

## Comments on two new subspecies of *Allancastria cerisyi* Godart from Anatolia (Lep.: Papilionidae)

by

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### ABSTRACT

Critical comments are given on two subspecies *Allancastria cerisyi lycaoniae* and *A. cerisyi mysiensis* described by Eisner & Wagener, 1974. *A. cerisyi lycaoniae* is, at most, a form of *A. deyrollei eisneri* Bernardi, 1970 and *A. cerisyi mysiensis* is a junior synonym of *A. cerisyi cerisyi* Godart, 1822. The need of a revision of the genus *Allancastria* is emphasized.

In a recent article Eisner & Wagener (1974) published two new subspecies of *Allancastria cerisyi* Godart, 1822 from the western parts of Anatolia, an area which is poorly researched entomologically. I have earlier, based on a careful review of the species by Bernardi (1970), established that two distinct species fly sympatrically in Lebanon and northern Israel (Larsen, 1973). In my monograph on the butterflies of Lebanon (Larsen, 1974) the two specific entities to which the Lebanese forms are related were identified as *cerisyi* and *deyrollei* Oberthür, 1869. A later paper (Larsen, 1975) established that the two species were sympatric also in the Cilician Taurus of East Turkey and that the early stages differed considerably.

*A. cerisyi* and *A. deyrollei* are distinguished by numerous structural and morphological characteristics and there is no doubt that each represents a well defined specific entity. For the present purposes it may suffice to say that *cerisyi* and its subspecies are immediately recognisable by the presence of blue spots in the marginal area of the upperside of the hind wings, though in lightly marked specimens a microscope may be necessary to spot the blue scales in males. The genitalia of the *caucasica* group (Bernardi, 1970, Larsen, 1973) have not been studied and the complex may represent a further species but the presence of blue spots indicates an affinity to *cerisyi*. The status of the *caucasica* group need not concern us here.

It is obvious that the new subspecies *lycaoniae* Eisner & Wagener, 1974, which flies in the mountains of western Turkey (Type locality, Aksehir), belongs to *A. deyrollei* rather than to *cerisyi*. It is therefore pointless to define it in relation to *speciosa* Stichel, 1907, which is a valid subspecies of *cerisyi*, flying in SE Turkey and the Levant at low altitudes. The relevant comparison is with nominate *deyrollei* from northern Anatolia or with its ssp. *eisneri* Bernardi, 1970 (Type locality, Aintab (Gaziantep) which is not discussed at all by Eisner and Wagener. Although it may contain features linking it with *deyrollei*, the photo and description of *lycaoniae* hardly differ from *eisneri*, known to occur in Cappadocia somewhat west of the type locality of *lycaoniae*. At best the new name is applicable to a form of no taxonomic value, but for reasons given below even this is doubtful. I therefore, regrettably, have no hesitation in sinking *lycaoniae* as a junior subjective synonym of *A. deyrollei eisneri*, a subspecies named in honour of Dr. Eisner.

The other new subspecies, *mysiensis* Eisner & Wagener, which flies in the lowlands NE of Bergama (Pergamon) (Type locality, 12 km W of Balikesir, 39° 38' N 27° 52' E), is clearly correctly associated with *cerisyi*, described from coastal areas of the same district. I have taken nominate *cerisyi* not very far from where *mysiensis* was found. The only difference between the new subspecies and the nominate form is the fact that the female has its black spots somewhat powdered with scales of the ground colour, but this occurs in other populations of both *cerisyi* and *deyrollei*. At best *mysiensis* may be considered a form of no taxonomic rank and I propose to sink it as a junior subjective synonym of nominate *cerisyi*. It should be noted that the same general area produces occasional specimens which are close to European ssp. *ferdinandi* Stichel, 1907 as well.

As long as we are hardly able to discriminate between *A. c. cerisyi* and its subspecies *speciosa*, or between *A. d. deyrollei* and its subspecies *eisneri* in Turkey and while the distributional frontiers are unknown, the creation of new subspecies on the basis of small series not compared with the

most relevant neighbouring subspecies appears somewhat less than helpful, though this is not the main reason for sinking the two names in question. Furthermore, very little material from western Turkey is available and we must expect transitional forms between known subspecies to occur without the need for further taxonomic units.

It is equally important to consider the wide variation displayed by populations of *Allancastria*. I have become intimately aware of this during my personal field experience with *speciosa* and especially *deyrollei* over the last five seasons. The variation concerns size, the tone of the yellow ground colour, the extent of black markings, the size of red spots and even the form and size of the tails. Females are particularly prone to variation which is of some importance as the two new entities have female holotypes and are mainly defined through the female sex. There is much individual variation of a random nature, probably ecologically determined, but some localised colonies tend to show the same peculiar traits year after year which implies the presence of a special gene. Small series from a single locality in one year may be entirely unrepresentative of the whole population. Indeed, I have at least six individual series from Lebanon which, had they been studied in isolation, could have led to the creation of unnecessary names.

A further subspecies of *cerisyi* was described in 1975, namely ssp. *abanti* Koçak, 1975. It is allied to the *caucasica* group and flies at Lake Abant in the Bolu Province. I am not well acquainted with this complex, but paratypes in coll. Wyatt indicate that this westernmost representative of the complex is fairly constant and well characterised. More material from intervening areas of northern Turkey is necessary before its full subspecific status can be recognised.

*Allancastria* is a genus much in need of a thorough revision which will undoubtedly be handsomely repaid by shedding light on the zoogeography of the region and the entire process of speciation in butterflies. The existence of three well defined island races of *cerisyi* makes work of this nature particularly promising. However, such a study must view the group in its taxonomic and geographic totality. The creation of new entities in disregard of zoogeographic considerations is a source of confusion rather than enlightenment.

Finally it should be noted that Ackery (1975) adopted the name *Parnalius* Rafinesque-Schmalz, 1815 for the species currently included in *Allancastria* and *Zerynthia*. Arguably the four species in question (*polyxena*, *rumina*, *cerisyi* and *deyrollei*) could be considered congeneric, though I do not support this view. However, resurrection of the name *Parnalius*, which has hardly ever been used and was proposed in an obscure publication probably never published in the sense accepted by the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature, is regrettable and a formal application for its inclusion on the list of rejected names would be welcomed. It may also be mentioned that the genitalia figured by Ackery pertain to *A. deyrollei* and not to *A. cerisyi speciosa* as stated.

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POSTSCRIPT. Since the manuscript went to press I have learnt that a formal application for the suppression of *Parnalius* has in fact been made (Riley & Higgins (1974), *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 31: 204—5). Some confusion has arisen over the fact that Hemming (1967, *Bull. br. Mus. Nat. Hist.* (Ent.) Suppl. 9: 1—509) appears to imply that the name *Allancastris* is invalid. This is due to a typographical error. As originally published in 1932 the name was indeed invalid, but *Allancastris* Bryk 1934 is perfectly valid and available.

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VESPA CRABRO LINNAEUS (HYMENOPTERA, VESPIDAE). In tegenstelling tot de twee voorgaande jaren, kwamen in 1975 geen hoornaarwespen terecht in mijn vlinderval te Posterholt (opgesteld in de bossen van het kasteel „Aerwinkel”).

Op een andere plaats in deze bossen werden op 27.VII vier *crabro*'s gevangen. Ze ploften vlak achter elkaar op het laken, direct nadat de lamp was ingeschakeld. Later op de avond werd de wesp niet meer gezien; *crabro* schijnt vooral in de schemering actief te zijn!

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