

Eratophyes amasiella (Herrich-Schäffer) comb. nov., a senior synonym of *E. aleatrix* Diakonoff (Lepidoptera: Oecophoridae)

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DIAKONOFF, A. & E. J. VAN NIEUKERKEN, 1987. *ERATOPHYES AMASIELLA* (HERRICH-SCHÄFFER) COMB. NOV., A SENIOR SYNONYM OF *E. ALEATRIX* DIAKONOFF (LEPIDOPTERA: OECOPHORIDAE). – *ENT. BER., AMST.* 47(7): 103-104.

Abstract: *Eratophyes aleatrix* Diakonoff, 1975, hitherto only known from The Netherlands, is synonymised with *Lampros amasiella* Herrich-Schäffer, 1854, described from Anatolia.

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Introduction

The fauna of Microlepidoptera from Western Europe is probably the best known in the world; undescribed species are only rarely found. Therefore every species, candidate for a new description, should be met with due suspicion.

When eleven years ago the senior author failed to identify a small conspicuously maculate oecophorid, netted at a roadside in the heart of The Netherlands, he did not take risks, but sent a photograph and description to colleagues in several larger European museums, in order to get it named. However, since nobody could identify it, finally it was described as a new species in a new genus: *Eratophyes aleatrix* Diakonoff, 1975. Later, the species was reared from decaying birch logs, and the female described (Diakonoff & Lefeber, 1980). Until recently *E. aleatrix* was found in considerable numbers in several localities in The Netherlands (Wolschrijn, 1981; Huisman et al., 1986), but nowhere else. However, recently the species was recorded also from Turkey (Koçak, 1986).

Early in 1986, our Finnish colleague Dr. Jorma Kyrki told us that he had recognized *E. aleatrix* under another name in the collection of the Vienna Museum, and one week later the junior author was able to

confirm this: the single specimen labelled *Borkhausenia amasiella* (Herrich-Schäffer) in that museum appears indeed to be conspecific with *aleatrix*. Subsequently he dissected this specimen and studied the holotype, so that the synonymy presented here could be confirmed.

Eratophyes amasiella (Herrich-Schäffer) comb. n.

[No genus] *amasiella* Herrich-Schäffer, 1852: pl. 54, fig. 379. [Nomenclatorially unavailable].

Lampros amasiella Herrich-Schäffer, 1854: 135. Holotype ♂, labelled: "Amasia [Anatolia], Coll. Led[erer], Origin [pink label]" [abdomen missing] (Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt Universität, Berlin, East Germany) (examined).

Oecophora amasiella; Staudinger, 1880: 194.

Eratophyes aleatrix Diakonoff, 1975: 187-189, figs. 1, 2. Holotype ♂, Netherlands: Prov. Gelderland, Elden, 5.v.1973, A. Cox, Genitalia slide 9405 (Coll. A. Cox) (examined). Syn. n.

Eratophyes aleatrix; Diakonoff & Lefeber, 1980: 38-40 (description female, biology); Wolschrijn, 1981: 111; Koçak, 1986: 52-54; Huisman et al., 1986: 146.

Remarks

E. amasiella was described from a single specimen, collected in Asia minor. The holotype is rather worn (fig. 1), and lacks abdomen and palpi, but there is no doubt that



Fig. 1. *Eratophyes amasiella* (Herrich-Schäffer), holotype ♂ from Amasia, Anatolia (Coll. Staudinger, Berlin).

it is conspecific with *aleatrix*. The description is short, but clear, as is the figure on plate 54. Thus they are probably overlooked previously. Also Staudinger (1880) only knew the holotype: "von dieser prachtigen Art ist nur das eine H.S., schlecht erhaltene Original (in meiner Sammlung) bekannt, das Kindermann bei Amasia (oder bei Tokat?) fand". However, there is at least one other specimen from the type-locality, the male in Vienna, labelled: "Amasia, 177 [green label], ex. coll. Epphsh. ... [illegible], Genitalia slide ♂, E. J. van Nieukerken 2536". This specimen, which does not belong to the type-series, is in good condition, and examination of the genitalia showed it to be completely similar to the Dutch material.

The recent record by Koçak (1986) shows, that the species does still occur in Anatolia, and probably is indigenous in that region. Its abundant, isolated occurrence in The Netherlands remains a mystery, since it is very unlikely that such a conspicuous species is overlooked in all other European countries. We must therefore tentatively assume that the species was once accidentally introduced in The Netherlands, most likely as caterpillar or pupa, with logs.

E. amasiella has been described in detail

and fully illustrated by Diakonoff (1975) and Diakonoff & Lefebber (1980).

Pending a generic revision of the *Borkhausenia* group of genera, we tentatively retain *E. amasiella* in the monotypic genus *Eratophyes* Diakonoff.

Acknowledgments

We are indebted to our colleagues Prof. Dr. H. J. Hannemann (Berlin) and Dr. F. Kasy (Wien) for lending us the specimens mentioned. We wish to thank also Dr. J. Kyrki (Rovaniemi) – we recently received the tragic news of his sudden death in November, 1986 – for drawing our attention to the Viennese specimen. Drs. D. Koopman (University of Leiden) is gratefully acknowledged for the translation of Koçak's paper.

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Accepted 11.xi.1986.