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## Establishment of a new genus for *Eresiomera paradoxa* (Schultze, 1917) and related taxa (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) with description of two new species

SZABOLCS SÁFIÁN<sup>1,2,3</sup> & STEVE C. COLLINS<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Institute of Silviculture and Forest Protection, University of West Hungary, H-9400 Sopron, Ady E. út 5. Hungary.  
E-mail: safian@bcghana.org*

<sup>2</sup>*African Butterfly Research Institute, P. O. Box 14308, 0800 Nairobi, Kenya. E-mail: collinsabri@gmail.com*

<sup>3</sup>*Corresponding author*

### Abstract

Finding of two undescribed species, closely related to *Eresiomera paradoxa* (Schultze, 1917) in Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo led the authors to revise the material available in the African Butterfly Research Institute (ABRI), Nairobi. Examination of the material revealed that the placement of *E. paradoxa* and the related species neither in the genus *Eresiomera* Clench, 1965, nor in *Pseuderesia* Butler, 1874 in which the species was originally described, is satisfactory, based on characters offered by the wings and genitalia. Solving the problem a new genus, *Parasiomera* **gen. nov.** is erected for *E. paradoxa* and related taxa and two new species are described: *P. alfa* **sp. nov.**, *P. kivuensis* **sp. nov.** The taxon *orientalis* Stempffer, 1962 originally described as subspecies of *Pseuderesia paradoxa* is also elevated to species rank and placed in the new genus resulting the **new combination** and **new status** *Parasiomera orientalis* (Stempffer, 1962). To secure objectivity of the name usage of *P. paradoxa*, the only existing syntype is designated as lectotype.

**Key words:** Afrotropical Region, *Eresiomera paradoxa*, *Parasiomera* **gen. nov.**, *Parasiomera alfa* **sp. nov.**, *Parasiomera kivuensis* **sp. nov.**, *Parasiomera orientalis* **stat. rev.**, **comb. nov.**

### Introduction

The liptenid *Eresiomera paradoxa* (Schultze, 1917) was originally described from a male and a female syntype in the genus *Pseuderesia* Butler, 1874 but only one of them still exists (Fig. 1). The species also appeared as *Pseuderesia* in the overview by Stempffer (1967) and in the comprehensive work of d’Abrera (1980). It was later listed in *Eresiomera* Clench, 1965 in the description of the genus (Fox *et al.* 1965)—a view not followed by Stempffer (1967)—but the species appears as *E. paradoxa* (Schultze, 1917) in the Carcasson Catalogue (Ackery *et al.* 1995) and in subsequent works based on the Catalogue (e.g. d’Abrera 2009, Vande weghe 2010) and in the African Butterfly DataBase (www.abdb-africa.org). Until recently a single species, *E. paradoxa* was recognised, which is distributed in lowland forests of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo and Gabon with a distinct subspecies ssp. *orientalis* Stempffer, 1962. The latter is known only from the Kalinzu Forest on the eastern edge of the Albertine Rift in Uganda. Recent capture of further closely related taxa, in two different biogeographic regions: the Liberian sub-region (Western Liberia) and the Kivu sub-region (North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo) led us to further investigate the taxonomy of distinct populations of *E. paradoxa* s.l., which was not possible earlier, as they were very poorly represented in collections. The examination of the material stored in the African Butterfly Research Institute, Nairobi and the existing type material of *E. paradoxa* and *E. paradoxa orientalis* resulted in finding various wing and genitalia characters, which support description of two new species close to *E. paradoxa*, as well as elevation of *E. paradoxa orientalis* to species rank. The four recognised species were also found forming a well definable, most probably monophyletic species group, which cannot be placed either in *Pseuderesia* or in *Eresiomera* with satisfaction, as it differs significantly from both in general appearance and some genital characters. The revision of their generic status led to the establishment of a new genus for the four species, which, along with the description of the new taxa and revision of the status of *E. paradoxa orientalis* is presented in this paper.