

Editorial

This supplement surely will not be the last compendium to be written about the *Polyommatus* (*Agrodiaetus*) species-complex. The main reason for this volume is to provide a summary in form of a catalogue and an up-to-date checklist of all described *Agrodiaetus* taxa, which was missing until now. Coloured illustrations of a few species have never been published. This gap is also closed here. Most of the *Agrodiaetus* taxa were described during the last 40 years. The reason for this is that their centre of distribution lies in the Near and Middle East. The countries in this area often are politically unstable and only few locations have been investigated entomologically. Also nowadays new *Agrodiaetus* species and subspecies can still be found – often occurring very locally – as the new descriptions in this volume show. On the other hand, a few very characteristic taxa were considered to have disappeared because they were not found again for a long time despite the intensive search by many entomologists. This paper volume contains a report about the re-discovery of such a „legend“ – *Polyommatus* (*Agrodiaetus*) *dama* STAUDINGER, 1892.

A lot of taxonomical questions can still not be answered and will only be solved by a revision of all *Agrodiaetus*-species. The observation of their early stages and cytological investigations of their chromosome numbers become more and more important. Two publications in this volume deal with these questions using *Polyommatus* (*Agrodiaetus*) *damone* EVERS-MANN, 1841 as an example – one of the few taxa of this group that was described last century. Without a close investigation of such typical populations the many recently described taxa cannot be taxonomically interpreted.

The authors hope that the papers published here motivate further investigations of this interesting group of Lycaenidae.

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