

# The description of a new species of *Glaucopsyche* SCUDDER, 1872 from central Iran

(Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae)

by

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received 3.III.2007

**Summary:** This article describes a new species within the genus *Glaucopsyche* SCUDDER, 1872, named *Glaucopsyche hazeri spec. nov.*, collected from the central mountains of Iran (North-Western Kerman Province). The locality is an isolated highland area, with limited lowlands and desert (colour plate 5: 7). The closest relative to *G. hazeri spec. nov.* is *G. alexis* (PODA, 1760), which occurs in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, Russia and parts of Europe.

**Zusammenfassung:** *Glaucopsyche hazeri spec. nov.* wird aus den Zentralgebirgen des Iran, im Nordwesten der Provinz Kerman, beschrieben. Bei dem Fundort handelt es sich um eine, durch Ebenen und Wüsten isoliert liegende Hochlandfläche (Farbtaf. 5: 7). Die zu *G. hazeri spec. nov.* nächst verwandte Art ist *G. alexis* (PODA, 1760), die im Iran, in Afghanistan, Pakistan, der Türkei, Rußland und in Teilen Europas vorkommt.

**Introduction:** During the final days of March 2005, both of the authors and Mr. BABAK HAZER traveled 283 km from Kerman to Dehaj, a small village situated near the mountains of western Kerman. 10 km south of Dehaj, in very cold weather, we were lucky to catch 8 ♂♂ of this new species. It was the only butterfly in flight at that time.

Some weeks later, on May 5th 2005, the authors traveled again to Dehaj, this time with Mr. SAMAD RAZAGHI. For the first few days the weather was windy, cloudy and rainy, but then conditions improved and we were able to collect 42 ♂♂ and 4 ♀♀. We traveled to the area once again on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2006 and collected 10 more ♂♂ and 5 ♀♀.

**Habitat and Ecology:** *Glaucopsyche hazeri spec. nov.* inhabited altitudes of between 2300 and 2500 m, and was found flying near ground level on a sunny slope situated near farms and other small areas under cultivation. Vegetation was sparse and mainly consisted of *Vicia* sp., *Euphorbia helioscopia* and *Asphodelus ramosus*. From a geological point of view the district is volcanic, with basalt and other related rocks. The highest mountains in the region include Medvar at 2875 m, Jhareayyoub at 3410 m, and Kalat at 3320 m. Other butterflies flying in the area included: *Papilio machaon syriacus* (ELLER, 1936), *Pieris krueperi krueperi* (STAUDINGER, 1860), *Pontia daplidice daplidice* (LINNAEUS, 1758), *Euchloe ausonia taurica* (RÖBER, 1907), *Colias crocea crocea* (FOURCROY, 1758), *Plebejides pylaon iranica* (FORSTER, 1939), *Vanessa cardui cardui* (LINNAEUS, 1758), *Lasionymata megera transcaspica* (STAUDINGER, 1901), *Erynnis marloyi marloyi* (BOISDUVAL, 1834), and *Carcharodus alceae alceae* (ESPER, 1780).

Holotype ♂ (colour plate 5: 1): Ghare Ayyoub Mt. Dehaj (280 km N. W. Kerman City) 30.8 N -54.84 E, Kerman Province, 2300-2500 m. March 29<sup>th</sup> 2005 AHMAD KARBALAYE leg. The holotype has been deposited in the collection of the 1<sup>st</sup> Im Plant Pests & Diseases Research Institute, Tehran, Iran.

Paratypes 59 ♂, 9 ♀: Same locality as holotype, A. KARBALAYE, A. H. HARANDY, B. HAZER, & S. RAZEGHI leg. April 4<sup>th</sup> 2006: 23 ♂, 2 ♀ in coll. A. KARBALAYE, 18 ♂, 2 ♀ in coll. A. H. HARANDI, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ in coll. A. R. NADERI (Karaj), 13 ♂, 3 ♀ in coll. RONNY LEESTMANS (Brussels), 2 ♂, 1 ♀ in coll. B. HAZER (Tehran), and 2 ♂ in coll. S. RAZEGHI (Ghazvin).

Derivatio nominis: Mr. BABAK HAZER is our friend and accompanied us on the first expedition.

**Description:** As illustrated; *G. hazeri* spec. nov. (colour plate 5: 1, 2) differs from its close relative *G. alexis* (PODA, 1760) (colour plate 5: 3-6) in the following characteristics:

♂: Wingspan 26mm. Upperside of a shining blue with relatively broad wings, with a narrow dark greyish band at the termen without marginal spots. The underside is of a metallic dark green from the base to the discal section, with an irregular row of dark light-ringed spots and a prominent curved row of similar spots on the forewing. The inner section of the fringes is dark brown, while the outer is greyish.

♀: Wingspan 27 mm. Upperside of a shining brownish-blue with fairly broad wings.

We offer our thanks to WERNER BACK, STEVEN VAN CAMPEN, OLIVIER, and AZADEH FARJADDOOST, for their assistance.



Distribution-map of *Glaucoopsyche alexis* (PODA, 1760) and *Glaucoopsyche hazeri* spec. nov.

