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

(Lepidoptera, Papilionidae)

by

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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 in 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* (Ledd.) 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 salveovianum* 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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Fig. 1-6: *Parnassius ariadne evlik* subspec. 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.
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