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Nomenclatural *faux pas* for *Speyeria atlantis greyi* Moeck, 1950  
(Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae)

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**Abstract.** Nomenclatural errors associated with the nymphalid butterfly, *Speyeria atlantis greyi* Moeck, have persisted in the literature and electronic databases. We present here a synonymy of the various combinations and misspellings associated with it and clearly indicate the correct name and spelling based on Moeck's (1950) original description. Additionally, color images of the holotype and allotype specimens are published herein for the first time.

**Discussion**

North American greater fritillaries were considered generically distinct from *Argynnis* Fabricius, 1807 as *Speyeria* Scudder, 1872 by dos Passos and Grey (1945); all taxa named since that time have been described within the latter genus. Nonetheless, *Argynnis* was retained in some popular guides and other literature (e.g., Garth 1950, Hovanitz 1962, 1963, Garth and Tilden 1963, Sette 1962). McHenry (1964, see also McHenry 1963) attempted to resurrect the use of *Argynnis*, but this has not been followed in North America. Some recent workers in the Old World, however, have treated *Speyeria* as a subgenus of *Argynnis* (e.g., Tuzov 2003, Simonsen 2006).

Errors in nomenclature associated with the greater fritillary described as *Speyeria atlantis greyi* Moeck, 1950 (Figures 1-4) from northeastern Nevada have occurred in several publications, persisting into the current literature and electronic databases. McHenry (1964) may well have originally misled compilers of later checklists (i.e., Miller and Brown 1981, Hodges 1983) by implicating that *S. atlantis greyi* was named within *Argynnis*, who in turn were followed by several subsequent authors. The current nomenclature for this subspecies is as correctly listed by dos Passos (1964), but now within a different species (Scott et al. 1998): ***Speyeria hesperis greyi* Moeck, 1950**. The synonymy of this taxon follows (\* = author not given with subspecific epithet).

***Speyeria hesperis greyi* Moeck, 1950**

*Speyeria atlantis greyi* Moeck, 1950: 6: dos Passos (1964: 94), Austin (1983: 247), Ferris (1983: 105), Noonan (1984: 7), Scott (1986: 330\*; 1988: 11\*), Austin and Murphy (1987: 189\*), Hammond (1990: 62).

*Speyeria atlantis greyii* Moeck, 1950: Grey (1951: 33), Moeck (1957: 40\*), Hammond (1974: 39; 1978: 43; 1994: 11), Kendall (1977: 208\*).

*Argynnis atlantis greyi* Moeck, 1950: McHenry (1964: 248), Austin (1998a: 634).

*Speyeria electa greyi* Moeck, 1950: Howe (1975: 221).



**Figure 1-4.** *Speyeria atlantis greyi* holotype and allotype with associated labels. 1-2) Holotype, dorsal and ventral view. 3-4) Allotype, dorsal and ventral view. Both specimens American Museum of Natural History, New York. Images by James C. Dunford.

*Speyeria atlantis greyi* (Moeck, 1950): Miller and Brown (1981: 143), Hodges (1983: 59), Austin (1985: 107; 1998a: 634; 1998b: 842), Ferris (1989: 89), University of Colorado Museum (2003\*), Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (2004), Savelle (2005), Wahlberg and Peña (2007).  
*Speyeria hesperis greyi* (Moeck, 1950): Scott et al. (1998: 15), NatureServe Explorer (2007).

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