

A new species of *Hyponephele* MUSCHAMP, 1915 from Afghanistan

(Lepidoptera, Satyridae)

by

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Summary: *Hyponephele pagmani* spec. nov. from Paghman valley, Afghanistan is described. The new species is related to *H. argyrostigma* TUZOV & SAMODUROV, 1997; externally, it combines the characters of the *davendra*-group of species and the *capella*-group of species.

Резюме: В статье описан новый вид сатирид, *Hyponephele pagmani* spec. nov., из Афганистана, (долины Пагман). Новый вид связан с *H. argyrostigma* TUZOV & SAMODUROV, 1997, окраска представляет собой сочетание признаков двух групп видов: *davendra* и *capella*.

Introduction: The new species was found by the expedition of I. PLJUSHCH (Kiev) and O. PAK (Donetzk) in the well-known Paghman valley not far from Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. Unfortunately, only one individual was collected by I. PLJUSHCH who observed more butterflies at a mountain slope. The description of this remarkable species was delayed because we waited for a series from another expedition. However, there is no new material because of military problems in Paghman valley in 2010. The holotype is deposited in the collection of the Darwin State Museum, Moscow.

Hyponephele pagmani spec. nov.



Holotype ♂, Afganistan, Kabul area, Paghman-Dara, 2800 m.a.s.l., 13.VII.2009, I. PLJUSHCH leg. (34° 38'12" N, 68° 54'19" E).

Description and diagnosis: ♂ FW length 23 mm. Upperside dark chestnut-reddish with thin androconial patch, recalling the upperside of *H. capella* (CHRISTOPH, 1877), but the eye-spot is placed outside of the chestnut colour. The marginal and submarginal zones are blackened. The androconium is situated along the lower cell vein, from the base of Cu2 vein to the end of the cell; it seems that the androconium is partly discoloured (somewhat similar to *H. argyrostigma* TUZOV & SAMODUROV, 1997 (i.e. it is not totally black) (Tuzov et al., 1997). The form of the androconial patch is similar to that of *H. filistigma* PAGES, 2007 (ECKWEILER & BOZANO, 2011). The eye-spot is relatively small and dark, without white pupil. The fringes are double-coloured: they are clearly whitish basally with black distal part, so that an additional narrow blackish band is formed on both wings. This character is not known in related species.

HW fully darkened (fringes, see above).

FW underside with chestnut basal and discal parts and orange-chestnut postdiscal part which is divided by a broken line. The submarginal zone and costal zone are greyish. The eye-spot is much larger on the underside and bears a distinct white pupil.

The HW underside is divided into 2 parts separated by the dark postdiscal line, the basal part being uniformly grey-chocolate. The outer part is paler because of the whitish-grey suffusion which is more conspicuous along the postdiscal line as well as along the blackened thick marginal line. This external area includes 4 ocelli which are obviously smaller in *H. filistigma* PAGES (or even *H. argyrostigma* TUZOV & SAMODUROV). *Hyponephele filistigma* PAGES is characterized by very angled postdiscal line and the smallest costal ocelli. The new species has rounded postdiscal line which differs even from slightly angled and not rounded line of *H. argyrostigma* TUZOV & SAMODUROV. The smallest ocellus is placed under the first large ocellus (in contrast to the Pakistanian species).

♂ **genitalia** (fig.1): In general, they seem to be more close to *H. capella* CHR. than to those of the *davendra*-group, being much larger with more pronounced uncus. Compared to *H. argyrostigma* TUZOV & SAMODUROV, the new species has long and narrower uncus with developed distal end, while the valvae are obviously more straight (the genitalia of *H. filistigma* PAGES are unknown but they must be similar to those of the new species).



Fig. 1: ♂ genitalia of *Hyponephele pagmani* spec. nov., holotype, lateral view.

The ♀ is unknown.

Taxonomic note: The new species belongs to the practically unknown group of species which includes now 3 taxa: *H. filistigma* PAGES from Pakistan, *H. pagmani* spec. nov. from Afganistan and *H. argyrostigma* TUZOV & SAMODUROV from NW Pamirs. This group is close to *H. capella* CHR. according to the genitalia, but differs by its much larger size and underside close to that of *davendra-group*. All 3 species seem to be very local but have very distinctive and deep differences - it means that it presents very old species which is not well adapted to the recent climatic conditions.

We need to add that all speculations about the status of *H. argyrostigma* TUZOV & SAMODUROV must be stopped: the ♀ of this very rare species was described basing on the specimen which was collected in CHURKIN's Pamirian expedition in 1991; actually two ♀♀ were collected in one place, the second one was deposited during long time in the collection of D. TATARENKO (Kursk). Unfortunately, we have no information where the second ♀ is deposited now.

Biology: Four specimens were observed at the talus with altitudes 2800-2950 m.a.s.l. The talus consists of dark large and very large stones contrasting with common yellowish colour of the neighbouring mountain slopes. Eastern exposure. Only one specimen was caught.

Etymology: Toponymic name.

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