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Hairstreaks, Coppers and Blues from Mongolia

(Lep., Lycaenidae) by ZSOLT BALINT

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Abstract

The present work contains a list of the Lycaenidae collected in Mongolia in 1986 and the description of two new taxa: Lycaeides argyrognomon gabrieli and Lycaeides cleobis boreas (subspec. n.)

A modern systematic list of the Lycaenidae hitherto known from Mongolia with some systematic corrections is presented.

Introduction

Four Hungarian lepidopterists have collected in Mongolia in the summer of 1986. From their month-long expedition they brought back about 20.000 Macrolepidoptera and almost the same quantity of Microlepidoptera. On examination of the material taken, some new taxa have already been found and described (BALINT, 1987b; RONKAY, 1987a and 1987b; RONKAY, 8 RONKAY, 1986 & 1987; VARGA & RONKAY, 1987).

The present work consists of three parts in which the Lycaenidae material of the above mentioned expedition is studied. In the first part two new subspecies are described, the second part gives a systematic list of all hitherto known Lycaenidae from Mongolia as a revised draft of one of my earlier publications (BALINT, 1987a). The third part treats all collected hairstreaks, coppers and blues, together with a locality list.

I wish to express my gratitude to my wife ANNAMARIA KERTESZ and Mr. H. FALKENHAHN for their help in the preparation of the English manuscript, and to the collectors (GYÖRGY FABIAN, MARTON HREBLAY, LASZLO PEREGOVITS and GABOR RONKAY) for allowing me to study their material.

I am also thankful to LASZLO PEREGOVITS and ANDRAS VOJNITS for the photos of the types and to my colleagues ESZTER ACS and LASZLO RONKAY for the preparation of some genitalia slides.

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1. Taxonomical Part

1.1 Plebeius (Lycaeides) argyrognomon gabrieli subspec. n. (figs. 1-4) Diagnosis

Length of forewing of Holotype σ : 14,8 mm; Allotype τ : 15.00 mm; extreme values on males: 14.0 and 15,1 (based on 36 τ 0 specimens), those of females: 14,1 and 15,0 (based on 4 τ 0 specimens).

Upperside ground colour of male clear bright blue with silvery blue scales near costal veins of forewing. End of veins black, black border narrow. Fringes white with black hairs at veins-end.

Underside ground colour light cool grey with slight suffusion of silvery green scales at the base. Velvety black basally, discoidal and postdiscal spots of wings white ringed, black v-marks gently curved towards pale and narrow orange submarginal lunules, scarcely visible arrow-head markings between postdiscal spots and submarginal band. Marginal area white with large metallic blue pupils in each cell. End of veins black. Genitalia (fig. 17) similar to other described Sibirian and Central Asian taxa (FORSTER,1936).

Upperside ground colour of female greyish brown with large suffusion of deep violet scales on forewing basal and hindwing basal and anal areas. Submarginal markings of both wings prominent. Fringes brownish white. Underside as in male, but ground colour with brownish shade and larger, more extensive markings.

Subspecific Characters. We can separate the new taxon from the related Mongolian subspecies by the paler orange submarginal lunules and the row fo the antemarginal metallic pupils of the hindwing underside.

Type Locality. Mongolia, Gurvan Sayhan uul Mountain (Govi Altay), valley Yulin am.

Type Data. Holotype ♂, Allotype ♀ and 29 ♂♂ and 3 ♀♀ Paratypes with same labels: "Mongolia, Ömnögovi aimak, Govi Altay, Mts. Gurvan Sayhan uul, valley Yulin am, 2350 m, 104°03′E 43°26′N; 22.VII.1986, exp. GY. FABIAN, M. HREBLAY, L. PEREGOVITS, G. RONKAY" and 7 ♂ and 1 ♀ Paratypes with label "Mongolia, Ömnögovi aimak, Govi Altay, Mts. Gurvan Sayhan uul, valley Alyut am, 2400 m, 103°55′E, 43°30′N; 24.VII.1986, exp. GY. FABIAN, M. HREBLAY, L. PEREGOVITS, G. RONKAY".

Type-material deposited in the Lepidoptera collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest.

Note. The Gurvan Sayhan uul Mountain is very interesting from a lepidopterologic point of view. It is isolated by deserts and semideserts and, consequently, whilst studying the material from there, it became evident, that a lot of new species and subspecies were discovered and had to be described.

