

The discovery of *Brenthis daphne* (Denis & Schiffermüller) in south Spain. (Nymphalidae).

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The distribution range of *Brenthis daphne* (Denis & Schiffermüller 1775) stretches from south-west Europe across south and central Europe and south Siberia to Japan. According to existing information, *B. daphne* is in Iberian Peninsula confined to some localities in the north, north-west, central and east Spain; these localities represent the so-far-known south-western limit of its range.

Manley & Allcard (1970) gave the following localities in Spain: Prov. Leon: Puerto de Ponton and Riaño; Prov. Barcelona: Taradell; Prov. Segovia: La Granja; Prov. Santander: Espinama. Manley (1972) supplemented this information with a statement that *B. daphne* was found 'Plentiful, especially on the flowers of blackberry' in July 1971 in Catalonia; Manley (l.c.) gave no exact localities, but he probably meant the neighbourhood of a small town Tona. Bustillo & Rubio (1974) gave a distribution map of *daphne* in the Iberian Peninsula, which appears to imply somewhat greater distribution than that given by Manley & Allcard (l.c.): Cantabrian Mts., Pyrenees, Catalonia, Sierra de Guadarrama, Serranía de Cuenca and Sierra de Albarracín. Some of these localities – namely those in Prov. Teruel and Prov. Cuenca – require confirmation. Kudrna (1974) gave *daphne* from Prov. Burgos: Oña and later collected it also in the neighbourhood of San Juan de la Peña in Prov. Huesca (the latter is a previously unpublished record).

Several other localities of *daphne* from N. Spain were listed by Aizpurua (1974). It is interesting to note, that neither Kudrna, nor Manley found this species in Prov. Teruel and Prov. Cuenca, although they both collected there quite extensively; Kudrna has not found *daphne* in Sierra de Gudar (Prov. Teruel) in 1974 and 1976, another locality where this species would be likely to have established colonies, if it were native to east-central Spain. It therefore appears that *daphne* does not extend its range so far as the central parts of Spain as that the records from Prov. Teruel and Prov. Cuenca resulted from possibly erroneous identification: *daphne* may be confused with *B. ino* (ROTTEMBURG 1775).

It therefore came to us as a surprise, when we found *B. daphne* abundant in Sierra de Alcaraz (Prov. Albacete) in south-eastern Spain in July 1976. In three days, 13.–15. VII. 1976, we collected over 30 specimens of *daphne*, mostly already becoming worn and with females distinctly predominating in numbers over males.

The flight period of this species was at the time obviously coming near its end, having probably culminated in late June or early July. To judge from the number of specimens observed during this short period, the colonies of species appear to be well established and *daphne* is probably abundant in many localities in Sierra de Alcaraz. The majority of specimens were collected on the flowers of blackberry and thistle.

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Sierra de Alcaraz is situated approximately east of the road from Albacete to Jaén and reaches its highest point in Mt. Almenara (1798 m). Our collecting concentrated mainly on habitats along the mountain road from Alcaraz to Riopar and some of the forest tracks branching from this road. *B. daphne* was found mostly at altitudes between 1300 m and 1400 m and appeared to be quite widespread in all suitable habitats, which can be described as slopes with scrub situated usually along the road, tracks or in forest clearings of these extensively wooded mountains; the forests consisted mostly of pine trees. Although the non-wooded areas of the Sierra de Alcaraz are quite arid, we have never seen *daphne* in their most arid parts; it appears that *daphne* preferred slightly moist localities.

Although *B. daphne* of Sierra de Alcaraz is certainly well geographically isolated from the populations of this species inhabiting the north of Spain, there do not appear to be any taxonomic differences between the specimens from the two spatial extremes. Bearing in mind the great proliferation of subspecies-rank names attributed to butterflies of Spain – usually of dubious taxonomic value – it is with a great pleasure to note, that *B. daphne* so far escaped attention in this respect.

References

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Zusammenfassung

B. daphne konnte in der Sierra de Alcaraz (Prov. Albacete) während einer Sammelreise der Autoren in dieses Gebiet Mitte Juli 1976 als zahlreich festgestellt werden. *B. daphne* war vorher aus dem Süden Spaniens noch nicht gemeldet worden. Das untersuchte Material unterscheidet sich taxonomisch nicht von anderen spanischen Belegstücken.

Résumé

B. daphne était abondant dans la Sierra de Alcaraz (Province d'Albacete) pendant le voyage de collecte effectué dans cette région par les auteurs à la mi-juillet 1976. *B. daphne* n'avait pas été jusqu'ici récolté dans le sud de l'Espagne. Le matériel examiné ne diffère pas taxonomiquement des autres exemplaires espagnols.

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