

# Butterflies in a light trap (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea)

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**Samenvatting.** Dagvlinders in een lichtval (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea)

De vangst van twee dagvlindersoorten - *Lasiommata roxelana* (CRAMER, 1777) en *Quercusia quercus* (LINNAEUS, 1758) - in een lichtval tijdens een nachtvangst in de oostelijke Rhodopen (Zuid-Bulgarije) op 7 juli 1992, wordt vermeld.

**Résumé.** Papillons diurnes dans un piège lumineux (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea)

La capture de deux espèces de papillons diurne - *Lasiommata roxelana* (CRAMER, 1777) et *Quercusia quercus* (LINNAEUS, 1758) - dans un piège lumineux lors d'une chasse nocturne dans les Rhodopes orientales (sud de la Bulgarie) le 7 juillet 1992, est rapportée.

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In July 1992 my fellow-colleague and friend Stoyan BESCHKOW and I went on a lepidopterological trip to the Eastern Rhodopes in South Bulgaria. On 7th July we reached a small chalet near the town of Madjarovo. The place is situated at about 50 m close to the Arda River. Around was a mixed deciduous forest with predominance of *Quercus* spp.

On the same evening we switched on a 400 W Hg lamp. At 11.30 local time I observed a specimen of a butterfly fluttering near the lamp. I was very astonished to see that it was a worn male of *Lasiommata roxelana* (CRAMER, 1777). The night was very humid and with no wind whatsoever. Some time later at 0.40 I saw another species flying around the lamp. This time it was a female of *Quercusia quercus* (LINNAEUS, 1758).

This reminded me of a similar observation of collecting *Kanetisa circe* (FABRICIUS, 1775) in a light trap in Andorra (ROCHE 1990). I have only heard about the penumbral butterflies in the Tropics, but it was abnormal to see our European species flying at night. It is very interesting that the two species I collected must be absolutely nocturnal. What is it? What prompted them to do this? I am still not sure that this is characteristic for the behaviour of European species. Maybe there is an alternate explanation. I think that most likely their eyesight perception had mixed the sunlight with the strong light of the mercury lamp.

## Reference

Roche, P., 1990. A satyrid butterfly in a light trap. - *Entomologist's Rec.J.Var.* **102**: 114.



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