

Notes concerning the taxonomic status
of *Agrodiaetus tankeri* DE LESSE
(Lepidoptera : *Lycaenidae*)

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Agrodiaetus tankeri DE LESSE (1960), so far recorded only from N. E. Turkey, is superficially so similar to *Agrodiaetus iphigenia* HERRICH-SCHÄFFER (1847), that it is practically impossible to tell these butterflies apart with any degree of certainty. The two taxa were separated at species level by DE LESSE, solely on the basis of their respective chromosome numbers ($n = 20-21$ for *tankeri*, $n = 12-15$ for *iphigenia*).

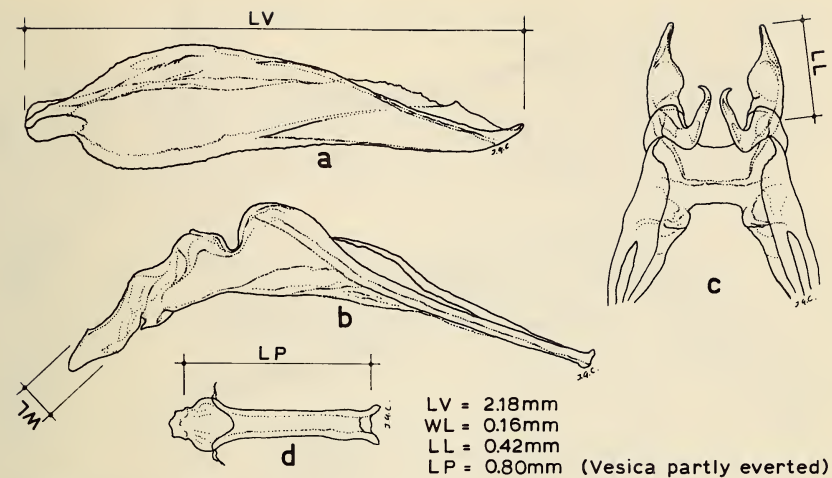
It can now be stated that these two butterflies also present differences in their respective male genital armatures and that, in view of the homogeneity of the male genitalia in the genus *Agrodiaetus*, it would appear that these differences are of considerable taxonomic value.

The male genitalia of *tankeri* (Fig. 1) differ from those of *iphigenia* (Figs. 2, 3 & 4) by the shorter Valvae and by the more slender labides, when viewed laterally. It may also be said that the labides of *iphigenia* tend to have a better defined dorsal extension.

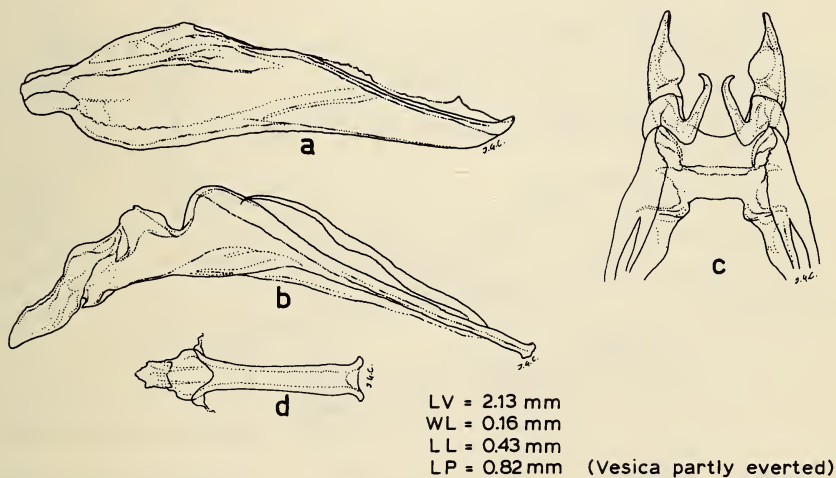
The male genitalia of *tankeri* appear closer to those of the superficially distinct *Agrodiaetus turcicus* KOÇAK (1977) (Fig. 5).

The extent of the differences in the male genitalia between *tankeri* and *iphigenia* supports DE LESSE's decision to separate the two at species level, but as the male genitalia of *tankeri* appear to be closer to those of *turcicus* than they are to those of *iphigenia*, his view that *tankeri* and *iphigenia* are sibling species may be erroneous.

