

Polish Academy of Sciences expeditions to North Korea – Lepidoptera Introduction

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Summary

Some general data on the lepidopterological expeditions of the Polish Academy of Sciences to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are given prior to a series of lists of the Lepidoptera planned for *Nota lepidopterologica* (*).

After a series of four trips to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea undertaken by the Institute of Zoology, PAS, Warsaw (1959-1970) the Institute of Systematic and Experimental Zoology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków organised over the years 1971-1985 eight expeditions in which small groups of the staff participated. Lepidopterists took part in three of them, collecting approximately 25000 specimens. These were caught both during the day and at night using traps with UV and white light. The most abundant families were the Noctuidae, Geometridae, Pyralidae and Nymphalidae; less frequent were Sphingidae, Lycaenidae, Tortricidae and Hesperiidae.

As the eastern part of the Palaearctic Subregion and its transition zone to the Oriental Region are still insufficiently explored, it seems justifiable to record all the data collected, even concerning well known taxa. A comparison of the fauna of the Lepidoptera of the Korean Peninsula with those of the rather well known faunas of Japan and Primorskij Kraj (USSR) will then be possible. At present, it is thought that the strongest affinities of the Korean fauna are between the territories of the Primorskij Kraj, Manchuria, Ussuri and the north-eastern part of China, rather than with Honsyu and Hokkaido.

Literature on the Lepidoptera of Korea is rather scarce, however, in the last ten years several important papers have been published, e.g. those by KIM (1976) in which numerous publications are recorded and the series of papers

(*) The Notodontidae are treated by A. SCHINTLMEISTER in this issue, pp. 206-226.

by PARK dealing with various families of Lepidoptera. The most important series is the *Illustrated Flora and Fauna of Korea* of which volume 27 is devoted to Lepidoptera (NAM, PARK & SHIN, 1983).

Lepidopterological trips

1. 12.VIII.-18.IX.1971 ; participant : Józef RAZOWSKI ; Route : Pyongyang – Sokam-Cosuji – Yongak-san – Sokam – Sunan – Taesong – Gyamosan – Hyesan – Samjiyon – Pyongyang.
2. 6.VI.-15.VII.1983 ; participant : Edward PALIK ; Route : Pyongyang – Myohyang-san – Sokam – Chongjin – Dongsa – Pyongyang.
3. 10.VI.-19.VII.1985 ; participants : Jan KOZIELEC, Edward PALIK ; Route : Pyongyang, Haeju – Pyongyang – Myohyang-san – Pyongyang – Hyesan – Samjiyon – Paskmu Plateau – Taechongdan – Chonbong – Pyongyang – Kumgang-san – Pyongyang.

List of localities

The numbers in brackets correspond with those in Fig. 1. There are various transcriptions of Korean names but in this paper I follow those used in the official map published by the government of DPRK in 1976. MROCKOWSKI (1972), PAWŁOWSKI (1974) and STEBNICKA (1980) used the international transcription given here in brackets. For additional data on the localities see the above mentioned publications.

Chauryong (25 ; prov. North Hamgyong). Reservoir, c. 100 km long, north of Chongjin, and the pass Chauryong, altitude 950 m. Surrounding mountains reaching up to 1900 m. Collecting sites at the pass and in a long valley. Biotopes : mixed forest with larch, oak and a walnut sp., with small clearings with rich vegetation, also bushes with *Sambucus* sp.

Chonbong (15 ; prov. Ryanggang). A village, c. 40 km W of Samjiyon at altitudes up to 1600 m. Biotopes as in the vicinity of Samjiyon.

Chongjin (22 , prov. North Hamgyong). Cultivated areas around the town.

Dongsa (23, prov. North Hamgyong). A village in the Chauryong valley at an altitude of c. 650 m, near lake Muyang. Granite slopes with rich meadows and bushes.

Dongha-ri – see Hyesan.