Etymology. I dedicate the new subspecies to my boyhood-friend GABOR (GABRIEL) RONKAY, who participated in the Mongolian expedition and has collected several type specimens.

Examined Material (Lycaeides argyrognomon mongolica GR. GR)

1.2 Plebeius (Lycaeides) cleobis **boreas** subspec. n. (figs. 5-8) Diagnosis

Length of forewing of Holotype δ : 13,5 mm; Allotype \mathfrak{P} ; 13,3 mm; Paratype δ : 13,0 mm; Paratypes 3 \mathfrak{P} : 13,0 (2 specimens) and 13,3 mm.

Upperside ground colour of male greyish brown with scattered blue scales at wing-base and along forewing-costa. Fringes chalk white with brownish hairs at veins-end. Underside ground colour silvery green with brownish shade on forewing. Discoidal and postdiscal spots blackish, large and ringed with dirty-white colour. Submarginal orange lunules pale and vestigial, v-marks small, antemarginal spots suffused on forewing. Forewing marginal part dirty grey. Hindwing ground colour somewhat paler, basal area finely suffused with silvery blue scales. Basal, discoidal and postdiscal spots velvety black, rings whitish. Scarcely visible white arrow-head markings between postdiscal spots and submarginal lunules. Submarginal band narrow, pale orange coloured with small roundish cap-spots. Each antemarginal spot with large blue metallic pupil. Marginal part of hindwing dirty grey. Genitalia (figs. 18) similar to other described Sibirian and Central Asian taxa (FORSTER, 1936).

Female as male, but upperside ground colour browner and with suffused submarginal markings. Underside ground colour brown, all markings larger and much more extensive.

Subspecific characters. The new subspecies is smaller than ssp. ida GR. GR. and has a browner underside and upperside ground colour in both sexes. The submarginal markings of the female upperside are also pale and vestigial. The metallic pupils of the antemarginal part of hindwing are larger as in ssp. ida GR. GR.

Type Locality. Mongolia, Gurvan Sayhan uul Mountain (Govi Altay), valley Yulin am.

Type Data. Holotype δ , Allotype Ω and Paratypes (1 δ and 3 Ω) with same labels: "Mongolia, Ömnögovi aimak, Govi Altay, Mts. Gurvan Sayhan uul, valley Yulin am 2350 m, 104°03′E 43°26′N; 22.VII.1986, exp. GY. FABIAN, M. HREBLAY,

L. PEREGOVITS, G. RONKAY".

Type-material deposited in the Lepidoptera collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest.

Etymology. Boreas the name of the Northern wind in the Greek mythology; referring to the stormy Sibirian winds.

Examined Material (Lycaeides cleobis ida GR. GR)

Bulgan aimak: 1 σ ; Chösvsgöl aimak: 4 σ and 1 σ ; Uburchangaj aimak: 32 σ and 1 σ ; Archangaj aimak: 6 σ and 4 σ ; Central (Töv) aimak: 43 σ and 26 σ ; Zavchan aimak: 11 σ and 2 σ ; Govi Altaj aimak: 1 σ and 1 σ ; Uvs aimak: 2 σ and 2 σ 0 (collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest).

2. Revised Systematic List of Mongolian Lycaenidae

Subfamily Theclinae SWAINSON, 1831

Tribe Theclini SWAINSON, 1831

genus Thecla FABR., 1807

betulae crassa LEECH, 1894

Tribe Aphnaeini SWINHOE, 1912 genus Apharitis RILEY, 1925

epargyros EN., 1854

Tribe Eumaeini DOUBLEDAY, 1847

genus Neolycaena DE NICEVILLE, 1890

subgenus Neolycaena DE NICEVILLE, 1890

davidi OBTH., 1881

subgenus Rhymnaria ZHDANKO, 1983

rhymnus EV., 1832

genus Strymonidia TUTT, 1908

rubicundula LEECH, 1855

prunoides STAUD., 1887

eximius FIXS., 1887

genus Callophrys BILLBERG, 1820

subgenus Callophrys BILLBERG, 1820

rubi sibirica HEYNE, 1895

subgenus Ginzia OKAHO, 1907

frivaldszkyi LED., 1855

Subfamily Lycaeninae LEECH, 1815 genus Lycaena FABR., 1807

phlaeas hyperborea FORD, 1923 helle phintonis FRUHST., 1910 splendens violacea STGR., 1892 dispar aurata LEECH, 1816 genus Heodes DALMAN, 1816

subgenus Heodes DALMAN, 1816

virgaureae virgaureola STGR., 1892

subgenus Loweia TUTT, 1906

alciphron ROTT., 1775 (ssp.?)

