

New records for recently described Chinese butterflies (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae; Nymphalidae, Satyrinae)

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Abstract: The following new records and additional information on some recently described Chinese butterflies are presented: new specimens of *Chonala laurae* BOZANO, 1999 (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae) and of *Lycaena sichuanica* BOZANO & WEIDENHOFFER, 2001 (Lycaenidae), both previously known only from the holotype specimens, and a new locality for *Taraka shiloi* TAMAI & LEI, 2001 (Lycaenidae). In addition, the new replacement name *sigberti* nom. nov. is proposed to replace the primary homonym *Melanargia asiatica wagneri* BOZANO, 2002 [nec *Melanargia larissa wagneri* KOÇAK, 1977] (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae).

Neunachweise kürzlich beschriebener chinesischer Tagfalter (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae; Nymphalidae, Satyrinae)

Zusammenfassung: Die folgenden Neunachweise und weitere Informationen über einige kürzlich beschriebene chinesische Tagfalter werden vorgestellt: Zusätzliche Exemplare von *Chonala laurae* BOZANO, 1999 (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae) und von *Lycaena sichuanica* BOZANO & WEIDENHOFFER, 2001 (Lycaenidae), die beide bisher nur von den Holotypen bekannt waren; darüber hinaus werden neue, über 600 km vom Typenfundort entfernte Nachweise von *Taraka shiloi* TAMAI & LEI, 2001 (Lycaenidae) angegeben. Weiterhin wird der neue Ersatzname *sigberti* nom. nov. vorgeschlagen, um das primäre Homonym *Melanargia asiatica wagneri* BOZANO, 2002 [nec *Melanargia larissa wagneri* KOÇAK, 1977] zu ersetzen (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae).

Introduction

Species described only after singletons are always somehow problematic. It appears, therefore, worthwhile to publish some new records of Chinese butterflies which had recently been described (BOZANO 1999, BOZANO & WEIDENHOFFER 2001, TAMAI & LEI 2001). Further, a homonymy in the genus *Melanargia* is solved by creating a substitute name for the subspecies *Melanargia asiatica wagneri* BOZANO, 2002.

Lycaenidae

Taraka shiloi TAMAI & LEI, 2001

Just half an hour walk away from the locality of *Chonala laurae* in the Qin Ling mountains (Shaanxi, China) (see below), a population of a peculiar *Taraka* species was discovered by the author already in 1997. In July 2003 some more specimens were collected, both ♂♂ and ♀♀ (Figs. 1, 2). The species turned out to be *Taraka shiloi*, a new species described in the meantime by other authors.

Taraka shiloi was described from specimens found in Dujiangyan and Dayi in Central Sichuan, while the new population inhabits the Eastern part of the Qin Ling

mountains, Shaanxi Province, almost 600 km NE of the previously known localities.

Lycaena sichuanica BOZANO & WEIDENHOFFER, 2001

The good entomological memory of J. C. WEISS has allowed the discovery of two more specimens of *Lycaena sichuanica*. *Lycaena sichuanica* was described based on a single ♂ specimen (Figs. 3, 4) which the author had obtained long ago from a French entomologist. The writing on the holotype's label was wrongly interpreted as: "Qionglai Shan 3000 m, Sichuan, 18–8 [= August] 1991, leg. CHAMBOIT".

J. C. WEISS remembered this French collector and succeeded reaching him. His correct name is CHAMBOST, and two more ♂ specimens of *L. sichuanica* were found in his collection. The collecting locality is the one quoted above, but the true collecting date is the time span 8–18 June [not August 18!]. Mr. CHAMBOST has explained that *L. sichuanica* was found on a pass close to the town of Barkam in NW Sichuan.

The two newly discovered specimens (Figs. 5, 6) do perfectly agree with the characters pointed out in the description of *L. sichuanica* and show the same sharp difference to *Lycaena phlaeas chinensis* (C. FELDER, 1862), widespread in central China (Figs. 7, 8). So some doubt that *sichuanica* might just be an individual aberration of *phlaeas* has mostly been resolved.

The ♀ of *Lycaena sichuanica* remains unknown.