Gyamosan (11 ; Džamosan ; prov. Pyongan, distr. Sunchon). Cultivated area with groups of old oaks; chestnut-trees and various bushes ; collecting sites also in the village Džamo-ri (night).

Haeju (1 ; Hedžu ; prov. South Whanghae). Port on the Gulf of West Korea surrounded by mountains reaching c. 700 m. Southern slopes with a few pine forests,

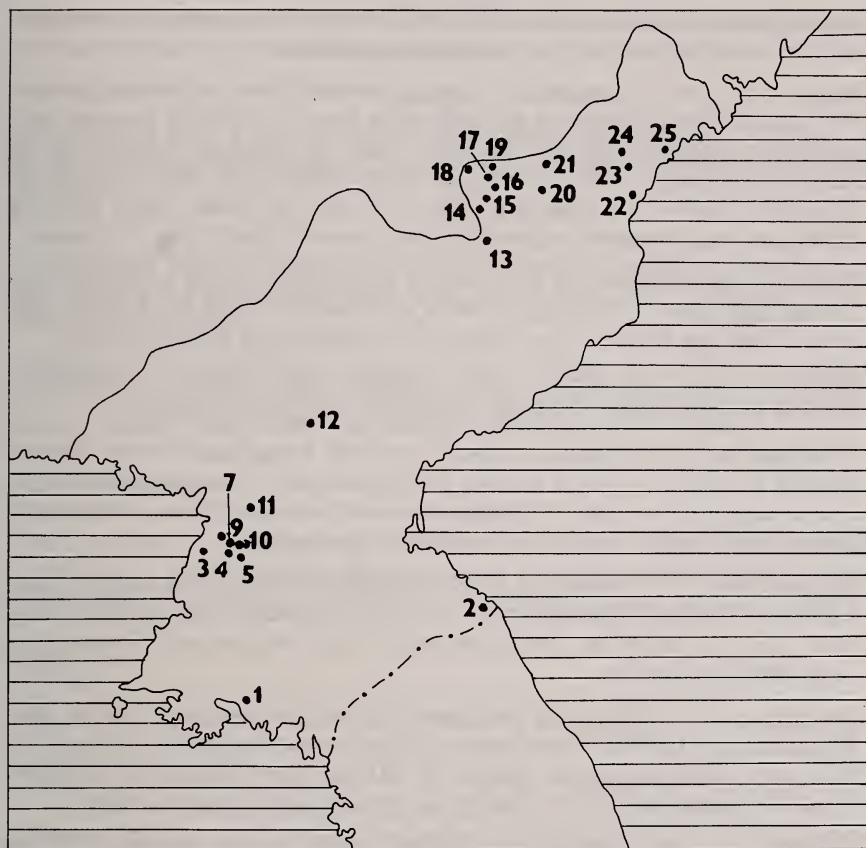


Fig. 1. Polish expeditions to North Korea, 1971-1985. Collecting localities. Key :

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Haeju | 11. Gyamosan | 19. Paekmu |
| 2. Kumgang-san | 12. Myohyang-san | 20. Taechongdan |
| 3. Taesong | 13. Hyesan | 21. Mupo |
| 4. Sunha-kang | 14. Poso-ri | 22. Chongjin |
| 5. Pyongyang | 15. Chonbong | 23. Dongsan |
| 7. Sunan | 16. Namphote-san | 24. Hyangsan-chon |
| 9. Yongak-san | 17. Samjiyon | 25. Chauryong |
| 10. Sokam | 18. Paegdu-san | |

upper parts of the western and northern hills covered with mixed forest and bushes. Night collecting in the valley at an altitude of 380 m, 6 km N of the town.

Hyangsan-chon (24 ; prov. North Hamgyong). A valley and the surrounding area, in the Myohyang-san Range, with dense deciduous forests and bushes ; higher up to 1700 m a mixed forest with various conifers, then dwarf birch only. Waste areas

and road-sides very often polluted with DDT ; recently many houses have been built and the collecting sites have been completely destroyed.