subgenus Palaeochrysophanus VERITY, 1943

hippothoe L., 1761 (ssp.?)

subgenus Phoenicurusia VERITY, 1943

phoenicura dimorpha STGR., 1892

Subfamily Polyommatinae SWAINSON, 1827

Tribe Everini TUTT, 1908

genus Everes HÜBNER, 1819

subgenus Everes HÜBNER, 1819

argiades hellotia MEN., 1857

prosecua duplex ALPH., 1889

subgenus Tongeia TUTT, 1908

fischeri EV., 1843

genus Cupido SCHRANK, 1801

minimus magnus STGR., 1892

Tribe Celastrini TUTT, 1908

genus Celastrina TUTT, 1906

argiolus L., 1758

Tribe Scolitantidini TUTT, 1909

genus Philotes SCUDDER, 1876

subgenus Pseudophilotes BEURET, 1955

baton BERGSTR., 1779 (ssp.?)

genus Scolitantides HÜBNER

orion PALL., 1771 (ssp.?)

genus Glaucopsyche SCUDDER, 1872

subgenus Glaucopsyche SCUDDER, 1872

lycormas lederi A. BANG-HAAS, 1907

subgenus Maculinea VAN EECKE, 1915 stat. n.

alcon D. & S., 1775 (ssp.?)

arion cyanecula EV., 1848

teleius obscurata STGR., 1892

Tribe Polyommatini SWAINSON, 1827

genus Plebeius KLUK, 1802

subgenus Plebeius KLUK, 1802

argus obensis FORST., 1936

subgenus Lycaeides HÜBNER

idas ongodai TUTT, 1908

argyrognomon mongolica GR. GR., 1891

argyrognomon gabrieli BALINT, 1988 subspec. n. cleobis ida GR. GR., 1891 cleobis boreas BALINT, 1988 subspec. n.

genus Polyommatus LATREILLE, 1804

subgenus Agriades HÜBNER

aquilo wosnesenskyi MEN., 1857

subgenus Albulina TUTT, 1909

orbitulus sajana RÜHL & HEYNE, 1895

lucifera STGR., 1892

subgenus Vacciniina TUTT, 1909

optilete sibirica STGR., 1892

subgenus Polyommatus LATREILLE, 1804

thersites orientis SHELJ., 1928

icarus fuchsi SHELJ., 1928

erotides STGR., 1892

aloisi BALINT, 1988

cyane kozhantshikovi SHELJ., 1928

subgenus Agrodiaetus HÜBNER, 1822

damon mongolicus KUR., 1970

damone sibiricus STGR., 1892

amandus SCHN., 1872 (ssp.?)

subgenus Cyaniris DALMAN, 1816

semiargus altaicus TUTT, 1909

subgenus Eumedonia FORSTER, 1938

eumedon sarykola SHELJ., 1914

genus Aricia R.L., 1817 rev. stat.

subgenus Pseudaricia BEURET, 1958

nicias borsippa FRUHST., 1915

subgenus Aricia R.L., 1817

allous strandi OBR.

chinensis sibiricana KOZH., 1923

Notes

I have already published a systematic list of Mongolian Lycaenidae (BALINT, 1987a). In that work I was following the system of ELIOT (ELIOT, 1973), being unaware at that time of the system of ZHDANKO (ZHDANKO, 1983) which was used also by NEKRUTENKO(1985).

The system of the work of ZHDANKO (I.c.) disagrees notably from that of ELIOT (I.c.) and HIGGINS (HIGGINS, 1975): most of the genera are downgraded as subgenera.

The present systematic list of the Mongolian Lycaenidae butterflies follows the work of ZHDANKO, but differs from it in the following points, based on my own studies:

Maculinea, a subgenus of Glaucopsyche

The species of the taxon Glaucopsyche SCUDDER, 1872 do not differ essentially from the species of the taxon Maculinea VAN EECKE, 1915 in the structure of the male genitalia and in the morphology of the butterflies; the shape of valva is wide and oblong with a long and straight apical hook. Furca is strong, conspicuous and relatively medium sized. The shape of labides is obtused, falces strong and curved inwards, penis with elaborated apical structure and with two saccules on the other end (Fig. 19), [and see (RUBIO, 1976: tables 29-24)].

The submarginal and marginal markings of the underside of the butterflies are strongly reduced, the orange submarginal band is always missing.

