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A new *Oroncus* species from the Pamirs, Tajikistan

(Lepidoptera, Arctiidae)

by

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Summary: A new species, *Oroncus bundeli* spec. nov., from the Pamirs (Tajikistan) is described. This species belongs to the *O. tancrei* species group and differs from its congeners in having the darkest abdomen, in the absence of the white band crossing the forewing, in the presence of a pale shadow on the forewings and in having strong peniculli in the male genitalia.

Although the single species of *Oroncus* Seitz, 1910 was recorded in the Pamirs more than 30 years ago by Zaprjagaev, its systematic position remains uncertain. Due to the absence of specimens of true *Oroncus tancrei alaicus* O. Bang-Haas, 1927 and significant differences in the structure of male genitalia, the *Oroncus* male collected in the Pamirs was hitherto treated by Dubatolov (1990) as a good species, i. e. *O. alaicus* O. B.-H. New information and additional specimens collected during the last years allow us to disregard that former opinion and to describe a new species, despite the male genitalia of true *Oroncus tancrei alaicus* O. B.-H. remaining unstudied yet.

Oroncus ***bundeli*** **spec. nov.**

(colour plate XXIa, figs. 1-5)

Material

Holotype ♂: Tadjikistan, S.-W. Pamirs, Dzhilandy, 25.VII.1987, V. V. Shcherbina leg. Preserved in Siberian Zoological Museum of the Institute on Animal Systematics and Ecology, SB RAS, Novosibirsk, Russia.

Paratypes: 1 ♂, the same data as the holotype (in collection of I. Plustsh, Kiev, Ukraine); 2 ♂♂, Tadjikistan, Pamirs, Khorog, near botanical garden, river Sangou-Dara, h = 3500 and 4000 m, 12.VII.1970, Zaprjagaev leg. (ex collection of A. Bundel, Zoological Institute, St.-Petersburg, Russia); 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Tadjikistan, Central Pamirs, Rushan District, the Rushan Range near the Lake Sarez, 5 km N of Irkht meteorological station (towards the Usoi Goaf), h = 4800 m, 10.-20.VII. 1996, V. Gurko leg. (in collection of V. Gurko, Chernovtsy, Ukraine); 1 ♀, 50 km west of Murghab, 28.VII.2004, ex larva (in collection of Thomas Ottmüller, Germany).

Description

Forewing length 18-19 mm. Eyes small, oval, naked, located on concave ocular sclerite, which is densely covered with black scales and long hairs. Palpi porrect, equal in length to hairs on frons. Proboscis yellow, longer than the head diameter. Body completely covered with dense black hairs. Abdomen coloration differs between sexes. In males, the top and underside of the abdomen is yellow, with some yellow scales on lateral parts of the distal edges of tergites. In

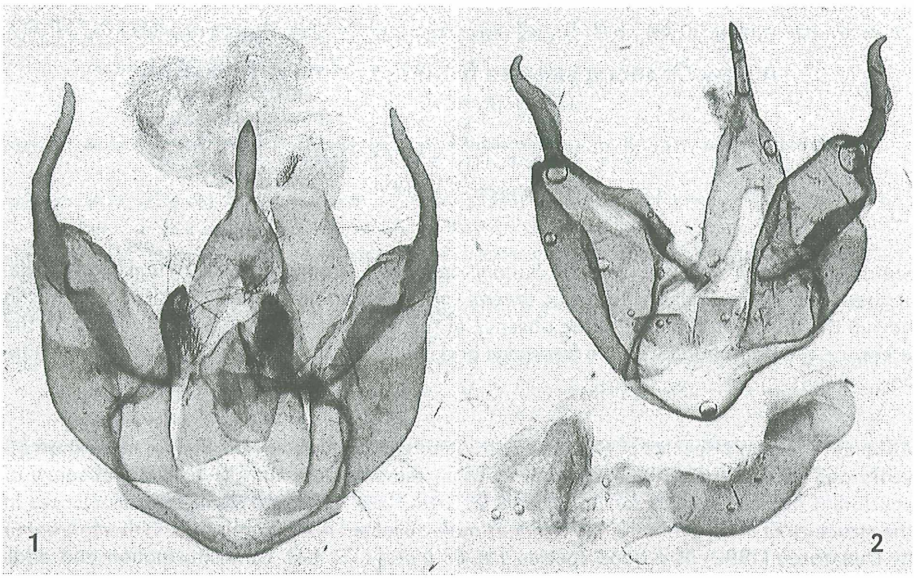

Fig. 1: Male genitalia of *Oroncus bundeli* spec. nov., holotype ♂, Tadzhikistan, S.-W. Pamirs, Dzhilandy, 25.VII.1987, V. V. SHCHERBINA leg.
Fig. 2: Male genitalia of *Oroncus tancrei urania* (PÜNGELER, 1904), Chanterngri, Kuldscha.

