

Paropta paradoxus kathikas subsp. nov., a new subspecies of the Genus *Paropta* from Cyprus

(Lepidoptera, Cossidae)

by

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Summary: A new subspecies, *Paropta paradoxus kathikas* YAKOVLEV & LEWANDOWSKI, **subsp. nov.**, is described from Cyprus. *P. paradoxus* (HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1851) was first reported for the Cyprus fauna by LEWANDOWSKI & FISCHER (2002) from several localities: Latsi, Kathikas and Prastio, (Diarizo Valley). In the same publication its authors described the habitat preference of the species, its larval hostplant requirements and some traits of its life history. Having thoroughly investigated material from Cyprus constant differences to other populations of *P. paradoxus* (H.-S.) could be seen so that a new species is described below.

Zusammenfassung: Das Taxon *Paropta paradoxus kathikas* YAKOVLEV & LEWANDOWSKI, **subsp. nov.** wird aus Zypern neu beschrieben. *P. paradoxus* (HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1851) wurde zuerst von LEWANDOWSKI & FISCHER (2002) neu für die Fauna von Zypern von verschiedenen Fundorten, wie Latsi, Kathikas und Prastio, (Diarizo Tal), bestätigt. Im gleichen Beitrag wurden Angaben zur Flugzeit sowie zur Biologie gegeben. Nachdem nun umfangreiches Material aus Griechenland, Israel und Ägypten untersucht wurde, ergab sich die Notwendigkeit eine neue Unterart zu beschreiben.

Paropta paradoxus kathikas **subsp. nov.** (colour plate 11, figs. 1 – 2)

Material: Holotype ♂, Cyprus, Kathikas, Nature Trail, 09.VI.2002, 580 m, leg. et coll. LEWANDOWSKI, later deposited in Zoologische Staatssammlung München.

Paratypes: 1 ♂, Latsi near Polis, 10.VI.2000, 25 m, leg. LEWANDOWSKI; 1 ♂, Kathikas, Nature Trail, 30.IX.2000, 580 m, leg. LEWANDOWSKI & FISCHER; 1 ♀, Kathikas, Nature Trail, 15.VI.2000, 580 m, leg. LEWANDOWSKI & FISCHER; 4 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Kathikas, Nature Trail, 15.VI.2001, 580 m, leg. LEWANDOWSKI & FISCHER; 6 ♂♂, Prastio, 16.VI.2001, 250 m, leg. LEWANDOWSKI & FISCHER; 2 ♂♂ 1 ♀, Kathikas, Nature Trail, 18.VI.2001, 580 m, leg. LEWANDOWSKI & FISCHER; 1 ♂, Kathikas, Nature Trail, 19.VI.2001, 580 m, leg. LEWANDOWSKI & FISCHER; 1 ♂, Prastio, 20.VI.2001, 250 m, leg. LEWANDOWSKI & FISCHER; 4 ♂♂, Kathikas, Nature Trail, 07.VI.2002, 580 m, leg. LEWANDOWSKI; 12 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, Kathikas, Nature Trail, 09.VI.2002, 580 m, leg. LEWANDOWSKI; 11 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, Nikokleia, 06.-12.VI.2002, 80 m, leg. HENTSCHOLEK; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Kidasi, 06.-12.VI.2002, 300 m, leg. HENTSCHOLEK. All Types are in coll. LEWANDOWSKI, FISCHER, STRÖHLE and MOOSER.

Description: ♂. Forewing length 16.5–19 mm. Thorax and abdomen densely set with grey hairs. Antennae bipectinate, length of processes—greater than antennal breadth. Forewing greyish-brown with a fine, hardly noticeable pattern of transversal streaks in postdiscal zone of radial and medial areas and a more noticeable lengthwise streak along vein CuA1.

Hindwing dark, almost black, evenly coloured with somewhat lightened anal area. Fringe evenly brown. Male genitalia of a common structure for the genus: uncus long with a small beak-pointed processus on apex; tegumen medium-sized; gnathos arms narrow, fusing to form a medium-sized gnathos covered with fine spinules; valva of medium length, composed of a proximal sclerotised and distal membranous parts, at their border on valva costal margin there is a small slightly serrate processus; arms of transtilla hook-like curved, gradually tapering to apex from a wide base; juxta small with two short lateral processes; saccus small, rounded. Aedeagus equal in length to valva, relatively thick, slightly curved throughout its length, with two strongly sclerotised processes at its distal end; vesical aperture occupies dorsoapical position; vesica without cornuti.

♀. Forewing length 21–25 mm. Antennae bipectinate, length of processes half as long as in male. Female lighter-coloured than male. Forewing with a pattern of complicated dark bands and streaks on a grey background. Fringe chequered, dark at veins, grey between veins. Hindwing grey, evenly coloured.

Diagnosis and systematic notes: Until today only the nominotypical subspecies was known (colour plate 11: 4–7, text fig. 2), described from Smyrna (Izmir, S. Turkey) and widely distributed throughout the Mediterranean west to Israel and Egypt (DANIEL, 1962). The species was also reported for Greece (Rhodes) (DE FREINA & WITT, 1990). We have studied about 70 specimens of the species from various localities without finding any recognizable differences. The new subspecies strongly differs from the nominotypical one by a number of substantial characters: 1. size (σ forewing length is 16.5–19 mm in *kathikas subspec. nov.*, 14–16 mm in ssp. *paradoxus*; ♀ forewing length is 21–25 mm in *kathikas subspec. nov.*, 15–17 mm in *paradoxus*).