Aricia, a genus distinct from Polyommatus

The species of the taxon *Aricia* R.L., 1817 have so extreme characteristic genitalic characters, that we can not treat them as congeneric with *Polyommatus* SWAIN-SON, 1827: labides expanded and narrow, falces very small, shape of valva wide and somewhat triangular with a prominent strong apical hook, penis gently curved with zonal rib, against the species of *Polyommatus* with always horseshoe-like labides, having medium-sized falces, narrow and elongate valva with a prominent lobe on the inner top. The shape of penis is much more simple (RUBIO 1976: tables 43-47 and 52-71).

I must note here that the systematic position of the following species and subgenera are not yet clear:

subgenera Agriades HBN. and Albulina TUTT (figs. 9-12)

According to ZHADNKO (I.c.) I have retained the mentioned taxa as subgenera of the genus *Polyommatus* SW., but they differ in some significant genitalic and morphologic features. Perhaps they create a distinct genus, or else it would be better to group them with *Plebeius* KLUK.

Albulina lucifera STGR.

The species creates together with the *eversmanni*-Complex (FORSTER 1940) an undescribed subgenus.

Polyommatus cyane EV. (figs. 13-16)

A Central Asian species, distributed from Southern Ural through Turkestan and Alai Mountains to Mongolia, which does not fit into any of the described subgenera of *Polyommatus* SW.

3. Collected Material

- 3.1 Collecting Places and Data (fig. 20)
- TR "Mongolia, Central aimak, 12 km NW of Ulaanbaatar, flood area of Tola river, 1300 m, 106°43′E 47°53′N"

collecting days: 5.VII., 10.VII.

River flats with willow bushes, higher up changing into steppe, covered with high grass. The lycaenids were collected at twilight from the tops of grasses with the help of a torch.

BA "Mongolia, Central aimak, Bogdo-uul Mts., 5 km S uf Ulaanbaatar Airport, 1650 m, 106°52'E 47°50'N" collecting days: 6.VII., 7.VII., 11.VII., 13.VII., 16.VII., 1.VIII.

Collections on subalpine pastures at evening with torch and at daytime.

AP "Mongolia, Central aimak, 2 km S of Ulaanbaatar Airport, 1350 m, 106047'E 47051'N"

Eroded pastures covered by *Artemisia*. The butterflies were collected in the evening and at night with the help of a torch while resting on grass.

APT "Mongolia, Central aimak, 5 km W of Ulaanbaatar Airport, 1400 m, 106^o43'E 47^o52'N"

collecting days: 8.VII., 15.VII., 2.VIII.

The collecting places and methods were similar to the preceding one (AP).

BT "Mongolia, Central aimak, Bogdo-uul Mts., Baga tenger valley, 8 km SE of Ulaanbaatar Airport, 1700 m, 106^o57'E 47^o50'N" collecting day: 9.VII.

Somewhat higher in altitude compared to BA, where many blueberry bushes and birches were growing. The lycaenids were captured at night with the help of a torch.

BTU "Mongolia, Central aimak, Bogdo-uul Mts., Baga tenger valley, 8 km SE of Ulaanbaatar Airport, 1400-2000 m, 106°57'E 47°48'N" collecting days: 9.VII., 17.VII.

The highest collecting point in the Bogdo-uul Mountains, where *Aconitum* species can already be see. Collecting at day-time.

S "Mongolia, Central aimak, 100 km S of Ulaanbaatar, 106°36'E 47°05'N" collecting day: 19.VII.

Artemisia-steppe. Collecting at day-time.

MG "Mongolia, Dundgovi aimak, 4 km NE of Mandalgovi, 106°20'E 45°48'N" (fig. 21)

collecting day: 20.VII.

Semidesert, covered with scattered tufts of grass where the lycaenids were collected from at day-time.

DZ "Mongolia, Ömnögovi aimak, 85 km N of Dalandzadgad, 105^o08'E 44^o10'N" (fig. 22)

collecting day: 21.VII.

Strongly eroded pastures deposited on the edge of the town. Collecting at day-time.

YA "Mongolia, Ömnögovi aimak, Govi Altay, Mts. Gurvan Sayhan uul, valley Yulin am, 2350 m, 2350 m, 104°03′E 43°36′N" (fig. 23) collecting day: 22.VII.

Alpine grass-slopes and rocky swards. Collecting at day-time.