females, the abdomen is mostly dark, with a yellow underside of sternites I–VI and with elongate reddish spots on distal-lateral parts of the tergites. Legs lighter than the body, hind tarsi and tibiae whitish. Middle tibiae with a pair of thick spurs, whereas hind tibia has two pairs. Forewings dark brown, with a distinct light shadow. Light markings located only along the costa, often forming a costal stripe. This stripe has two contractions in the middle part of the cell and at the discal vein, the latter often reaching the costa. Hind apical angle of this stripe slightly curved towards the tornus. In the holotype, there are few subapical spots, situated parallel to the external margin. Hindwings coloured rose with yellowish costal part. There is a dark discal spot, varying from dark vein to broad crescent. Along the external margin there is a dark band being disrupted between veins M_3 and CuA. Sometimes there are few dark marginal lines at the apex and between veins M_3 and CuA.

Male genitalia (fig. 1).
Very characteristic to any *Oroncus* species: the uncus long and narrow, the valvi strongly convex-concave, with an apical processus long, narrow and slightly S-curved. Nevertheless, the apical processes of the valvi not broadened at their middle part. Most striking is the presence of the long and broad peniculli, covered with small teeth. Juxta wide, with a strongly convex hind margin. Saccus not prominent, narrow and wide. Aedeagus short, strongly curved, without teeth. Vesica bilobate, with small elongate and sclerotized plate, covered with small spines.

The new species belongs to the nominative subgenus of *Oroncus* SEITZ, 1910. It differs from all the congeners thereof (viz. *fasciata* O. BANG-HAAS, 1927, *urania* PÜNGELER, 1904, *tancrei* STAUDINGER, 1887 and *alaica* O. BANG-HAAS, 1927) in the presence of a pale whitish shadow on the forewings and the absence of a transversal band in the external part of the wings. Such a transversal band is S-curved along the external margin in the first three taxa, and forms a right oblique band from the costa towards the tornal angle in the latter. Moreover, the female abdomen in the new species is mostly dark, with a light, longitudinal broad stripe on the underside (but not reaching the abdomen's top), and two narrow rows of small spots on each side of the abdomen. In *alaicus* O. BANG-HAAS, 1927, the abdomen is mostly rose coloured, with a broad dark dental line on its dorsal surface, two narrow dark lines on its underside and two rows of small dark brown spots on the lateral sides of the abdomen. Thus, the new species is clearly distinct from all the other taxa of the nominative subgenus *Oroncus* SEITZ, 1910. However, to date there are no evidences to confirm a specific level of the differences between all taxa treated by O. BANG-HAAS (1927) as subspecies of *Oroncus tancrei* (STAUDINGER, 1887): *O. t. fasciata* O. BANG-HAAS, 1927, *O. t. urania* (PÜNGELER, 1904), *O. t. tancrei* (STAUDINGER, 1887) and *O. t. alaica* O. BANG-HAAS, 1927.

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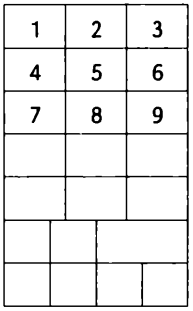
Explanation of colour plate XXIa (p. 487):

Fig. 1: *Oroncus bundeli* spec. nov., holotype ♂, Tadzhikistan, S.-W. Pamirs, Dzhilandy, 25.VII. 1987, V. V. SHCHERBINA leg. (Siberian Zoological Museum collection).

