

On some Butterflies from Tibet.

By

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In the "Insekten Börse" for May 1903 and in "Iris" 1903 pp. 43—47 etc. Herr Fruhstorfer has described some butterflies from Tibet under new names, about which I feel called upon to make some remarks. It appears from letters received from Col. Fawcett of Scaleby Castle, Carlisle, that some butterflies were sent to him in 1903 by Mr. Fritz Moller of Darjeeling, India, who probably received them from Mr. J. C. White, Political Officer to the Indian Government in Sikkim, who accompanied the Government Mission to Tibet. Col. Fawcett made drawings of some of these butterflies which he sent to me for my opinion, and also to Dr. Jordan. We both thought that it was impossible, from such scanty materials, to describe them as new, especially as they appeared very similar to species already described and known from Ladak, and from Alpine Sikkim and the Chumbi Valley, which were described by myself in a paper in Proc. Zool. Soc. London 1882 p. 398. It seems from a letter written by Mr. F. Moller to Col. Fawcett that the drawings of these butterflies, which the latter returned to Mr. Moller with the names given by myself, were sent with some other specimens to Herr Fruhstorfer, who described the insects under new names without mentioning the name of the person from whom they came, or in anyway alluding to the opinions expressed by Dr. Jordan and myself. Some of these butterflies were afterwards sold by Herr Fruhstorfer to the Honble Walter Rothschild who has been good enough to lend them to me for examination, and I find, as I supposed before, that they are not new species.

They are as follows.

Parnassius imperator (augustus, Fruhst.) ? in lit.

A fresh pair from Mr. Rothschild collected at Kham-bajong, about 40 miles north of the Sikkim frontier, in July 1903, at an elevation of about 15000 feet, do not differ in any way worth mentioning from those from Ta-chien-lo in W. China, though the outer bands of the hindwing above are more distinct. The pouch of the female, though slightly damaged, appears to be of precisely similar structure.

Parnassius simo var. ? (P. *aconus*, Fruhst. Iris 1903 p. 43.)

A fresh male sent by Mr. Rothschild, which agrees with the figure made by Col. Fawcett from a specimen taken at 17—19 000 feet in Native Sikkim, is very like var. *simulator*, Stgr. from the Thianshan mountains; except that it has two bright red ocelli on the hindwing in the usual position, which are black in *simonius* and in the typical specimens of *simo*, a character of no specific importance in my opinion. I am, however, unable without seeing a female to say for certain whether this male is a form of *simo*, or of *acco*, of which I received one specimen from a native collector on the Sikkim frontier as long ago as 1881, which is further mentioned in my paper on the genus *Parnassius* in P. Z. S. 1886 p. 35. Fruhstorfer says that the pouch of the female of his *aconus* is „nur ein wurmförmiges Anhängsel, einen dünnen Schlauch ähnlich wie ihn *simonius* Stgr. trägt.“ This alone would be amply sufficient to shew that it has more affinity with *simo* than with *acco*, whose pouch is one of the most distinct and peculiar in the whole genus. C. F. Elwes P. Z. S. 1886. Plate.

Parnassius delphius var = P. *delphius lampidius*, nov. subsp. Fruhst. Iris 1903 p. 44.

A single female sent me by Mr. Rothschild is probably the same as a female of which a drawing was made by Col. Fawcett from a specimen taken with the last. It appears to be a very dwarfed specimen of a form of the wide-ranging and variable P. *delphius*, coming nearest to var. *staudingeri* Bang-Haas, but much smaller. The pouch being damaged I cannot be certain whether it is the same, but it has the general form of the very peculiar-shaped appendage common to all the varieties of this species.

Colias eogene var. *stoliczkana* (C. *eogene miranda*, Fruhst. Iris 1903. p. 48.

I have already described this form in a note on some species of *Colias* found in Ladak (Jour. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc. Vol. XI. part III. 1898 p. 465) from a pair sent by Sir J. C. (then Mr.) White which I then said were very closely allied to, if not identical with, *C. stoliczkanus*, of which I possess one of the type specimens given me by the late Dr. Felder. The drawings made by Col. Fawcett from specimens taken in Sikkim at 19 000 feet, together with a fresh pair lent by Mr. Rothschild and named *miranda* by Fruhstorfer, confirm this opinion, though the specimens being fresher and brighter than my old ones, or those from which Col. Fawcett's drawings were made, enable me to note the following differences. ♂ below has the disk of a brighter yellow in fore and hindwings, the central spot in hindwing longer and brighter in colour in Mr. Rothschild's specimen (not in my own), but this character is variable in a series of Ladak specimens. ♀ above hindwing much darker and orange central spot more distinct, border usually (not always) better marked; below disk of forewing yellower and black spots more distinct, border brighter yellow and more distinct. These characters also seem to be variable.

The *Colias* described by Fruhstorfer in *Iris* 1903 p. 47 as *phicomone* var. *phile*, I have not seen; unless, as seems probable, it is the pale form of *nastes* or *cocandica* which I described in Jour. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc. Vol. XI. p. 466. (1897) as *nastes* var. *leechii*, which is in Staudinger's last Catalogue put as a var. of *cocandica*.

It is entirely false to say, as Fruhstorfer does, that I in Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1884 treated *Colias ladakensis* as a var. of *phicomone*, and seems to shew that he has not referred to my paper, where both on p. 6 and on p. 24 I have put down *ladakensis* as a distinct species. I do not believe, until I see it, that *phicomone* occurs in Kashmir or Ladak. No one has yet found *phicomone* anywhere east of the Carpathians, whereas *nastes* or *cocandica* (I care not which you call it) occurs in some form or another all over Central Asia.

I may add that the species described as *Baltia sikkima*, Fruhst. *Iris*. 1903. p. 50 is not separable, so far as the specimens I have seen enable me to judge, from *shawii*. What he described on p. 46 as *Parnassius „hardtwicki“* (sic) *ab otus*, is, no doubt, one of the numerous varieties of that variable species which are common

in the Himalaya. What is described on p. 41. as *Argynnis clara manis* nov. subsp., differs in nothing but size from *A. clara*.

I think I have now said enough to shew that, as on former occasions, Herr Fruhstorfer has only caused confusion by his attempts to make so-called "new species" for reasons which appear to be rather commercial than scientific; and that this practice is doubly prejudicial to science when, as in the present case, the descriptions are published without care being taken to see what already been written on the subject by competent writers.



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