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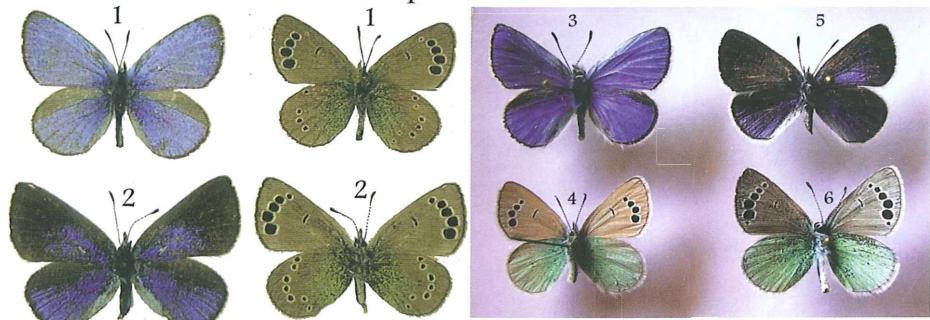
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### Colour plate 5 (page 311)

- Fig. 1: *Glaucopsyche hazeri spec. nov.*, Holotypus ♂, 280 km NW Kerman (Dehaj), 10 km W Dehaj, Medvar Mountain, 4.IV.2006, leg. et coll. KARBALAYE.
- Fig. 2: *Glaucopsyche hazeri spec. nov.*, Allotypus ♀, 280 km NW Kerman (Dehaj), 10 km W Dehaj, Medvar Mountain, 4.IV.2006, leg. et coll. KARBALAYE.
- Fig. 3: *Glaucopsyche alexis* (PODA, 1760), ♂, Saveh, Khanak, 1700 m, 3.IV.2005, leg. et coll. KARBALAYE.
- Fig. 4: *Glaucopsyche alexis* (PODA, 1760), ♂, N Tehran, Lavasan, Kound, 2000 m, 5.V.2005 , leg. et coll. KARBALAYE.
- Fig. 5: *Glaucopsyche alexis* (PODA, 1760), ♀, Saveh, Khanak, 1700 m, 3.IV.2005, leg. et coll. KARBALAYE.
- Fig. 6: *Glaucopsyche alexis* (PODA, 1760), ♀, N Tehran, Lavasan, Kound, 2000 m, 5.V.2005 , leg. et coll. KARBALAYE.
- Fig. 7: Type locality, 280 km NW Kerman (Dehaj), 10 km W Dehaj, Medvar Mountain, 4.IV.2006.

## Colour plate 5/ Farbtafel 5



6: *Glaucopsyche alexis* (PODA, 1760), ♀, N Tehran, Lavasan, Kound, 2000 m, 5.V.2005, leg. et coll. KARBALAYE.  
Fig. 7: Type locality, 280 km NW Kerman (Dehaj), 10 km W Dehaj, Medvar Mountain, 4.IV.2006.

KARBALAYE, A. & A. H. HARANDI: The description of a new species of *Glaucopsyche* SCUDDER, 1872 from central Iran (Lep., Lycaenidae). - Atalanta 38 (1/2): 177-179.

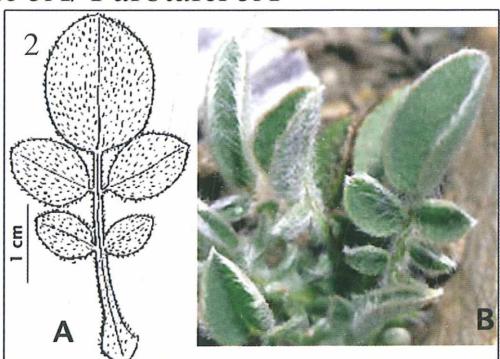
Fig. 1, 2: *Glaucopsyche hazeri* spec. nov., Holotypus ♂, Allotypus ♀, 280 km NW Kerman (Dehaj), 10 km W Dehaj, Medvar Mountain, 4.IV.2006, leg. et coll. KARBALAYE.

Fig. 3: *Glaucopsyche alexis* (PODA, 1760), ♂, Saveh, Khanak, 1700 m, 3.IV.2005, leg. et coll. KARBALAYE.

Fig. 4: *Glaucopsyche alexis* (PODA, 1760), ♂, N Tehran, Lavasan, Kound, 2000 m, 5.V.2005 , leg. et coll. KARBALAYE.

Fig. 5: *Glaucopsyche alexis* (PODA, 1760), ♀, Saveh, Khanak, 1700 m, 3.IV.2005, leg. et coll. KARBALAYE. Fig. 6:

## Colour plate 5A/ Farbtafel 5A



GIL-T., F.: The correct hostplant of *Polyommatus golgus* (HÜBNER, 1813): *Anthyllis vulneraria pseudoarundana* H. LINDB. (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae). - Atalanta 38 (1/2): 199-202.

Fig. 1: ♀ of *Polyommatus golgus* (HÜBNER, 1813) on *Anthyllis vulneraria pseudoarundana*.

Fig. 2: Left: leaves of *A. v. arundana*; right: leaves of *A. v. pseudoarundana*.

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Karbalaye Ahmad, Harandi Hossein

Artikel/Article: [The description of a new species of \*Glauopsyche\* Scudder, 1872 from central Iran 177-179](#)