

**"Felder's Hedge Blue" - *Lycaenopsis haraldus*
(Fabricius 1787) - recorded from Papua, Indonesia
(Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae).**

Stefan Schröder

Address: Auf dem Rosenhügel 15, 50997 Köln, Germany

Email: ste.schroeder@gmx.net

SUGAPA 6(3): 99 - 100

Abstract: Lycaenopsis haraldus - known from Sunda Islands- is reported from the Birdsheed of Papua, a new record for this area.

Ikhtisar: Lycaenopsis haraldus yang diketahui dari pulau-pulau Sunda dilaporkan dari Kepala Burung di Papua, penemuan baru untuk wilayah ini.

Keywords: first record from Papua

Lycaenopsis C. & R. Felder, 1865 is a monospecific genus and its single known species is *L. haraldus* is a most characteristic taxon because of its unusual pattern on the underside of both wings. The underside is plain white and unmarked but with a marginal black border containing a series of large white spots which are filled with black. Consequently it is an easily recognizable species, and determination - contrary to many other species of the *Lycaenopsis*-group sensu Eliot - is simple even in the field.

The distribution of *L. haraldus* is more or less confined to "Sundaland", where minor geographical variabilities and differences are found between populations, which- although sometimes very slight- have led to the description of several subspecies:

L. haraldus haraldus (Fabricius 1787): West Malaysia, Sumatra, Bangka.

L. h. annamitica Eliot & Kawazoe 1983: Vietnam.

L. h. cornuta (H. Druce 1873): Borneo, Java.

L. h. mayaangelae Takanami 1990: Belitung Island.

L. h. renonga (Riley 1932): Peninsular Thailand, South Burma.

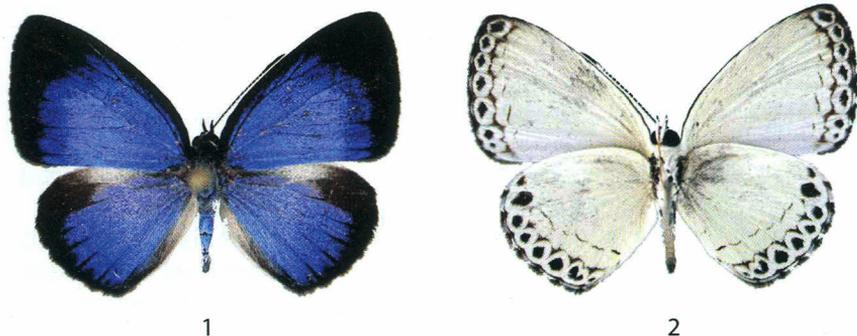
To date, no records of *L. haraldus* were known from the region east of Sundaland and the species has never been mentioned from Maluku or from New Guinea. The collection of a single male from Papua (the western part of New Guinea) is

therefore of special interest as the record is not only the first from the island but as it also implies that this conspicuous taxon has been overlooked in the Moluccas so far. The species is generally rare but its simple determination makes it easy to recognize even by non-lycaenid specialists. The figured specimen was collected 60 km north of Sorong, in the western part of the Doberai Peninsula. This is a well-known collecting locality and it can be excluded that the specimen has been mixed up with specimens from other localities. The specimen is remarkably small, but extreme differences in body size in *Lycaenopsis* has already been noted by Eliot & Kawazoe (1983: 37) and are not of any taxonomical significance.

Literature

Eliot, J.N. & Kawazoé, A. (1983): Blue butterflies of the *Lycaenopsis* group. British Museum (Natural History): 309 pp, 560 figs.

Takanami, Y. (1990): Miscellaneous notes on Lycaenidae (Lepidoptera) from South-east Asia I. – Tyo to Ga, 41 (2): 67-78, 25 (figs).



Figs 1-2. *Lycaenopsis haraldus* from western part of the Doberai Peninsula:
1. Upperside; 2. Underside.