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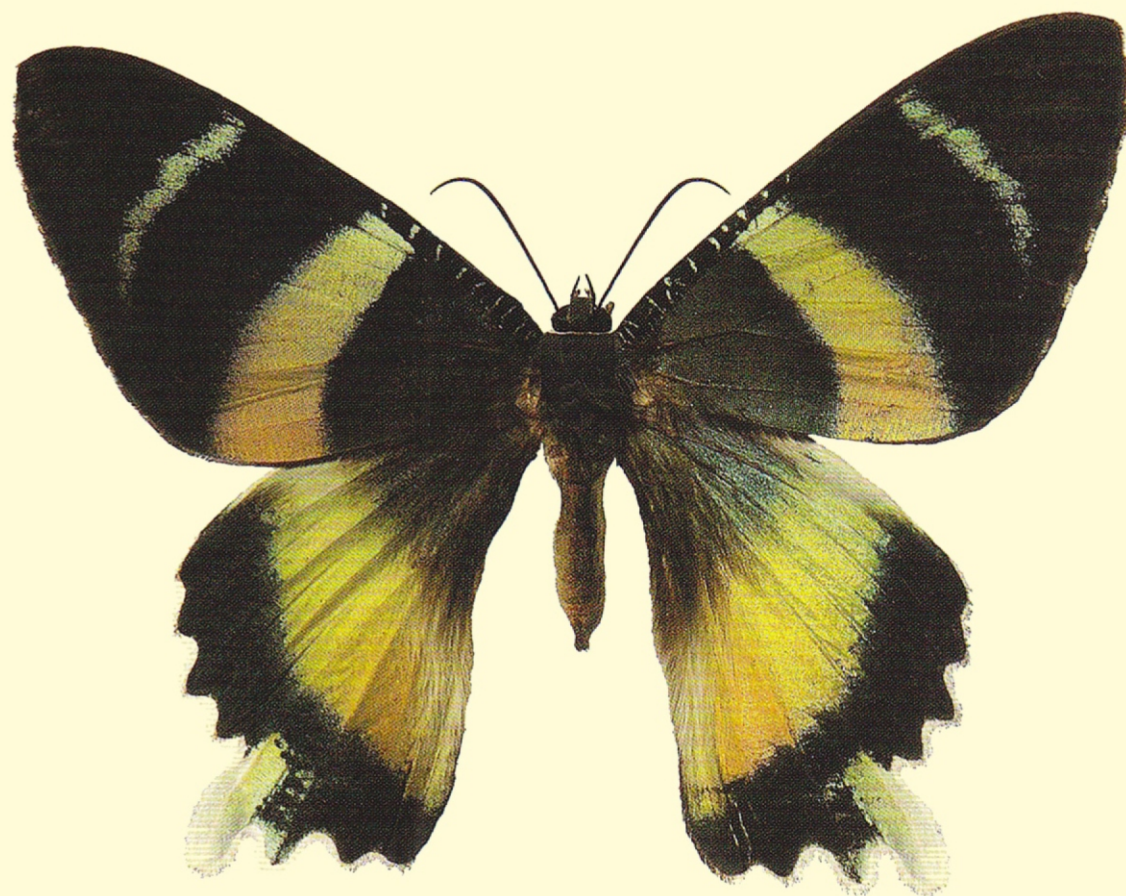
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Alcides privitera Vinciguerra, 2006 - Sorong, Indonesia

The genus *Alcides* Hübner, [1822] (Lepidoptera Uraniidae). The Family Uraniidae contains some of the most beautiful moths known to lepidopterists. It includes four subfamilies (Auzeinae, Epipleminae, Microniinae and Uraniinae), some ninety genera and about seven hundred species. This is a tropical family which is found in Africa, the Americas, and the Indo-Australian region. Diurnal and nocturnal species are found within this family and the day-flying ones are usually vibrantly colored and covered with iridescent scales and tails which have led many to mistake them for butterflies. Several species are known to be migratory, but very little is known about the details of these migrations. One of these species was once considered by the French lepidopterist Jean Baptiste Antoine Dechauffor de Boisduval (1799-1879) as "... the most beautiful of the creation." The subfamily Uraniinae contains seven genera. Three of them include species of moderate size and with resemblance to those in the Microniinae, while the other four include large and strongly tailed species. Their hosts include plants belonging to the Euphorbiaceae and it appears that some of these moths are models for certain species of some butterfly families. Among the Uraniinae we find the swallow tail moths of the genus *Alcides* Hübner, which are brightly colored and probably distasteful to birds and other potential predators. *Alcides* is distributed in the Indo-Australian region and contains ten species. Most fly by day but some have also been reported with crepuscular activity. Their larvae feed on leaves of plants in the genera *Endospermum* and *Omphalea* which carry certain poisons that appear to protect the caterpillars, and eventually the adults, from predation. The caterpillars pupate in a sparse cocoon in crevices or between dead leaves. The imagoes are characterized by front wings of triangular shape with a large, curved band that starts in the Costal margin, crosses the discal area, and ends in the anal angle. A second, parallel, thinner band, is also observed in the apical angle of the wing and starts also in the costal margin (without touching it), and goes to the anal angle, but vanishes before reaching it. The colors in both bands are always iridescent green or blue. The hind wings have a wide band in the discal area, and when the wings are spread it looks like a continuation of the large band in the forewing. This band also presents iridescent colors. All species in the genus present short tails in the hind wings. The current systematic knowledge and taxonomy of the genus is incomplete and the status of some taxa remains uncertain. Even though ten species have been described so far, the systematics of the group is still somehow uncertain. They are known from localities in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and the Moluccas, New Hebrides and Salomon Islands. However, the only exception to this distribution, the species *Alcides metaurus* (Hopffer) [= *A. zodiaca* (Butler)], is endemic of Queensland, Northern Australia. The illustrated specimen is the Holotype of *Alcides privitera* Vinciguerra. This is a beautiful species somehow similar to *A. metaurus* but has been found in Sorong, Irian Jaya, Indonesia.