

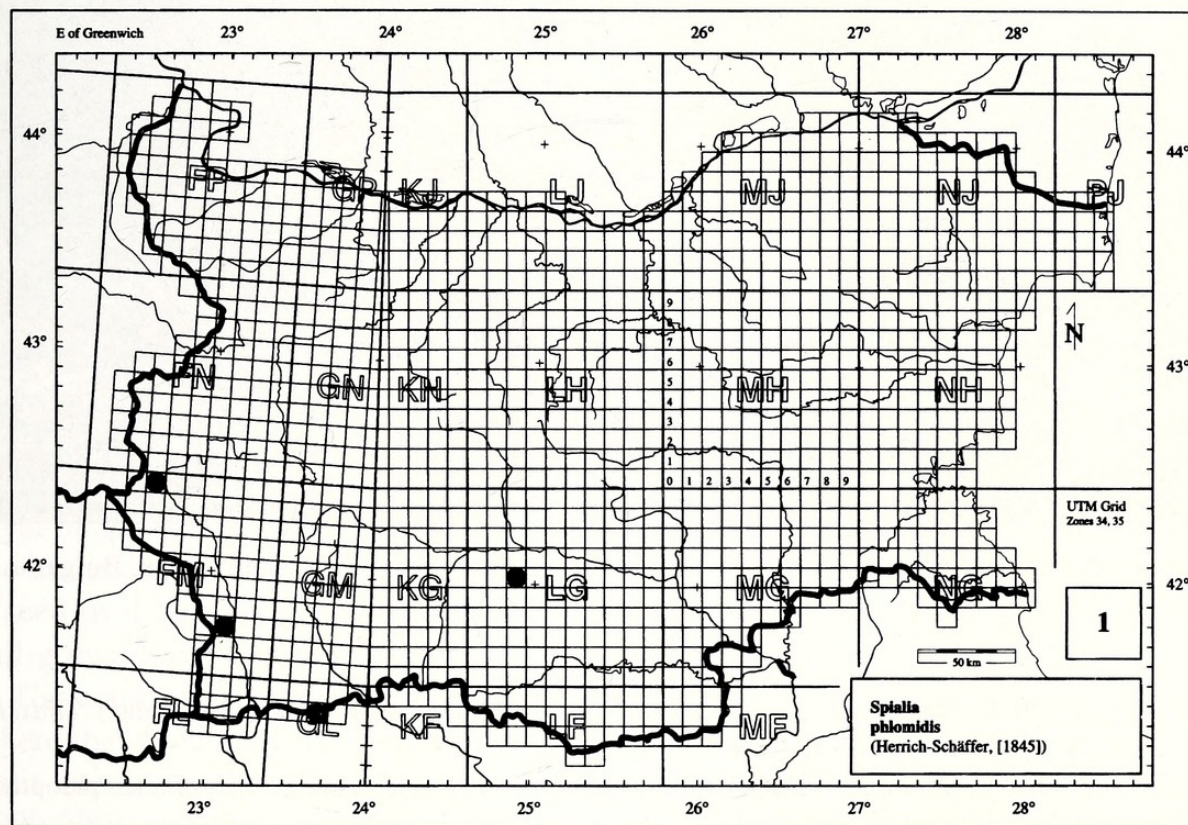
## SIGNIFICANT RANGE EXTENSION OF *SPIALIA PHLOMIDIS* (H.-S.) IN BULGARIA (LEP.: HESPERIIDAE)

STANISLAV ABADJIEV

*Institute of Zoology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 1, Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria.*

*E-mail: abadjiev@mac.com*

The Persian Skipper *Spialia phlomidis* (Herrich-Schäffer, [1845]) is considered great rarity in Bulgaria. It was reported for the first time by de Jong (1978: 52), mentioning material from Rhodopi: Asenovgrad. Three years later Krzywicki (1981: 45) recorded it from the Struma River Valley, Kresna. In 1993, a third locality was found, Mt Slavyanka, Hambar Dere (Kolev, 1994: 152). Adding the above, Kolev expressed the opinion that in the previously reported localities the species occurrence is doubtful.



**Figure 1.** UTM map showing the distribution of *Spialia phlomidis* in Bulgaria: Struma River Valley: 34TFM39: Zemen Gorge: Skakavitsa: 15—16.VI.2000: S. Abadjiev & V. Tuzov leg. (collections S. Abadjiev, S. Beshkov and National Museum of Natural History, Sofia; V. Tuzov, Moscow), 34TFM72: Kresna: 15.VII.1974: M. Krzywicki leg. (Krzywicki, 1981: 45); Slavyanka: 34TGL28: Hambar Dere: 1600 m: 11.VII.1993: Z. Kolev leg. et coll. (Kolev, 1994: 152, 153: Fig. 1); Rhodopi: 35TLG25: Asenovgrad: [350 m] (Zoologische Staatssammlung, München) (de Jong, 1978: 52).

In the middle of June 2000, during a trip accompanied by my friend and colleague Vasily Tuzov (Moscow, Russia), a new colony of the species was encountered in



Zemen Gorge, Skakavitsa. The discovery of *Spialia phlomidis* here represents a significant extension of the known range of the species. All the specimens collected here have been found flying in a dry calcareous river bed (Fig. 2). The first date of collection, 15 June, also extends its flight period; all the previous records have been from July (11, 15) (Krzywicki, 1981: 45, Kolev, 1994: 152). Natural hostplants and early stages still remain unrecorded in Europe (Tolman & Lewington, 1997: 266).



**Figure 2.** Habitat of *Spialia phlomidis* (H.-S.) in the Struma Valley, Zemen Gorge, Bulgaria.

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