WHAT IS COENONYMPHA TIANSHANICA CHOU, YUAN & ZHANG, 2001 (NYMPHALIDAE: SATYRINAE)?

R.V. Yakovlev

Altai State University, pr. Lenina 61, Barnaul, 656049, Russia. E-mail: yakovlev_asu@mail.ru
Tomsk State University, Laboratory of Biodiversity and Ecology, Lenina pr. 36, 634050 Tomsk, Russia

The article establishes a new synonym: Coenonympha tianshanica Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001 = Erebia haberhaueri circe Churkin, 2005 syn. nov., new combinations and the status Erebia haberhaueri tianshanica (Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001) comb. nov. & stat. nov. The species E. haberhaueri Staudinger, 1881 is reported for the fauna of China for the first time.

Key words: fauna, Lepidoptera, Satyrinae, China, new synonym, Coenonympha tianshanica, Erebia haberhaueri.

INTRODUCTION

Chou et al. (2001) described several new species including Coenonympha tianshanica Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001 (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae). The holotype is stored in the Entomological Museum, Northwest Sci-Tech University of Agriculture and Forestry (Yangling, Shaanxi, China). Critical comments on this work establishing new synonymy were published by several specialists: Eckweiler & Bozano (2011) and Yakovlev (2016). The image of the holotype Coenonympha tianshanica Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001 graciously provided by Dr. Yuan Xiangqun helped to clarify the status of this taxon.

RESULTS

Chou et al. (2001) described Coenonympha tianshanica Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001 from Karamay (Xinjiang Autonomous Region) by the series of two males. The photos of the holotype (Figures 1–2) allowed to understand exactly that Coenonympha tianshanica Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001 actually belongs to the genus Erebia Dalman, 1816, and what is more, to Erebia maurisius complex. So, it is Erebia tianshanica (Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001) comb. nov.

Churkin (2005) made a detailed revision of Erebia maurisius complex, where he included E. maurisius (Esper, [1803]), E. haberhaueri Staudinger, 1881 and E. tsengelensis Suwa, Hirano & Hirano, 2002. This article describes two subspecies: E. haberhaueri circe Churkin, 2005 and E. tsengelensis alag Churkin, 2005. Churkin established that a typical habitat for the nominotypical subspecies E. haberhaueri Staudinger, 1881 is the Saur Ridge (E. Kazakhstan), and for the population of Tarbagatai vill. distinctive by their small size of adults and by the wings pattern details, E. haberhaueri circe Churkin, 2005 was described (Type locality – Eastern Kazakhstan, Tarbagatai, pass upper Alexeevka vill.).

It is obvious that in the immediate vicinity of Karamay (located in the Dzungarian Gobi) no species of the genus Erebia could be collected (Yakovlev, 2016). However it can be met in 90–110 km to the North of Karamay in the Chinese portion of Tarbagatai, where E. haberhaueri Staudinger, 1881 is known from the Kazakhstan portion of Saur and Tarbagatai (Rubin & Yakovlev, 2013).

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Thus, on the basis of the taxa distribution data (Churkin, 2005; Yakovlev, 2007, 2011; Tshikolovets et al., 2002, 2009 a, b; Rubin & Yakovlev, 2013), concerning Erebia maurisius complex (Figure 3), Erebia tianshanica (Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001) comb. nov. = Erebia haberhaueri circe Churkin, 2005 syn. nov. Consequently, the taxon tianshanica (Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001) represents a Tarbagatai subspecies of E. haberhaueri Staudinger, 1881, i.e. E. haberhaueri tianshanica (Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001), stat. nov.

In addition it should be mentioned that the spelling tianshanica (Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001) is different from the spelling tianschanica Heyne, 1894 – a species widespread in the mountains of the Dzhungarian Alatau (Kazakhstan) (Tennent, 2008).

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REFERENCES


