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## Address of the authors:

- N. A. Kormilev, Ing. Agr., Research Associate in Entomology at the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii and Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Los Angeles, California, 102-34, 93rd Ave. Richmond Hill, New York 11418, USA.
- Dipl. Ing. Ernst Heiss, A-6020 Innsbruck, Pradlerstraße 51, Austria.

*Zygaena (Zygaena) viciae* Dennis & Schiffermüller in Asia Minor (Lep., Zygaenidae):  
Description of a New Subspecies\*

By HUGO REISS AND GÜNTHER REISS

The widely distributed *Zygaena viciae* Denis & Schiffermüller, typical from the Vienna region, in Austria, was formerly known under the name *meliloti* Esper, which is now used to represent the subspecies from central and southern Germany, typical from Erlangen, Franconia.

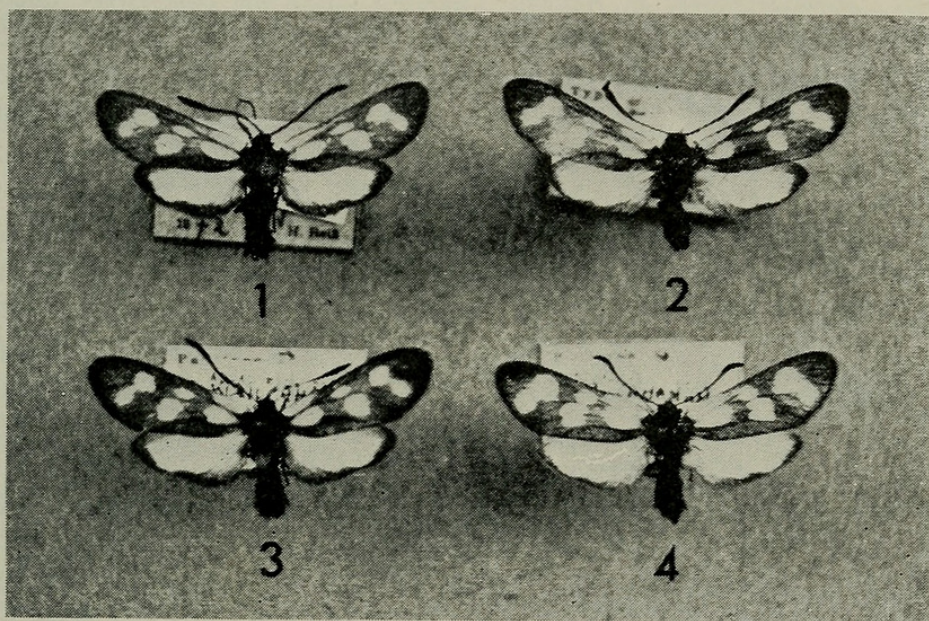
Holik & Sheljuzhko (1957) have established that the records of *Zygaena* quoted as *laphria* from the localities Achalzich (Chambobel) 1910, Kulp and Kasikoparan 1901 are incorrect. *Zygaena laphria* Freyer, described from the Caucasus, cannot be identified with certainty. In the systematic catalogue of Reiss & Tremewan (1967) the name *laphria* Freyer is therefore placed as a nomen dubium.

According to the most recently collected material it is assumed that in Asia Minor, from Armenia westwards, the

\*The order follows the systematic catalogue of Reiss & Tremewan (1967).



## PLATE XI



- Fig. 1. *Zygaena viciae rassei* n. ssp. Holotype ♂, wingspan 28 mm  
Fig. 2. *Z. viciae rassei* n. ssp. Allotype ♀, wingspan 30 mm  
Fig. 3. *Z. viciae rassei* n. ssp. Paratype ♂, wingspan 29 mm.  
Fig. 4. *Z. viciae rassei* n. ssp. Paratype ♀, wingspan 30 mm.







almost always five-spotted and mostly red-girdled *viciae* predominate over the six-spotted races which rarely have a red abdominal belt or girdle, the latter until recently being known under the species name *laphria* Herrich-Schäffer. Here, *laphria* Herrich-Schäffer (1851/1852) from Amasia and *philomelica* Reiss (1935) from Ak-Sehir are treated as subspecies of *Zygaena viciae*. Biological studies must now follow. Six-spotted races of *viciae* also occur in the southern Alps and in Italy southwards to Sicily. Of special mention here is the ssp. *sicula* Calberla (1895) from Mistretta, 1000 m, Sicily, because it has a similar spot formation to the above mentioned races from Asia Minor. Calberla had already noted this similarity.

Unfortunately the types of *laphria* Herrich-Schäffer from Amasia cannot be found. Reiss & Tremewan (1960) figure 1 ♀ from Amasia, ex coll. Zeller. Holik & Sheljuzhko (1957) described 3 ♂♂ 5 ♀♀ from Tokat, leg. Kindermann and 3 ♀♀ from Ak Dagħ near Amasia, leg. Staudinger, ex coll. Staudinger. In coll. Reiss are found 1 ♂, labelled Amasia, and 5 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀ paratypes of *philomelica* Reiss.

D. & K. Bernhauer gave us 2 ♀♀, labelled N. Turkey, Köse near Erzincan, 1800 m, 18.8.1968. These specimens are very worn and are only of value for their locality data. Spot 6 of the forewing is joined to spot 5; the abdomen is without the girdle or belt.

From Kizilcahaman, north-west of Ankara, 1300-1500 m, we have 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀, 7.1970, leg. Rasse and 14 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀, 15, 16, 18.7.1971, leg. Rasse. These specimens differ from all described races from Asia Minor. Wingspan: 1 ♂ 25 mm, 2 ♂♂ 26 mm, 5 ♂♂ 27 mm, 4 ♂♂ 28 mm, 2 ♂♂ 29 mm, 1 ♂ 30 mm; 1 ♀ 27 mm, 4 ♀♀ 29 mm, 3 ♀♀ 30 mm, 1 ♀ 31 mm, 1 ♀ 32 mm. The dark ground colour of the thorax and abdomen, and the antennae and the legs, is glossy blue-black. The hairs of the thorax and abdomen are short. The antennae of the ♀ are more lightly clubbed than in the ♂ and run to a sharp point. The wing shape is mostly pointed. The dark ground colour of the forewings shows a light blue or bluish green gloss or sheen. Forewing fringes blue-black. The red coloration of the 6 forewing spots and the hindwings is somewhat light, bright carmine red. Spots 1 and 2 are confluent, but may be sometimes separated by the dark vein. Spot 3 is small, usually elongate or in the form of a small short streak. The variably quadrangular spot 4 is larger than spot 3, from which it is separated by the dark ground colour. Only in 2 ♂♂ and 2 ♀♀ are the enlarged spots 3 and 4 closely adjacent to each other. Spot 5 is smaller than spot 4, and is usually ovoid in shape. The small spot 6, which in no specimen is absent, is isolated in 7 ♂♂ and 1 ♀, is narrowly connected to spot 5 in 6 ♂♂ and 7 ♀♀, and is broadly connected only in 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. The blue-black hindwing border is broad at the apex and the tornus. From the tornus along the inner margin the wing is suffused with





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