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Three new synonymies in *Tethea* OCHSENHEIMER (Lepidoptera, Thyatiridae)

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The genus *Tethea* OCHSENHEIMER, 1816, includes more than 50 described taxa that are now arranged into 13 species and 34 subspecies from Eurasia to Sundaland (WERNY, 1966 ; OKANO, 1970 ; EVERT, 1976 ; FREINA & WITT, 1987). During the course of my study on this family, I became aware of three new synonymies in this genus. Two of them are local S. E. Asian taxa, but the other is European.

Palimpsestis rufa HOULBERT, 1921. (Fig. 1)

In OBERTHÜR, *Études Lép. comp.* 18 (2) : 148 [Europe].
Syn. n. of *Tethea or* ([DENIS & SCHIFFERMÜLLER], 1775) = *Noctua or* [DENIS & SCHIFFERMÜLLER], 1775, *Ankündung syst. Werkes Schmett. Wienergegend* : 87.

LECTOTYPE : ♂ (Fig. 1), here designated, labelled "Type", "Ex Oberthür Coll. Brit. Mus. 1927-3.", "*Palimpsestis rufa* L.", preserved in British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

Fig. 1. *Palimpsestis rufa* HOULBERT, lectotype ♂, and its labels. British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

P. rufa was described from an uncertain locality probably in Europe based on two specimens in the OBERTHÜR collection. Unlike his manner in the descriptions of other species, HOULBERT (1921) did not give any figure of

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rufa in the original description. Treating the family Thyatiridae in the supplement to volume 2 of "Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde", SEITZ (1933) cited the name *rufa* and its original literature in the index of species, but did not refer to it in the text. Since then, the name *rufa* has never appeared (e.g. WERNY, 1966 ; LERAUT, 1980 ; FREINA & WITT, 1987). Inspection of a colour transparency of one of the syntypes reveals that *rufa* is nothing other than the nominotypical race of *Tethea or* ([DENIS & SCHIFFERMÜLLER], 1775).

HOULBERT's '*Palimpsestis*' is comprised of five species, but they are only weakly related to one another : *fluctuosa* (HÜBNER) now in *Tetheela* WERNY, 1966, *duplaris* (LINNAEUS) now in *Ochropacha* WALLENGREN, 1871, *lineofracta* HOULBERT now in *Wernya* YOSHIMOTO, 1987, *pectinata* HOULBERT to be transferred to *Togaria* MATSUMURA, 1921, and *rufa* which is a member of *Tethea.* On the other hand, his '*Cymatophora*' is nearly the same concept as our *Tethea,* and European *or* and *ocularis,* and Asiatic *ampliata* and *octogesima* (= *intensa*) were referred to '*Cymatophora*'. It is uncertain why HOULBERT described *rufa* under '*Palimpsestis*', and not under '*Cymatophora*', but it is likely that this fact delayed the determination of the taxonomic status of *rufa.*

Palimpsestis roalbum BRYK, 1942. (Fig. 2)

Ark. Zool. 34 (A11) : 12, pl. 2, fig. 20 (as *ro-album*). Burma (Kambaiti). **Syn. n.** of *Tethea subampliata griseocostata* (GAEDE, 1930) = *Palimpsestis griseocostata* GAEDE, 1930, in SEITZ, *Gross-Schmett. Erde* 10 : 661, pl. 85, line D).

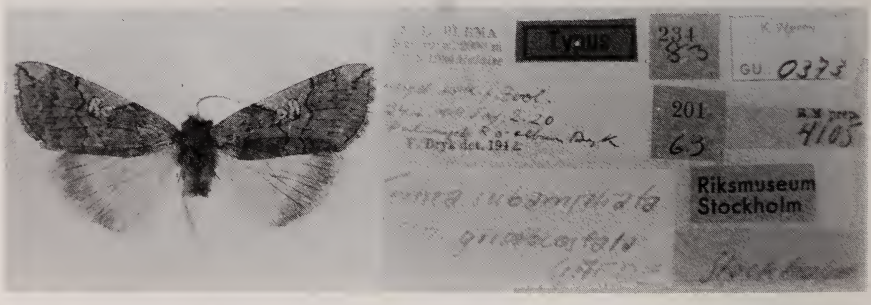

Fig. 2. *Palimpsestis roalbum* BRYK, holotype ♂, and its labels. Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet.

TYPE MATERIAL EXAMINED : ♂, holotype (Fig. 2), pinned with ten labels as "N. E. Burma, Kambaiti, 2000 m, 7-9/6. 1934, Malaise", "Typus", "abgeb. Ark. f. Zool. 34A. n. 11 Taf. 2. 20, *Palimps. Ro-album* Bryk, F. Bryk det. 1942",

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"234, 83", "201, 63", "K. Werny, GU : 0373", "R. M. prep. 4105", "*Tethea subampliata* ssp. *griseocostata* Gaede", "Riksmuseum Stockholm", "Stockholm", preserved in Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm.

Both *roalbum* and *griseocostata* were described from the high mountainous zone of Burma. Bryk (1942) also recorded 2 males of *T. subampliata griseocostata* from Kambaiti in the lines preceding his description of *roalbum*, on which he commented as "an forma spec. praecedentis ?".

Tethea consimilis diehli Werny, 1966.

Unters. Syst. Tribus Thyatirini, Macrothyatirini, Habrosynini, und Tetheini (Lep. : Thyatiridae) : 403, pl. 12, fig. 218. Sumatra (Korinthji).
Syn. n. of *Tethea consimilis congener* (Roepke, 1945) (**comb. n. & stat. n.**) = *Saronaga congener* Roepke, 1945, *Natuurh. Maandbl.* 34 : 40, fig. 36.

I have not examined type material of either taxon, but the Sumatran race of *consimilis* is so remarkable and characteristic that the synonymity of *congener* and *diehli* is not in doubt from the figures in the original descriptions, both of which were described from Sumatra. Colour photographs of this race were recently published by Kobes (1985).

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