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Holotype of *Agathymus escalantei* Stallings, Turner, and Stallings, 1966 (Lepidoptera: Hesperiidae: Megathyminae)

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Holotype of *Agathymus escalantei* Stallings, Turner, and Stallings, 1966 (Lepidoptera: Hesperiidae: Megathyminae)

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Abstract. *Agathymus escalantei* Stallings, Turner, and Stallings, 1966 (Lepidoptera: Hesperiidae) is the only described species of Megathyminae known from a single collected individual. To date, the only images of this specimen are poor black and white illustrations published in the original description. This note presents the first color photographs of the holotype.

Additional key words: Agavaceae, Agave tequilana, Agathymus fieldi, Agathymus remingtoni, Guerrero, Mexico.

Agathymus escalantei was described by Stallings et al. (1966) from a single adult female collected in Guerrero, Mexico (Fig. 1-2). The type specimen was originally deposited in the collection of Tarsicio Escalante, D. F., Mexico (Stallings et al. 1966). In 1973, the Escalante collection was obtained by the Allyn Museum of Entomology, Sarasota, Florida and is now part of the collection at the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, Florida (labels in Fig. 3).

Phenotypically, A. escalantei is distinguishable from all other known species of Agathymus by coalesced pale yellow macules within the discal cell and cells M_a, CuA₁, and CuA₂ which form a nearly continuous "creamy lemon-yellow" area on the forewing dorsum. Stallings et al. (1966) noted that this species most closely resembles Agathymus fieldi Freeman occurring to the north of A. escalantei in Jalisco, Mexico (Freeman 1960, 1969). Geographically, A. escalantei occurs closest to Turnerina hazelae (Stallings and Turner) (Hesperiidae, Megathyminae) known from the Chilpancingo area, Guerrero, Mexico (Mielke 2005), but they are not closely related. Freeman (1969) placed A. escalantei within the "remingtoni" species complex based exclusively on adult characteristics (including pale yellow macules of the dorsal surface and dull white overscaling of ventral surface). Within the "remingtoni" species complex, Freeman (1969) also included A. remingtoni Stallings and Turner, A. estelleae Stallings and Turner, A. valverdiensis Freeman, and A. fieldi, but noted problems of grouping A. escalantei with these species. While A. remingtoni, A. estellae, and A. valverdiensis form a unified group with similar phenotypes, using Agave species of the "marginatae" group (Agavaceae) as larval hosts, and primarily occurring in northeastern Mexico (Freeman 1969, see also Gentry 1982), the potentially more closely allied Agathymus fieldi occurs to the southwest of these species feeding on Agave tequilana Weber (Agavaceae) (Freeman 1969, see also Gentry 1982). Agathymus escalantei differs from all "remingtoni" species complex taxa by the enlargement of the macules in the discal cell and cell CuA, of the forewing and almost complete lack of macules on the hindwing of females. The life history and distribution of A. escalantei remains unavailable for comparison. Without additional specimens, details of life history, and determination of host plant associations, its taxonomic placement is equivocal.

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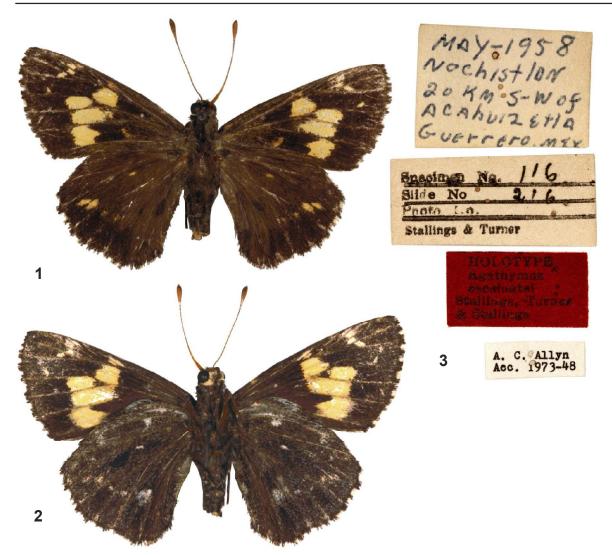


Figure 1-3. Holotype Agathymus escalantei. 1) Dorsal view. 2) Ventral view. 3) Labels.

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