

WHAT IS *COENONYMPHA TIANSHANICA* CHOU, YUAN & ZHANG, 2001 (NYMPHALIDAE: SATYRINAE)?

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The article establishes a new synonym: *Coenonympha tianshanica* Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001 = *Erebia haberhaueri circe* Churkin, 2005 **syn. nov.**, new combinations and the status *Erebia haberhaueri tianshanica* (Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001) **comb. nov. & stat. nov.** The species *E. haberhaueri* Staudinger, 1881 is reported for the fauna of China for the first time.

Key words: fauna, Lepidoptera, Satyrinae, China, new synonym, *Coenonympha tianshanica*, *Erebia haberhaueri*.

INTRODUCTION

Chou et al. (2001) described several new species including *Coenonympha tianshanica* Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001 (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae). The holotype is stored in the Entomological Museum, Northwest Sci-Tech University of Agriculture and Forestry (Yangling, Shaanxi, China). Critical comments on this work establishing new synonymy were published by several specialists: Eckweiler & Bozano (2011) and Yakovlev (2016). The image of the holotype *Coenonympha tianshanica* Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001 graciously provided by Dr. Yuan Xiangqun helped to clarify the status of this taxon.

RESULTS

Chou et al. (2001) described *Coenonympha tianshanica* Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001 from Karamay (Xinjiang Autonomous Region) by the series of two males. The photos of the holotype (Figures 1–2) allowed to understand exactly that *Coenonympha tianshanica* Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001 actually belongs to the genus *Erebia* Dalman, 1816, and what is more, to *Erebia maurisius* complex. So, it is *Erebia tianshanica* (Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001) **comb. nov.**

Churkin (2005) made a detailed revision of *Erebia maurisius* complex, where he included *E. maurisius* (Esper, [1803]), *E. haberhaueri* Staudinger, 1881 and *E. tsengelensis* Suwa, Hirano & Hirano, 2002. This article describes two subspecies: *E. haberhaueri circe* Churkin, 2005 and *E. tsengelensis alag* Churkin, 2005. Churkin established that a typical habitat for the nominotypical subspecies *E. haberhaueri* Staudinger, 1881 is the Saur Ridge (E. Kazakhstan), and for the population of Tarbagatai vill. distinctive by their small size of adults and by the wings pattern details, *E. haberhaueri circe* Churkin, 2005 was described (Type locality – Eastern Kazakhstan, Tarbagatai, pass upper Alexeevka vill.).

It is obvious that in the immediate vicinity of Karamay (located in the Dzhungarian Gobi) no species of the genus *Erebia* could be collected (Yakovlev, 2016). However it can be met in 90–110 km to the North of Karamay in the Chinese portion of Tarbagatai, where *E. haberhaueri* Staudinger, 1881 is known from the Kazakhstan portion of Saur and Tarbagatai (Rubin & Yakovlev, 2013).

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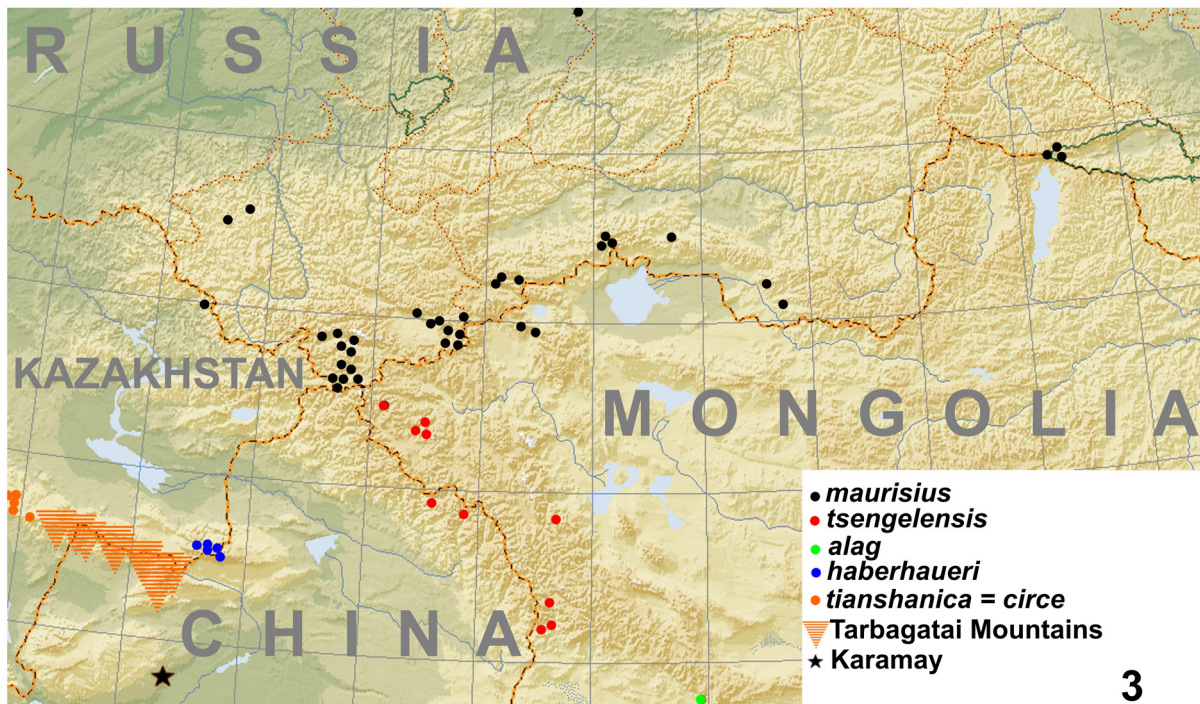
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Thus, on the basis of the taxa distribution data (Churkin, 2005; Yakovlev, 2007, 2011; Tshikolovets et al., 2002, 2009 a, b; Rubin & Yakovlev, 2013), concerning *Erebia maurisius* complex (Figure 3), *Erebia tianshanica* (Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001) **comb. nov.** = *Erebia haberhaueri circe* Churkin, 2005 **syn. nov.** Consequently, the taxon *tianshanica* (Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001) represents a Tarbagatai subspecies of *E. haberhaueri* Staudinger, 1881, i.e. *E. haberhaueri tianshanica* (Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001), **stat. nov.**

In addition it should be mentioned that the spelling *tianshanica* (Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001) is different from the spelling *tianschanica* Heyne, 1894 – a species widespread in the mountains of the Dzhungarian Alatau (Kazakhstan) (Tennent, 2008).

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Figures 1–3. 1. *Coenonympha tianshanica* Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001, holotype, upperside; 2. *Coenonympha tianshanica* Chou, Yuan & Zhang, 2001, holotype, underside; 3. Map of distribution of *Erebia maurisius* complex.

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