2. forewing shape (wider in *kathikas subspec. nov.*).

3. forewing marking (in most $\sigma\sigma$ of the nominotypical subspecies there is a diffuse brownish spot between the veins R5 and M2).

4. Peculiarities of the σ genitalia structure (arms of transtilla in *kathikas subspec. nov.* have a wide base and gradually taper to the apex, while in ssp. *paradoxus* the arms are substantially thinner, they start from a wide base but soon narrow quite abruptly).

Derivatio nominis: The name of the subspecies is taken from one of the type localities, Kathikas, where most of the Types are found.

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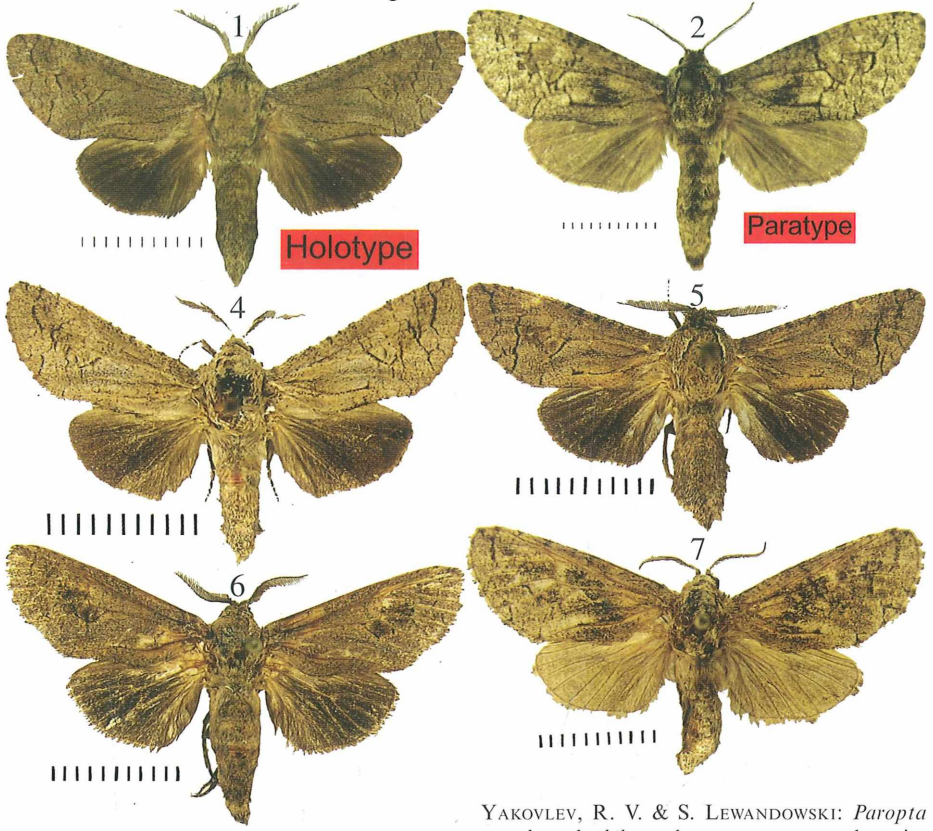
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Colour plate 11 (page 317)

- Fig. 1: *Paropta paradoxus kathikas* **subspec. nov.**, holotype ♂, Cyprus, Kathikas, Nature Trail, 09.VI.2002, 580 m, leg. et coll. LEWANDOWSKI.
- Fig. 2: *Paropta paradoxus kathikas* **subspec. nov.**, paratype ♀, Nature Trail, 09.VI.2002, 580 m, leg. et coll. LEWANDOWSKI.
- Fig. 3: Cyprus, near Kathikas, Biotope of *Paropta paradoxus kathikas* **subspec. nov.**
- Fig. 4: *Paropta paradoxus paradoxus* (HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1851), ♂, Greece, (Rhodes), 12.VI.1966, leg. HENTSCHOLEK (MWM).
- Fig. 5: *Paropta paradoxus paradoxus* (HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1851), ♂, Israel, Haifa, 27.V.1903, leg. HABICH (MWM).
- Fig. 6: *Paropta paradoxus paradoxus* (HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1851), ♂, Iran, 80 km N. Quam, 15.IX.2000, 2400 m, leg. MÜLLER (MWM).
- Fig. 7: *Paropta paradoxus paradoxus* (HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1851), ♀, Israel, Central coastal plain south of Haifa, 25 m, end of Feb. 2001, leg. LI & MÜLLER (MWM).

Colour plate 11/ Farbtafel 11



Holotype

Paratype

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Fig. 4: *Paropta paradoxa paradoxus* (HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1851), ♂, Greece, (Rhodes), 12.VI.1966, leg. HENTSCHOLEK (MWM). **Fig. 5:** *Paropta*

paradoxa paradoxus (HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1851), ♂, Israel, Haifa, 27.V.1903, leg. HABICH (MWM). **Fig. 6:** *Paropta paradoxa paradoxus* (HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1851), ♂, Iran, 80 km N. Quam, 15.IX.2000, 2400 m, leg. MÜLLER (MWM). **Fig. 7:** *Paropta paradoxa paradoxus* (HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1851), ♀, Israel, Central coastal plain south of Haifa, 25 m, end of Feb. 2001, leg. LI & MÜLLER (MWM).

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