Fig. 2: *Oroncus bundeli* spec. nov., paratype ♂, Tadzhikistan, Pamirs, Khorog, near botanical garden, river Sangou-Dara, h = 3500 m, 12.VII.1970, ZAPRJAGAEV leg. (ex collection of BUNDEL, Zoological Institute).
Fig. 3: *Oroncus bundeli* spec. nov., paratype ♂, Tadzhikistan, Central Pamirs, Rushan District, the Rushan Range near the Lake Sarez, 5 km N of Irkht meteorological station (towards the Usoi Goaf), h = 4800 m, 10.–20.VII.1996, V. GURKO leg., in his collection.
Fig. 4: *Oroncus bundeli* spec. nov., paratype ♀, Tadzhikistan, Central Pamirs, Rushan District, the Rushan Range near the Lake Sarez, 5 km N of Irkht meteorological station (towards the Usoi Goaf), h = 4800 m, 10.–20.VII.1996, V. GURKO leg., in his collection.
Fig. 5: *Oroncus bundeli* spec. nov., paratype ♀, Tadzhikistan, Central Pamirs, 50 km west of Murghab, 28.VII.2004, ex larva (by courtesy of T. OTTMÜLLER, in his collection).
Fig. 6: *Oroncus tancrei urania* (PÜNGELER, 1904), ♂, China, Chantengri, Kuldscha.
Fig. 7: *Oroncus tancrei alaicus* O. BANG-HAAS, 1927, ♀, Kyrghyzstan, Alai Range, Taldyk Pass, 3650 m, 10.VII.1981, V. KIPNIS leg. (Siberian Zoological Museum collection).
Fig. 8: *Oroncus tancrei alaicus* O. BANG-HAAS, 1927, ♀, Kyrghyzstan, Transalai Range (Chon-Alai range), headwater of rivulet Taldy-Bulak between Nura and Irkeshtam (less than 1 km from the Chinese border), 18.VII.2003, R. DUDKO leg. (Siberian Zoological Museum collection).
Fig. 9: *Oroncus tancrei* (STAUDINGER, 1887), ♀, Central Tien Shan, Naryn (Zoological Institute collection).



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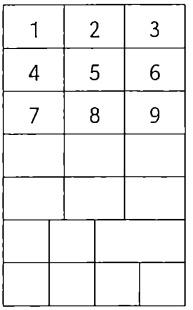
Colour plate XXIa



DUBATOLOV, V. V. & V. O. GURKO: A new *Oroncus* species from the Pamirs, Tajikistan (Lepidoptera, Arctiidae). – Atalanta **35** (3/4): 399–402.

Fig. 1: *Oroncus bundeli* spec. nov., holotype ♂, Tadzhikistan, S.-W. Pamirs, Dzhilandy, 25.VII. 1987, V. V. SHCHERBINA leg. (Siberian Zoological Museum collection).
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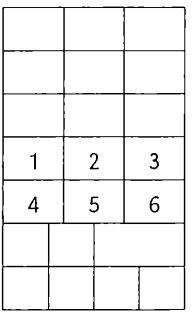
Colour plate XXIb



DUBATOLOV, V. V.: A new genus is established for *Bombyx lineola* FABRICIUS, 1793, with systematic notes on the genus *Aloa* WALKER, 1855 (Lepidoptera, Arctiidae). – Atalanta **35** (3/4): 403–413.

Fig. 1: *Micraloa lineola* (FABRICIUS, 1793), ♂, N.[ord] Indien, Dr. RADDE (ZIN).
Fig. 2: *Micraloa emittens* (WALKER, 1855), ♀, Ceylon, Dr. RADDE (ZIN).
Fig. 3: *Paramsacta marginata* (DONOVAN, 1805), ♂, N.[ew] S.[outh] Wales (ZIN).
Fig. 4: *Paramsacta moorei* (BUTLER, 1876), ♂, [Pakistan], Karachi, on light, 15.VII.1960, coll. A. WHEED (ZIN).
Fig. 5: *Aloa lactinea* (CRAMER, 1777), from: SEITZ, 1910.
Fig. 6: *Aloa cardinalis* (BUTLER, 1875), from: ROTHSCHILD in SEITZ, 1914.

Colour plate XXIc

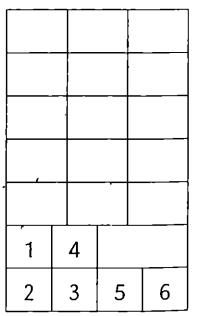


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Fig. 1: *Hemaris (Mandarina) alaiana* (ROTHSCHILD & JORDAN, 1903), ♂, W. Mongolia, Hovd aimak, Bulgan-gol basin, Bayan-gol basin, 2000 m, 13.V.2002, R. YAKOVLEV leg. (RYB).
Fig. 2: *Hemaris (Cochrania) ducalis* (STAUDINGER, 1887), ♂, W. Mongolia, Hovd aimak, Bulgan-gol basin, Bayan-gol basin, middle stream of Ulyastain-Sala river, 2100 m, 21.–23.VI. 2004, R. YAKOVLEV & D. RYZHKOV leg. (RYB).
Fig. 3: *Paleophilotes triphysina* (STAUDINGER, 1891), ♂, Kaschgar (topotype) (ZFMK), underside.
Fig. 4: *Paleophilotes triphysina* (STAUDINGER, 1891), ♀, Kaschgar (topotype) (ZFMK), underside.
Fig. 5: *Paleophilotes triphysina lama* YAKOVLEV subspec. nov., holotype ♂ (LNK), underside.
Fig. 6: *Paleophilotes triphysina lama* YAKOVLEV subspec. nov., paratype ♀ (LNK), underside.

Colour plate XXIa–c