AM "Mongolia, Ömnögovi aimak, Govi Altay, Mts. Gurvan Sayhan uul, valley Alyut am, 2400 m, 103°55′E 43°30′N" (fig. 24) collectin g day: 23.VII.

The biotopes are similar to Yulin. The lycaenids were captured during a short day-time trip.

AH "Mongolia, Övörhangay aimak, 40 km SE of Arvayheer, 103^o08'E 46^ooo'N" collecting day: 25.VII.

Semidesert with a drift where the vegetation was luxuriant. The lycaenids were found at day-time.

HN "Mongolia, Övörhangay aimak, Mts. Hangayn nuruu, 2150 m, Harhorin, 102°49'E 40°12'N" (figs. 25-26). collecting days: 28.VII., 29.VII., 30.VII.

Alpine meadows with rich vegetation. The butterflies were collected mostly at day-time.

3.2 List of Collected Lycaenidae

Thecla betulae crassa LEECH: 4 ਰੋਰੇ HN.

Neolycaena davidi OBTH.: 5 33 and 3 99 S; 17 33 and 5 99 DZ.

Strymonidia rubicundula LEECH: 1 & and 2 99 HN.

Lycaena splendens violacea STGR.: 3 of BA; 1 of BTU; 1 PAPT; 4 PPS; 1 of MG; 1 of HN.

Heodes virgaureae virgaureola STGR.: 2 dd BA; 5 dd and 1 ♀ BTU; 2 dd and 5 ♀♀ HN.

Everes argiades helotia MEN.: 1 ♀ HN.

Everes (Tongeia) fischeri RV.: 1 9 APT.

Glaucopsyche lycormas lederi A. BANG-HAAS: 1 & TR.

Glaucopsyche (Maculinea) arion cyanecula EV.: 31 do and 20 99 BA; 11 do and 19 APR; 2 do and 19 TR; 4 do S; 6 do MG; 8 do and 6 99 HN.

Plebeius (Lycaeides) argyrognomon mongolica GR. GR.: 86 dd and 45 QQ TR; 5 dd BTU; 9 dd and 3 QQ APT; 3 dd and 2 QQ S; 6 dd and 1 Q MG; 1 d AH; 7 dd and 1 Q HN.

Plebeius (Lycaeides) argyrognomon gabrieli BAL.: 30 dd and 4 99 YA; 7 dd and 1 9 AM.

Plebeius (Lycaeides) cleobis ida GR. GR.: 22 ở and 36 ♀♀ BA; 23 ở and 10 ♀♀ TR.; 4 ở and 1 ♀ BT; 1 ♂ BTU; 2 ở and 1 ♂ APT; 1 ♀ S; 1 ♀ MG; 5 ở and 4 ♀♀ HN.

Plebeius (Lycaeides) cleobis boreas BAL.: 2 ♂ and 4 ♀♀ YA.

Polyommatus (Agriades) aquilo wosnesenskyi MEN.: 2 od BA; 1 od TR; 6 od and 4 ♀♀ BT: 1 ♀ BTU.

Polyommatus (Albulina) orbitulus sajana RÜHL & HEYNE: 9 ਰੰਗੇ and 6 ♀♀ BA; 3 ਰੰਗੇ and 1 ♀; 4 ਰੰਗੇ BTU.

Polyommatus (Albulina) lucifera STGR.: 1 ♂ and 1 ♀ BTU; 5 ♂♂ and 9 ♀♀ YA; 4 ♂♂ AM; 4 ♀♀ HN.

Polyommatus thersites orientis SHELJ.: 1 ♂ and 1 ♀ HN.

Polyommatus icarus fuchsi SHELJ.: 1 9 TR.

Polyommatus erotides STGR.: 5 of BA; 1 of TR; 13 of and 1 ♀ AP; 3 of APT; 2 of BTU; 1 ♀ S; 1 of AM; 30 of and 9 ♀♀ HN.

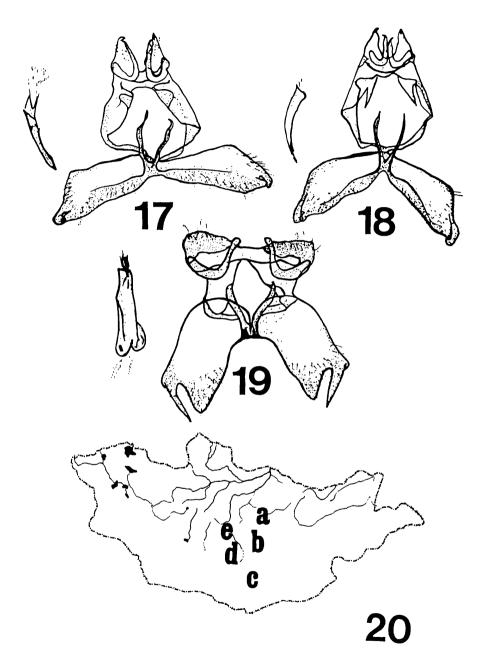
Polyommatus aloisi BAL.: 3 of YA: 1 of AM.

