Description of a new subspecies of Plebejus (Plebejides) sephirus FRIVALDSZKY, 1835 from Macedonia with short note on the pylon-complex. (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae)

Zsolt Bálint

Zusammenfassung: Plebejus (Plebejides) sephirus magnificus asp.n. wird aus Mazedonien beschrieben mit anschließender kurzer Diskussion der pylon-Gruppe.

Abstract: Plebejus (Plebejides) sephirus magnificus asp.n. is described from Macedonia. The pylon-complex is shortly discussed.

According to the opinion of FORSTER 1938 HIGGINS mentioned the European relatives of sephirus FRIVALDSZKY 1835 as a subspecies of Plebejus pylon FISCHER von WALDHEIM 1832 (HIGGINS 1970 und 1975). This conception is outdated from zoogeographic and taxonomic point of view.

According to my researches Plebejus sephirus FRIV. is a "bona species", which is different from the related Asian (nicholli ELWES, 1904; zephyrinus CRISTOPH, 1864; usbekka FORSTER, 1939) and European (hespericus RAMBUR, 1842; trappi VERITY, 1927 = lycidas TRAPP, 1863) taxa and the Transcaspic pylon P.W. not only in morphologic (BEU-RET 1961), but also in genitalic characters. The taxa nicholli ELW., zephyrinus CRIST., usbekka FORST., hespericus RMBR., trappi VTY. and pylon P.W. can be also treated as distinct species.

I should like to publish the results of my studies on the pylon-complex, but first I am giving here a comprehensive table with the morphologic characters of the European taxa together with the photos of both sexes (fig, 1-16) and the drawings of the male genitalia (fig, 17-20) to help the determination (see next page).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hespericus</th>
<th>Trappi</th>
<th>Sephirus</th>
<th>Pylaon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Underside</strong></td>
<td><strong>M</strong></td>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td><strong>L</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Colour</td>
<td>Cornflower Blue</td>
<td>Deep Violet Blue</td>
<td>Gleaming Violet Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Margin</td>
<td>Narrow</td>
<td>Wide</td>
<td>Narrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Colour</td>
<td>Yellowish Grey</td>
<td>Pale Grey</td>
<td>Grey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submarginal Orange Lunules</td>
<td>Paler, Indistinct</td>
<td>Pale, Distinct</td>
<td>Reddish, Distinct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Character</td>
<td>Cornflower Blue</td>
<td>Wide Black Margin, White Shade Between Postdiscal Spots and Submarginal Orange Lunules</td>
<td>Violet Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upperside</strong></td>
<td><strong>F</strong></td>
<td><strong>E</strong></td>
<td><strong>M</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Colour and Markings</td>
<td>Paler Brown With Distinct Orange Lunules Rarely on Both Wings</td>
<td>Blackish Brown Sometimes With Blue Suffusion, Orange Lunules Vestigial or Absent</td>
<td>Brown, Hind Wing With Orange Lunules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underside</td>
<td>As in Male But Colours and Markings Much More Prominent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size (Fore Wing Costa in mm)</td>
<td>14/15.5</td>
<td>14/18</td>
<td>14/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>Iberian Peninsula</td>
<td>Southern Alps</td>
<td>South-Eastern Europa, Asia Minor, Western Armenia, Northern Syria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The distribution of *Plebejus sephirus* FRIVALDSZKY ranges from Carpathian Basin through Macedonia, the Balkans and the Peloponnesus Peninsula to the eastern part of Asia Minor and Northern Syria. It is still known from the coastline of the Black-Sea and Moldavia (REBEL 1903). NEKRUTENKO 1985 cited *sephirus* from the Crimean Peninsula. The range of *sephirus* can be divided into geographic subspecies:

![Diagram](image)

- **a** = *P.s. kovacsi*
- **b** = *P.s. uhryki*
- **c** = *P.s. proximus*
- **d** = *P.s. sephirus*
- **e** = *P.s. magnificus*
- **f** = *P.s. brethertoni*
- **g** = *P.s. modica*
- **h** = *P.s. microsephirus*

**ssp. sephirus** FRIVALDSZKY, 1835  

**ssp. proximus** SZABÓ, 1954  
Locus Typicus: Transylvania, Kolozsvár (Cluj-Clausenburg). Distribution: Transylvanian Basin

**ssp. kovacsi** SZABÓ, 1954 (= *foticus* SZABÓ, 1956)  
Locus Typicus: Central Hungary, Pótt. Distribution: Central Hungary

**ssp. uhryki** REBEL, 1911  
Locus Typicus: Banat, Deliblát: Flamunda. Distribution: Banat

**ssp. brethertoni** BROWN, 1976  
Locus Typicus: Peloponnesus Peninsula, Parnassos. Distribution: Peloponnesus Peninsula

**ssp. modica** VERITY, 1935  
Locus Typicus: Central Anatolia, Ak-Scheir. Distribution: Western and Central Anatolia

**ssp. microsephirus** VERITY, 1935  
Locus Typicus: Eastern Anatolia, Tecde. Distribution: Eastern Anatolia, Western (Turkish) Armenia, Northern Syria
I examined and compared more than 700 sephirus specimens and I recognised, that the Macedonian sephirus differs from the others. I am going to describe it as a new subspecies below.