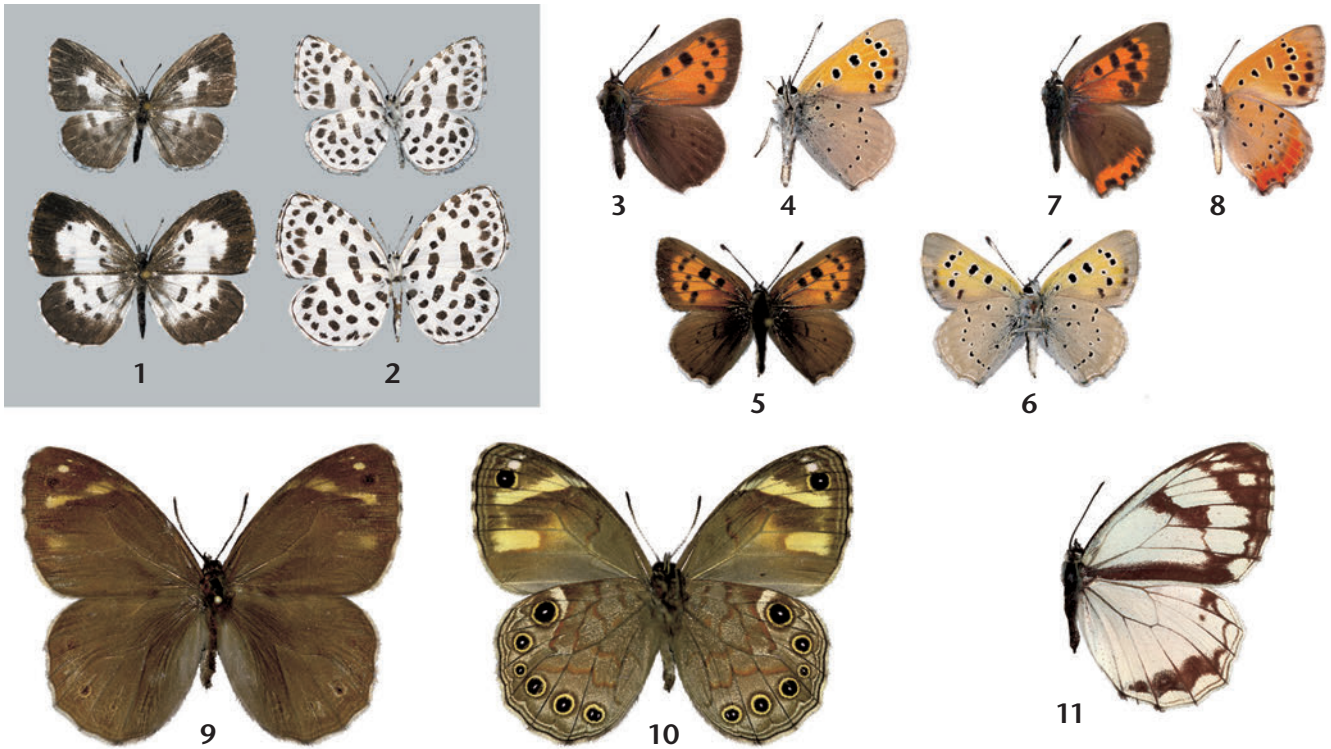
Nymphalidae: Satyrinae

Chonala laurae BOZANO, 1999

Chonala laurae was described based on a single ♂ specimen collected by the author on July 13, 1997 in the Qin Ling mountains, 1500 m, GPS coordinates 33°25'45"N 108°26'00"E (Shaanxi, China). In July 1998 two more specimens were spotted in the same locality, but it was not possible to collect them. Subsequent researches did not reveal any additional record of this very elusive species. It was therefore supposed that *laurae* could be on the wings later in the season, just like the other Chinese *Chonala* species.

However, on July 10, 2003 the author collected a ♂ specimen (Figs. 9, 10) exactly at the same locality where six years earlier the holotype specimen was found.

The habitat is a woodland at an altitude of 1800 m, where the specimen of *laurae* was flying together with many interesting satyrine species including *Lethe proxima*



Colour plate: New records of Chinese butterflies. **Figs. 1–2:** *Taraka shiloi*, ♂ (top) and ♀ (bottom), same locality and date as before. Fig. 1: upper-sides, Fig. 2: undersides. **Figs. 3–6:** *Lycaena sichuanica*, 8.–18. vi. 1991, Qionglai Shan, 3000 m, Sichuan, China, leg. CHAMBOST. Figs. 3–4: ♂ holotype, Figs. 5–6: additional ♂, now discovered. Figs. 3, 5 upper-sides, Figs. 4, 6 undersides. **Figs. 7–8:** *Lycaena phlaeas chinensis*, ♂, for comparison. E. Qin Ling Mts., Shaanxi, China. Fig. 7 upperside, Fig. 8 underside. **Figs. 9–10:** *Chonala laurae*, ♂, 10. vii. 2003, Qin Ling Mts., 1800 m, 33°25'45"N, 108°26'00"E, E. Shaanxi, China. Fig. 9: upperside, Fig. 10: underside. **Fig. 11:** *Melanargia asiatica sigberti*, ♂, upperside, Yajiang, W. Sichuan, China. — Photographs author, approximately to original scale.

LEECH, 1892, *Lethe marginalis* MOTSCHULSKY, 1860, *Lethe oculatissima* POUJADE, 1885, *Lethe nigrifascia* LEECH, 1890, *Lethe manzorum* POUJADE, 1884 and *Raphicera dumicola* OBERTHÜR, 1876.

The ♀ of *Chonala laurae* remains unknown.

Melanargia asiatica sigberti nomen novum

In 2002 I described the subspecies *Melanargia asiatica wagneri* from Yajiang, W Sichuan, characterized by a strong reduction of the black markings on the upperside (Fig. 11). However, the name *wagneri* BOZANO, 2002 was found to be a primary homonym of *Melanargia larissa wagneri* KOÇAK, 1977.

The replacement (or substitute) name *Melanargia asiatica sigberti* **nom. nov.** is here proposed (ICZN 1999: Art. 72.7), based on the first name of Dr. WAGENER, the late eminent specialist of the genus *Melanargia*: Sigbert, to replace the homonym. The ♂ holotype specimen of

Melanargia asiatica wagneri = *sigberti* is deposited in the Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, Germany.

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Received: 19. xii. 2003, 9. i. 2004

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Jahr/Year: 2004

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Artikel/Article: [New records for recently described Chinese butterflies \(Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae; Nymphalidae, Satyrinae\) 25-26](#)