Polyommatus cyane kozhantshikovi SHELJ.: 1 ♀ BA; 3 ♂ and 3 ♀♀ S; 1 ♂ MG.

Polyommatus (Agrodiaetus) damon mongolicus KUR.: 77 ♂ and 106 ♀♀ HN.

Polyommatus (Agrodiaetus) damone sibiricus STGR.: 2 dd MG; 2 dd and 1 ♀ HN.

- Fig. 17 Plebeius (Lycaeides) argyrognomon gabrieli subspec. n., male genitalia, Paratype, gen. prep. No. 101. BALINT
- Fig. 18 Plebeius (Lycaeides) cleobis **boreas** subspec. n., male genitalia, Paratype, gen. prep. No. 104. BALINT
- Fig. 19 Glaucopsyche (Maculinea) arion cyanecula EV. from Mongolia, male genitalia, gen. prep. No. 103. BALINT
- Fig. 20 The collecting places of the Hungarian lepidopterologic expedition in Mongolia in 1986:
 - a Surroundings of Ulaanbaatar (TR, BA, AP, APT, BT, BTU);
 - b Central Mongolia (S, MG, DZ);
 - c Govi Altay (YA, AM);
 - d Surroundings of Arvayheer (AH);
 - e Hangayn nuruu Mountains.



- Fig. 1 Plebeius (Lycaeides) argyrognomon gabrieli subspec. n. Holotype &, upperside
- Fig. 2 idem, underside
- Fig. 3 Plebeius (Lycaeides) argyrognomon gabrieli subspec. n. Allotype \$\varphi\$, upperside
- Fig. 4 idem, underside
- Fig. 5 Plebeius (Lycaeides) cleobis **boreas** subspec. n. Holotype đ, upperside
- Fig. 6 idem, underside
- Fig. 7 Plebeius (Lycaeides) cleobis bore as subspec. n. Allotype ♀, upper-side
- Fig. 8 idem, underside
- Fig. 9 Polyommatus (Albulina) orbitulus sajana R. and H. & (BT), upperside
- Fig. 10 idem, underside
- Fig. 11 Polyommatus (Albulina) orbitulus sajana R. and H. ♀ (BA, 6.VII.), upperside
- Fig. 12 idem, underside
- Fig. 13 Polyommatus cyane kozhantshikovi SHELJ. & (S), upperside
- Fig. 14 idem, underside
- Fig. 15 Polyommatus cyane kozhantshikovi SHELJ. ♀ (BA, 13.VII.), upperside
- Fig. 16 idem, underside
- Fig. 21 Semidesert in the surroundings of Mandalgovi (MG). Biotope of Neolycaena davidi, Lycaena splendens, Glaucopsyche arion cyanecula, Plebeius argyrognomon mongolica, Plebeius cleobis ida, Polyommatus cyane kozhantshikovi, Polyommatus damone sibiricus.
- Fig. 22 Dalandzadgad, strongly eroded pastures (DZ). Biotope of *Neolycaena davidi*.
- Fig. 23 The valley Yulin am in the Govi Altay (YA). Biotope of *Plebeius argyrognomon gabrieli*, *Plebeius cleobis boreas*, *Polyommatus lucifera*, *Polyommatus aloisi*.
- Fig. 24 The upper entrance of the valley Alyut am, in the Govi Mountains Altay (AM). Biotope of *Plebeius argyrognomon gabrieli, Polyommatus lucifera, Polyommatus erotides, Polyommatus aloisi.*
- Figs. 25- Surroundings of Harhorin (HN). Biotope of Thecla betulae crassa,
- 26 Strymonidia rubicundula, Lycaena splendens violacea, Heodes virgaureae virgaureola, Everes argiades hellotia, Glaucopsyche arion cyanecula, Plebeius cleobis ida, Polyommatus lucifera, Polyommatus thersites orientis, Polyommatus erotides, Polyommatus damon mongolicus, Polyommatus damon sibiricus.



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