

A new subspecies of *Parnassius ariadne* (LEDERER, 1853) from the South-Eastern part of Russian Altai

(Lepidoptera, Papilionidae)

by

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Abstract: A new subspecies, *Parnassius ariadne erlik* **subspec. nov.**, is described (col. pl. 23: 1-6).

Material: Holotype ♂, Altai Rep., Chikhacheva Mts., Tabdair [Taldair] Mt., 2500 m, 5.-7.07.2008, leg. R. YAKOVLEV & E. GUS'KOVA (ZISP). Paratypes: the same data, 14 ♂♂, 11 ♀♀ (coll. R. YAKOVLEV).

Description ♂: Antennae short, black. Fore wing length 31-33 mm. Wing cream-white. Thorax and abdomen covered with whitish hairs. Wings rounded. Veins dark, well contrasted to the ground colour. Fore wing with a semitransparent marginal band with an even inner margin, a grey dentate submarginal band developed from costa to vein M2, and two black spots: inside cell and in discal zone. Hind wing with a weakly developed grey dentate submarginal band, a broad dark zone at anal margin, and two black spots in spaces Sc+R-Rs and M1-M2. In about one third of males (4 ♂♂) the proximal black spot is centered with a ochraceous-red.

♀: somewhat smaller, fore wing length 29-31 mm. Dark pattern much better developed. Post-discal band on fore wing reaches wing hind margin. Ochraceous colour present in both spots in spaces Sc+R-Rs and M1-M2 as well in one third of ♀♀ (3 ♀♀).

Diagnosis: The new species well differs from the described forms of *P. ariadne* (LED.) by reduction of the reddish colour inside the hind wing discal spots and a stronger wing darkening in the ♀♀. Imagines fly a month later than the nominotypical subspecies. A zone of intergradation with the nominotypical subspecies may exist in Kuray Range, where (at Chagan-Uzun village) several specimens were collected with slightly reduced reddish spots on the hind wings.

Habitat: The new subspecies inhabits highland xerophytic communities (with *Oxytropis tragacanthoides*, *Biebersteinia odora*, *Comarum salexovianum* etc.) developed on steep southern slopes at 2500 m above sea level. Probably the larval food plant is *Corydalis stricta*, present in the type locality, rather than *Corydalis nobilis* (as elsewhere), which has not been recorded in the locality.

Etymology: The new species is named after the supreme god of Altayans, ERLIK.

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Colour plate 23/ Farbtafel 23

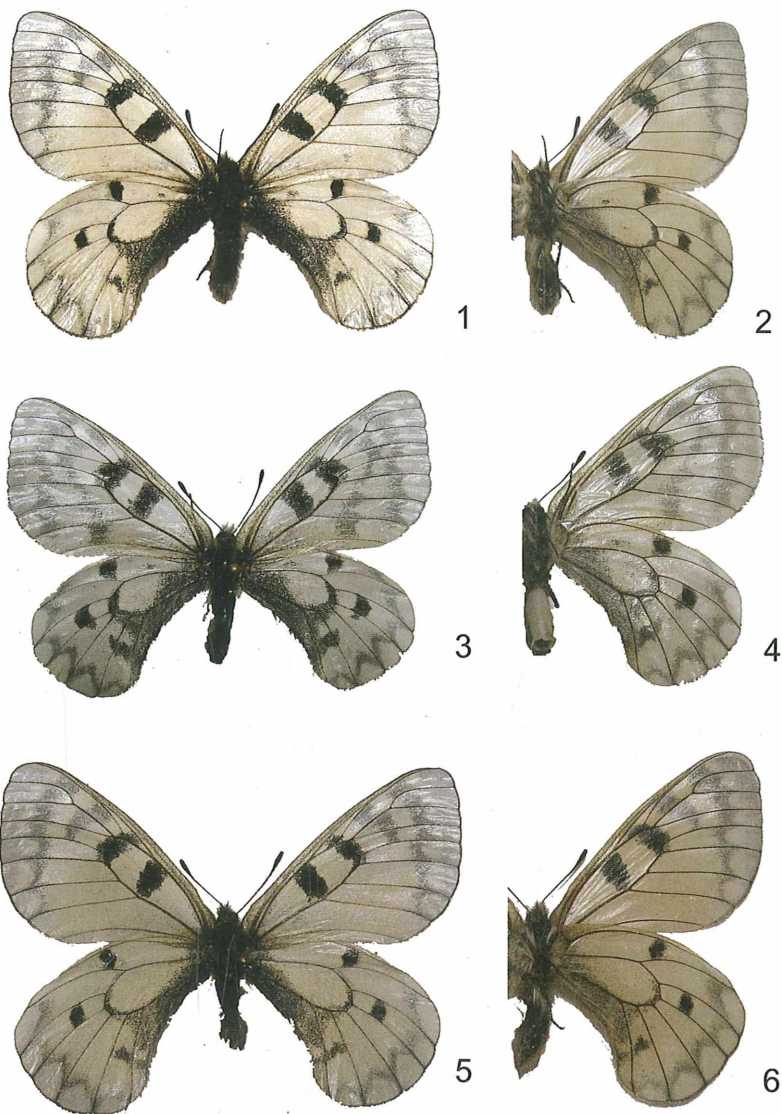


Fig. 1-6: *Parnassius ariadne erlik* subsp. nov., Altai Rep., Chikhacheva Mts, Tabduair [Talduair] Mt., 2500 m, 5.-7.07.2008, leg. R. YAKOVLEV & E. GUS'KOVA.

Fig. 1, 2: Holotype ♂, upper side and under side.

Fig. 3, 4: Paratype ♀, upper side and under side.

Fig. 5, 6: Paratype ♂, upper side and under side.