

NOTE ON THE AUTHORSHIP OF THE NORTH AFRICAN
SATYRID BUTTERFLY *BERBERIA ABDELKADER AB. SERRATA*
(LEPIDOPTERA: SATYRIDAE) AS AN EXAMPLE OF
NOMENCLATORIC CONFUSION

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AN ABERRATIVE FORM is only of little taxonomic value and therefore does not officially rectify a formally accepted authorship. Nonetheless, the nomenclature (and the true authorship) of this particular aberration is of general interest, since it provides some information about what is true confusion in lepidopterology.

In his well-illustrated, comprehensive and extremely remarkable revision on North African subspecies and individual forms of the satyrid butterfly *Berberia abdelkader* (Pierret), Tennent (1994) points out, that *B. a. ab. serrata* was – by all late authors to that date – thought to be described and therewith authored by Austaut in 1895 – *ie* to be cited as “*B. a. ab. serrata* (Austaut)” – although Austaut did apparently not publish any article on satyrids that year but was concerned solely with Tibetan Parnassiinae (Tennent, 1994) and therefore can under no circumstances officially be considered the original author. The first reliable reference on *ab. serrata* that Tennent (1994) could find was a note by Rühl (1895), who himself confusingly regarded Austaut to be the original author. With that, Tennent consequently considered *ab. serrata* to be due to Rühl rather than to Austaut – *ie*: “*B. a. ab. serrata* (Rühl)”.

As mentioned by Tennent, the topic is considerably complicated by the fact that Rühl died without having finished his masterpiece of published work. Indeed, Rühl's note on *B. a. ab. serrata* occurs on page 822 of his work and in a section of the publication which was actually edited, written and therefore has formally regarded to be authored by Heyne (Hemming, 1931). With that, it is Heyne who has to be stated to be the original author. The particular butterfly therefore is: “*Berberia abdelkader ab. serrata* (Heyne)”.

Whilst Heyne has formally to be regarded as the nominate author to date, it nevertheless was Rühl or Austaut who practically described the mentioned aberration. Since Rühl himself was convinced that Austaut had at that time already described the form, two possibilities of the virtually – but not formally – true authorship arise: either Rühl did not properly evaluate his literature and tentatively described a new butterfly he mistakenly placed among Austaut's previous descriptions, or Rühl referred to a butterfly that had in fact been previously described by Austaut, the basic reference being lost.

Fortunately, this particular problem only touches the authorship of an individual aberration that, according to the given nomenclature rules, may be

be cited without giving the name of the author and did not even suffer from changing its individual name at all. Unfortunately, such nomenclatoric inconsistencies may have happened on species-group levels and possibly may have generated new species names.

References

- Hemming, A.F., 1931. On the dates of publication of F. Rühl's "Die palaearktischen Großschmetterlinge und ihre Naturgeschichte". *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* **10**: 405-406.
- Rühl, F., 1892-1893/95*. *Die palaearktischen Großschmetterlinge und ihre Naturgeschichte*, Band 1. Heyne, A. ed., E. Heyne, Leipzig.
- Tennent, J., 1994. The *Berberia abdelkader* (Pierret, 1837) enigma; a review of named forms; comments; a solution offered (Lepidoptera: Satyridae). *Nota lepid.* **16**: 295-320.
- * "Band 1" of the entire series covers the "Tagfalter" (butterflies), "Band 2" the "Nachfalter" (moths, not completed). Rühl himself seems to have authored and edited pages 1-384 and therefore the "Lieferungen" (parts) 1-7 of the first volume (1892-1893). A. Heyne edited the concluding parts 8-16 (pages 385-847) of the same volume (1893/94-1895). Volume 2 was authored and edited by M. Bartel (all together 7 "Lieferungen", the last having been published in 1902, comprising some 340 pages).

New species of lepidoptera to the Isle of Wight

On 12th July 1994 Peter Cramp took an example of *Mythimna pudorina* (D.&S.) at his mercury vapour light trap at his home at Godshill. This is the first time that species has been taken on the island.

On 5th August 1994 I took an example of *Scopula nigropunctata* (Hufn.) in my moth trap at Freshwater. There was considerable migrant activity at the time and I expect that this specimen was an immigrant. This species is both new to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and is the furthest west that it has ever been taken in the British Isles.

I give below a list of micro-lepidoptera recorded in recent years which are new vice-county records:

Gymnancyla canella (D.&S.). St. Helens, 26.vii.94 in the presence of Peter Cramp and Brian Warne.

Dichomeris marginella (Fabr.). Freshwater, 8.vii.89.

Lathronympha strigana (Fabr.). Freshwater, 23.vi.92.

Blastesthia turionella (Linn.). Freshwater, 25.v.91.

Aphelia viburnana (D.&S.). Freshwater, 3. & 5.vii.93.

Aphelia paleana (Hb.) Freshwater, 9.vii.94.

I should also like to mention the capture of *Selenia lunularia* (Hb.) by Brian J. Warne in his light trap at Binstead. This is only the second record for the Isle of Wight with the first being taken at Shalfleet in 1911. It was also taken on 2nd August 1994 and so must be an example of a second brood. It was smaller in size than average with a wing expanse of only 30mm. I should like to thank my brother Dr R.P. Knill-Jones for identifying some of the micro-lepidoptera mentioned above.— S.A. KNILL-JONES, Roundstone, 2 School Green Road, Freshwater, Isle of Wight.



Anken, Ralf H. 1995. "Note on the authorship of the North African satyrid butterfly *Berberia abdelkader* ab. *serrata* (Lepidoptera: Satyridae) as an example of nomenclatoric confusion." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 107, 75–76.

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