

**A new subspecies of *Paralasa ida* (GROUM-GRSHIMAILO, 1890)
from Tajik Badakhshan**

(Lepidoptera: Satyridae)

by

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In the course of our entomological expeditions to Tajikistan in the summers of 1982, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1992 we caught a series of *Paralasa ida* (GROUM-GRSHIMAILO, 1890) in the Gushkhon valley. The collected satyrids are different from *Paralasa ida ida* from Tanymas valley and Kudara (type locality). As the specimens from Gushkhon are undescribed and unnamed, I am herewith name and describe them as new subspecies:

Paralasa ida majorida* KESKÜLA *subspec. nov.

(colour plate, figs. 1, 2)

Holotype ♂: Tajikistan, W. Pamir, Vanch Range, Gushkhon Pass, 4000–4250 m, 04.VIII.1982, T. KESKÜLA leg.

Allotype ♀: same date and place as the holotype, T. KESKÜLA leg.

Paratypes: 4 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, 29.VII.-04.VIII.1982., 2900–4300 m.; 8 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, 23.–26.VII.1988., 2900–4000 m.; 9 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 20.VII.1989., 2800–3000 m.; 11 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, 17.–21.VII.1990., 2900–3600 m.; 16 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, 12.–24.VII.1992., 3000–3600 m, same place as the holotype and the allotype.

Holotype and allotype are in the collection of T. KESKÜLA, the paratypes are in the collections of T. KESKÜLA, A. LINDT, R. LINDT, S. SALO, Institute of Zoology and Botany of Estonian Agriculture University (Tartu) and the Entomological Museum EITSCHBERGER Marktleuthen.

The subspecies name is composed of the Latin word “major” (= big) and the species epithet “ida”

Holotype: The wingspread of the forewings is 46.5 mm, the length of the forewing is 25.5 mm. The upperside of the forewings is dark brown with a yellowish area on the submarginal and postmedian field. The field's width is 6.0–6.7 mm, widened over the cells M1 and M2. The yellowish area does not extend to the costal margin and to the hind margin. On the upper edge of the yellowish area, on the veins M2 and M1 there is a round black eyespot with a small white point in its centre. The diameter of the black spot is 4.0 mm, that of the white point 0.8 mm. Dark brown veins run through the yellowish area. On the median cell of the forewing is a little marked androconial field.

The upperside of the hindwings are dark brown as the forewings, with a yellowish area on the exterior third. The inner margin of the yellowish area is a little misty. Dark brown veins run through the area. The yellowish area on the underside of the forewings is similarly coloured as the upper side. The basal fields from the base to the yellowish area are reddish-brownish with a narrow orange stripe on the outer margin. The marginal field and the costal margin are brown with white scales. The eyespot is similarly coloured as on the upperside.

The underside of the hindwings is marble brown with many white scales. The postmedian area is yellow. Between the veins on the outer yellow area are misty, little discernible white spots. The diameter of the spots is about 1.0–1.3 mm. The wing fringes of both wings are white at the outer margins and dark brown at the hind margins as the wings colour. The antennae are dark brown with a white circle on each base of a segment.

Allotype: The wingspread of the forewings is 49.0 mm, the length of the forewing is 26.0 mm. The allotype is similarly coloured as the holotype, only the black eyespots are bigger than in the holotype, reaching from vein R5 to vein M3. The yellow postmedian field on the underside of the hindwings has many brown scales. The white points between the veins on the postmedian area are well noticeable.



Type localities of: ○ *Paralasa ida ida* and Δ *Paralasa ida majorida*.

Paratypes: Males. The wingspread of the forewings is 43.0–48.0 mm, the length of the forewing is 24.0–27.0 mm. Females. The wingspread of the forewings is 47.5–52.0 mm, the length of the forewing is 25.0–28.0 mm. Paratypes have similar colour and pattern as the holotype and allotype.

Differential diagnosis

The new subspecies differs from the nominate subspecies mainly by size. The wingspread of the forewings of *ida ida* is fairly 41.5 mm. The light area on the upperside of the forewings of the new subspecies is yellowish as in ssp. *ida*. The light postmedian field on the underside of the hindwings is placed in the middle-area without brown scales, clear. The nominate subspecies has the field thickly covered by brown scales. For that reason the white spots between the veins are well noticeable.

The specimens of *Paralasa ida majorida* subsp. nov. occurred at an altitude of 2800–4300 m on scree and rocky slopes. In addition to this species, there was a diversity of butterflies in this locality (cf. map), for instance *Muschampia staudingeri* SPEYER, *Hesperia comma* LINNAEUS, *Parnassius jacquemontii* BOISDUVAL, *Parnassius autocrator* AVINOV, *Parnassius charltonius* GRAY, *Colias eogene* R. & C. FELDER, *Hyponephele hilaris* STAUDINGER, *Melitaea chitralensis* MOORE, *Melitaea shandura* EVANS, *Lycaena phlaeas* LINNAEUS, *Polyommatus amor* STAUDINGER, *Polyommatus devanica* MOORE.

Acknowledgements

The authors express their sincere gratitude to Mr. EDUARD SAKK (Estonia, Tartu), who photographed the butterflies and to Mrs. TIINA KESKÜLA (Estonia, Kiviõli), who made corrections to the text.

Explanation of the colour plate (p. 205)

Fig. 1: *Paralasa ida majorida* subspec. nov. ♂, Tajikistan, W. Pamir, Vanch Range, Gushkon Pass, 4000–4250 m, 4.VIII.1982, T. KESKÜLA leg. (a – upperside, b – underside).

Fig. 2: *Paralasa ida ida* ♂, Tadjikistan, C. Pamirs, Tanymas Valley, 3700–3800 m, 8.VII.1982, T. PANI leg. (a – upperside, b – underside).

1a	1b
2a	2b

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Neue Entomologische Nachrichten](#)

Jahr/Year: 1998

Band/Volume: [41](#)

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