Hyesan (13 ; prov. Ryanggang). Town at Amnok River. Collecting sites at 700-1000 m. Day collecting on hills NE of the town, at c. 700 m, in young larch forests and clearings with rich vegetation ; near the village of Nekog-ri on the Karim-chon stream (c. 900 m) with rich mixed forests (larch with fir) ; near the village of Dongha-ri in a small river valley c. 15 km S of Hyesan. Night collecting in the town and on a hill E of the town.

Kumgang-san (2). Mountains up to 1600 m altitude in SE part of prov. Kwanwong (Hamgyong-pukto). Collecting in valleys at altitudes of 200-300 m with dense mixed forest with bamboo ; also higher up on slopes with a few pine forests.

Mupo (21 ; prov. Ryanggang ; distr. Mubong). Near Samjiyon ; collecting at altitudes of 1500-1600 m ; biotopes comparable with those at Samjiyon.

Myohyang-san (12). Mountain range in provinces Chagang and North Pyongan reaching to 1900 m, north of the river Chongchon-gang. Collecting sites E of the town Hyangsan in the valley of Hyangsan-chon and on slopes. Dense, old deciduous forests (mainly oaks) with large plantations of pine or larch.

Namphote-san (16). Mountain in prov. Ryanggang ; collecting sites near the village Phote-ri (c. 1200 m). The lower areas are under cultivation, with forests of larch, birch, *Salix* etc. higher up. Dwarf pine, birch, *Salix*, *Dryas* sp. and *Rhododendron* occur above the tree line.

Paegdu-san (18 ; Pektu-san). Mountains in the most northern part of prov. Ryanggang, up to 2750 m. Large areas of old larch taiga forest (with *Picea ojanensis* and *Larix dahurica*) up to an altitude of 2000 m ; above this *Salix*, *Vaccinium*, *Rhododendron*, up to 2300 m, then *Dryas*, *Gentiana* and *Chrysanthemum*.

Paekmu (19 ; prov. Ryanggyang). Highlands with altitudes between 1950 and 2700 m. Collecting sites c. 30 km N of Samjiyon, above the forest line, with rhododendrons and *Vaccinium*. Some large screes.

Phote-ri – see Namphote-san.

Poso-ri (14 ; prov. Ryanggang). A village in Samjiyon district. Biotopes : taiga forests, with larch and birch at c. 1400 m. Both day and night collecting.

Pyongyang (5). Capital of DPRK. Night collecting with UV light on hotel roof near a park on the Tedong River ; during the day in the botanical garden and other parks. All this area heavily treated with DDT.

Samjiyon (17 ; prov. Ryanggang). Town in the NW part of the province at an altitude of 1480 m. Collecting in larch taiga at a lake near a dense forest and in the valleys of the Soondang-su and Tuman-gang rivers.

Sokam (10 ; Sokam-cosuji ; prov. South Pyongan, distr. Sunan). Artificial lake about 40 km NW of Pyongyang. Fields, bushes and mixed forest on the hills.

Sunan (7). A village c. 35 km N of Pyongyang. Collecting along road sides and amongst groups of bushes (*Robinia*, oak, etc.).

Sunha-kang (4). A river SW of Pyongyang.

Taechongdan (20 ; a district in prov. Ryanggang, near Samjiyon). Collected at altitudes up to 1600 m. Biotopes as in vicinity of Samjiyon, but in addition some peat-bogs.

Taesong (3 ; prov. South Pyongan, distr. Kangso). A village with lake c. 30 km S of Pyongyang. Biotopes : dense pine forests with bushes of young oak, pine, chestnut and *Robinia*. In more humid sites also *Alnus* sp. In 1985 devastated by the construction of houses.

Yongak-san (9 ; prov. South Pyongan). A hill (c. 400 m) 30 km. W. of Pyongyang and valley of the Sunha River. Collecting on slopes of the hill during the day ; at night in a small village on a river. Biotopes damaged by use of DDT.

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