennae.

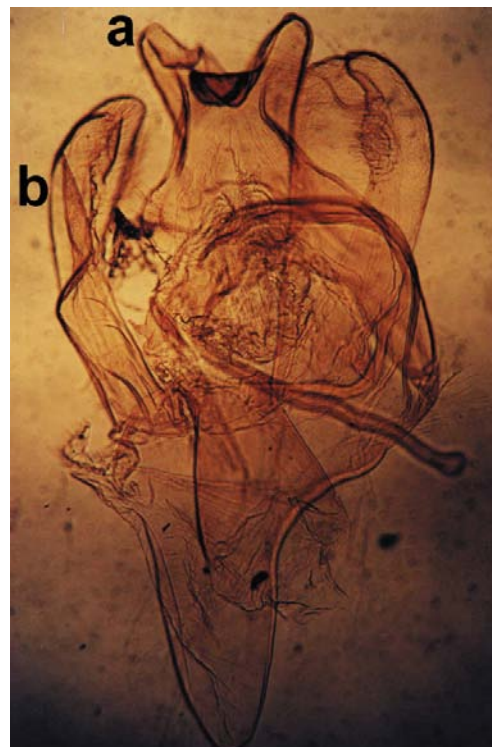


Figure 3. Genitalia of *P. circumstans* (gynandromorphic) (100x). a – defective uncus lobe; b – valva smaller than its opposite.

Wen, F.H & Duarte, A. C. 2003. Acidentes por *Lonomia*, p.224-232. In J.L.C. Cardoso, F.O.S. França, F.H. Wen, C.M.S. Málaque & V. Haddad Jr. , Animais peçonhentos no Brasil. Biologia, clínica e terapêutica

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