**Plebejus (Plebejides) sephirus magnificus ssp. n.**

**Male:**

Holotype – Dorsal Surface (see picture above on page 102)
Ground colour gleaming violet blue with narrow black margin. Hind wing with black antimarginal spots between veins 2-3, 3-4 and near anal costa. Fringes white.

Ventral Surface (see picture below on page 102)
Ground colour pale grey. Fore wing with expanded black discoidal spot surrounded by narrow and indistinct white colour. Postdiscal spots black and large. White rings well visible. Submarginal orange lunules narrow and distinct. Bordered black lines well visible. Antemarginal part a bit lighter than inner area. Spots small and brownish. Hind wing with soft blue suffusion on base. Black basal and postdiscal spots, also expanded discoidal spot with white ring. White arrow-head markings between postdiscal spots and submarginal orange lunules distinct. Antemarginal part whitish with brownish spots very close to submarginal orange lunules. Some metallic scales in antemarginal spot of cell v 2-3.

**Female:**

Allotype – Dorsal Surface (see figure above on page 103)
Ground colour brown. Fore wing with blackish discoidal patch. Hind wing with small submarginal orange lunules and blackish antemarginal spots in cell v 2-3, v 4-5 and near anal costa. Fringes brownish white.

Ventral Surface (see figure below on page 103)
As in male, but colour and markings much more prominent.

**Size:**
(Length in mm of fore wing along costa from wing base to greatest extent) Holotype: 15,3 mm. Allotype: 16,5 mm.

**Type Locality:**
Macedonia, 1600 m, Petrina planina. THURNER 1938. (fig. 2, 4-7, 10, 15, 16)

**Types:**
Plebejus sephirus magnificus ssp. n. Holotype ♂
above: upperside  below: underside

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Plebejus sephirus magnificus ssp. n. Allotype ♀
above: upperside    below: underside
Paratypus (17 males and 7 females):
Ochrida, Aszandzura, 6.-12.7.1936. dr. Fodor (2 males);
Ochrida Umg., Macedonien, 23.-31.5.1935. leg. Thurner (1 male);
Petrida plan., Mazed., 4.-9.6.1935. leg. Thurner (1 male);
Drenowo, Macedonien, 5.1907. Smlg. Pfeiffer (1 male, 1 female);
Macedonia Salonika, 1000,25.5. (1 male), 26.5. (1 male, 1 female),
27.5. (1 female), 30.5. (1 female), 31.5.1935 (1 male), Romei,
Smlg. Pfeiffer (all 3 males, 3 females);
Petrina plan., Macedonia, 23.-27.6.1939 (1 male). leg. Thurner;
Aszandzura, Macedonia, 20.-23.6.1939 (2 males). leg. Thurner;
Ochrida-See, Macedonien, Juni 1932 (2 males). leg. Pfeiffer;
(1 female), 26.6. (1 female) (all 4 females);
Ochrid. Petrina., Macedonia, 6.6.-7.7.1935 (1 female). leg. Wolf-
schläger.

Deposition of Type Material:
The holotype, allotype and 4 male paratypes are deposited in the lepidoptera collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum,
Budapest. 1 male paratype specimen can be found in the Alexander
Koenig Museum, Bonn. The remaining paratypes are in the lepidopte-
ra section of the Zoologische Staatssammlung, Munich.

Geographical Range and Phenology:
The new taxon is known from the Mountains of Macedonia (Albania,
Yugoslavia and Greece). The type specimen have been captured from
the end of May to the beginning of July. The foodplant of the
caterpillar is unknown as well as the early stages.

Taxonomic Status:
The new taxon is situated between ssp. uhryki RBL. and ssp. bre-
thertoni BROWN.

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Literature cited:

Verfasser: Zsolt Bálint
Zoological Department
Hungarian Natural History Museum
H - 1088 Budapest, Baross u. 13.

fig. 1. Plebejus hespericus hespericus RM&B. σ' upperside
fig. 2. Plebejus tralli VTY. (= lycidas TRAPP) σ' upperside
fig. 3. Plebejus sephirus sephirus FRIV. σ' upperside
(Neotype specimen before designation)
fig. 4. Plebejus pylaon pylaon F.W. σ' upperside
fig. 5. Plebejus hespericus hespericus RM&B. σ' underside
fig. 6. Plebejus tralli VTY. (= lycidas TRAPP) σ' underside
fig. 7. Plebejus sephirus sephirus FRIV. σ' underside
fig. 8. Plebejus pylaon pylaon F.W. σ' underside
fig. 9. Plebejus hespericus hespericus RMBR. ♀ underside
fig. 10. Plebejus trappi VTY. (= lycidas TRAPP)♀ underside
fig. 11. Plebejus sephirus sephirus FRIV. ♀ underside
fig. 12. Plebejus pylaon pylaon F.W. ♀ underside
fig. 13. Plebejus hespericus hespericus RMBR. ♀ underside
fig. 14. Plebejus trappi VTY. (= lycidas TRAPP)♀ underside
fig. 15. Plebejus sephirus sephirus FRIV. ♀ underside
fig. 16. Plebejus pylaon pylaon F.W. ♀ underside

fig. 17. Plebejus hespericus hespericus FRIV. valva inner side
fig. 18. Plebejus trappi VTY. (= lycidas TRAPP)valva inner side
fig. 19. Plebejus sephirus sephirus FRIV. valva inner side
fig. 20. Plebejus pylaon pylaon F.W. valva inner side