



The Lasiocampidae of Iran (Lepidoptera)

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ABSTRACT

An annotated taxonomic checklist of the 37 species of Iranian Lasiocampidae is presented and bionomic data are summarized for the country. Ten species are listed as new to Iran, and previous misidentifications in the Iranian lasiocampid fauna are corrected. Nomenclatural actions taken herein include: the description of *Malacosoma parallela iranica* Zolotuhin & Zahiri, **ssp. nov.**; elevation to species rank of *Trichiura kopetdaghi* Dubatolov & Zolotuhin, 1992, **stat. nov.**, from a subspecies of *T. mirzayani* Ebert, 1971; and a new synonymy *Bombyx Herzi* Christoph, 1888, = *Bombyx Concolor* Christoph, 1893, **syn. nov.** In addition, *Chilena sordida* (Erschoff, 1874) is considered a superspecies complex, and females are described for the first time for *Giselea pistaciae* Wiltshire, 1952, *Phyllodesma glasunowi* (Grum-Grzhimailo, 1895), and *Streblote solitaria* Zolotuhin, 1991.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Lasiocampidae, Iran, systematics

INTRODUCTION

The Lasiocampidae fauna of Iran is relatively poorly known despite substantial worldwide museum holdings of specimens. The first species of Lasiocampidae described from Iran (as “Persien, Schahrud”) was *Eriogaster acanthophylli* (Christoph, 1882), and most subsequent publications mentioned the Iranian taxa only in the context of distributional characteristics of species from other regions (Wiltshire 1946a, 1946b, 1957, 1964, 1982; Daniel 1963; Lajonqui re 1963, 1977; Ebert 1971; Zolotuhin 1992, 1995, 2007).

Eight species of Lasiocampidae were listed from different parts of Iran by Barou (1967), one of them, *Taragama repanda* Hbn., erroneously. Mirzayans and Kalali (1970) added *Taragama alpheraki* Christ. and *Taragama sifa* Lef. to the fauna. In 1976, Kalali published a list of Lepidoptera of Khorassan, where *Chilena sordida* Ersch. was noted from Mashad: Torogh. Rajabi (1986) recorded six lasiocampids as pest species (see also Aba i & Adeli 1983; Aba i 2000): *Malacosoma neustria* L. ssp. *parallela* Stgr., *Eriogaster amygdale* Wilt., *E. philippsi* Bart., *Lasiocampa grandis* Rog., *Taragama siva* Lef. and *T. alpherakyi* Chr. (*E. philippsi* was misidentified, with *E. rimicola* intended). Modarres Awal (1994, 1997) recorded 17 species (see Table 1), some of them also incorrectly identified.

The present paper provides a comprehensive review of the Lasiocampidae of Iran, and attempts to correct previous misidentifications in the fauna.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The largest number of specimens studied here are housed in the collection of the Iranian Research Institute of Plant Protection, formerly Plant Pests & Diseases Research Institute. Other assemblages of Iranian material, mainly collected by Mrs E. Vartian, are now distributed among European museums with a substantial portion at the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (Austria). Museums and private collections mentioned in the text are listed here, along with their abbreviations: