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A new species of the *Callophrys paulae* Pfeiffer, 1932 species group from Afghanistan (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae)

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Abstract. A new species from the *Callophrys paulae* Pfeiffer, 1932 species group—*C. succuba* sp. n.—is described from the mountains of Central Afghanistan, Bamyan Province. The new species differs from the geographically close *C. p. jomuda* Nekrutenko & Tshikolovets in morphology of the male and female genitalia along with the distinct wavy shape of the postdiscal white line on the hindwing underside. Discovery of the new species from *C. paulae* species group extends known distribution range of the group to the eastern part of the Iranian Plateau in Central Afghanistan.

Key words: Theclinae, Eumaeini, hairstreaks, systematics, zoogeography, Palaearctic

Introduction

Callophrys paulae Pfeiffer, 1932 is a species restricted to the mountains of South-Western Asia. It is characterized by a narrow uncus in the male genitalia, small lateral lobes of a lamella postvaginalis in the female genitalia, small androconial spots and a slightly developed anal lobe of the hindwing. The nominate subspecies (type locality—S Turkey, Kahramanmaraş Prov., Ahyr Mt. (Ahrır Dağı) inhabits Taurus Mts. in Central Anatolia. *C. p. kolak* Higgins (type locality—NE Turkey, Bayburt Prov., Maden) differs in a larger size and more developed postdiscal white line of the wings. It inhabits mountains of Eastern Anatolia, Transcaucasia, Western and Central Alborz Ridge, Northern and Central Zagros in Iran.

The closest species to *C. paulae* is *C. farsica* ten Hagen, 2009 which differs by the shape of a lamella postvaginalis in the female genitalia. The nominate subspecies inhabits southern part of the Zagros Mts. (type locality—Iran, Boyer-Ahmad-o Kuhgiluyeh Prov., Kuh-e Dinar Range), and *C. f. anjae* ten Hagen, 2012—South-Eastern Iran (type locality—Iran, Kerman Prov., N Jiroft).

The taxon *jomuda* Nekrutenko & Tshikolovets (= *C. hatuma* Zhdanko; see taxonomic history in (ten Hagen 2009) was initially described in a specific rank (type locality—Turkmenistan, Kopet Dagh Mts., Dushak Mt.). Despite the differences in the female genitalia and differences in COI gene nowadays it is treated as a subspecies of *C. paulae* (ten Hagen 2009; ten Hagen & Miller 2010). We prefer to follow the latter opinion so as to avoid disorder. *C. p. jomuda* inhabits Eastern Alborz and the mountains of North-Eastern Iran (the Aladagh Mts. and the Kopet Dagh Mts.) and the Kopet Dagh Mts. in Turkmenistan (ten Hagen 2009; ten Hagen & Miller 2010).

All mentioned taxa are monophagous on *Onobrychis cornuta* (Fabaceae)—thorny pillow-like legume, widely distributed in the mountains of South-Western Asia (ten Hagen 2009).

In 2012 an undescribed species from the *Callophrys paulae* species group was found in the mountains of Central Afghanistan (Bamyan Province) by junior authors. The new species is described herein.

Material and methods

All the type specimens of the new species were dissected along with 6 males and 3 females of *C. p. jomuda* from Iran and Afghanistan (see labels below). Dissection, photographing and photo editing were described in a previous paper