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

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Abstract. *Agathymus escalantei* Stallings, Turner, and Stallings, 1966 (Lepidoptera: Hesperiiidae) 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_3 , CuA_1 , and CuA_2 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) (Hesperiiidae, 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. estelleae*, 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_1 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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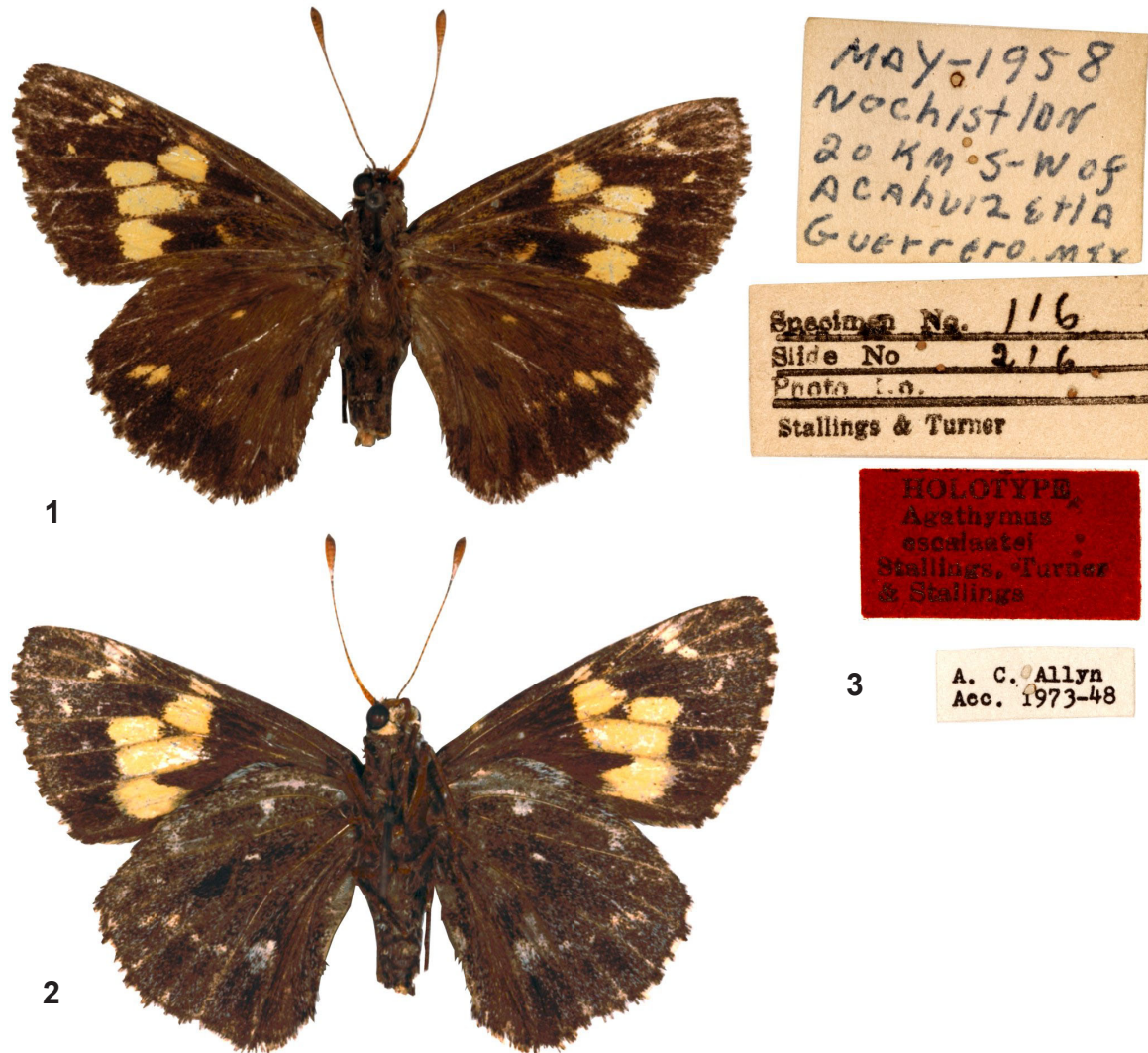


Figure 1-3. Holotype *Agathymus escalantei*. 1) Dorsal view. 2) Ventral view. 3) Labels.

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