It is also interesting to note the stability exhibited in the characters of the male genitalia of the various subspecies of *iphigenia*, despite the fact that at least one of them, the Grecian subspecies, has been geographically totally isolated from its Asiatic counterparts for a considerable length of time.



Preparation No.1032



Preparation No.1033

FIG. 1. – Male genitalia of *Agrodiaetus tankeri* DE LESSE (1960).

Preparations Nos. 1032 and 1033 : Turkey, Erzurum Province, Mt. Palandöken, Ski Station, 2200-2500 m, 15-29.VII.1983.

- a. Lateral view of exterior face of right Valva.
- b. Lateral view of Genitalia ; Valvae and Penis removed.
- c. Ventral view of Labides, Falces and Tegumen.
- d. Ventral view of Penis.

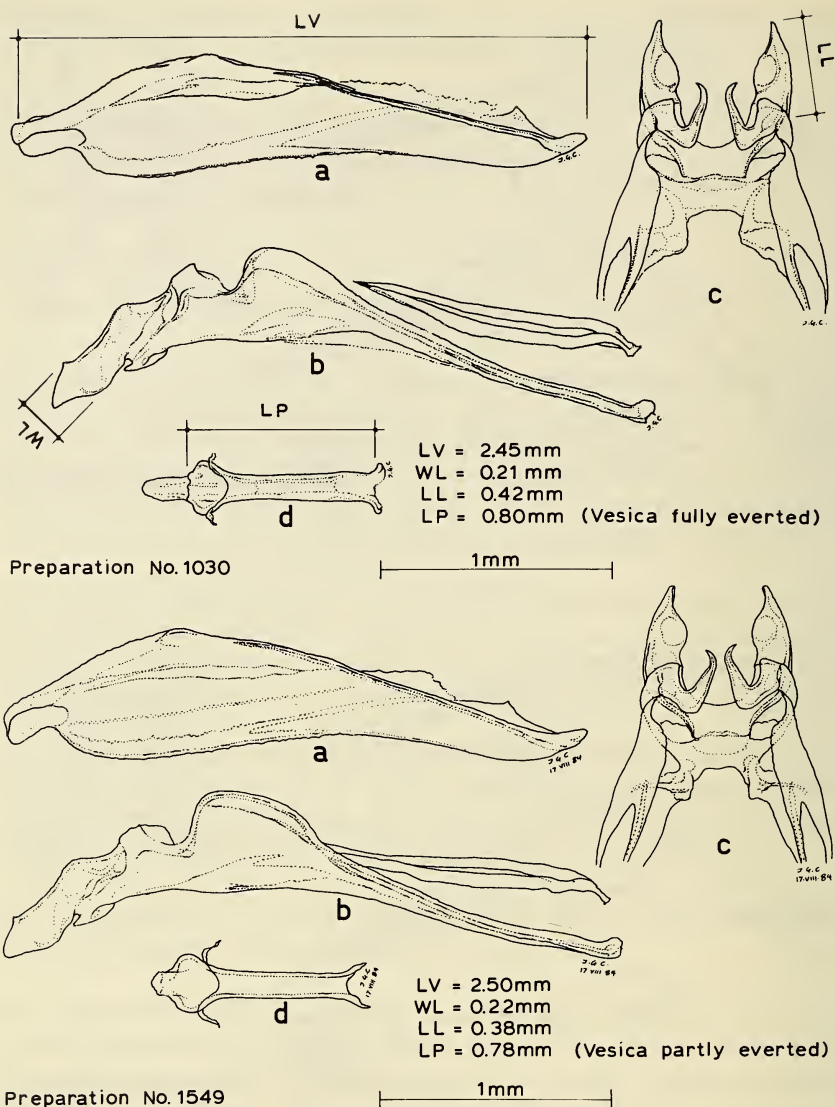


FIG. 2. – Male genitalia of *Agrodiaetus iphigenia iphigenia* HERRICH-SCHÄFFER (1847).
Preparation No. 1030 : Turkey, Konya Province, Sultandaglari, 15 kms South of Aksehir, 1500 m, 16-19.VII.1980.

Preparation No. 1549 : Turkey, Antalya Province, Irmesan Gedigi, 1500-1600 m, 24-27.VII.1981.

- Lateral view of exterior face of right Valva.
- Lateral view of Genitalia ; Valvae and Penis removed.
- Ventral view of Labides, Falces and Tegumen.
- Ventral view of Penis.

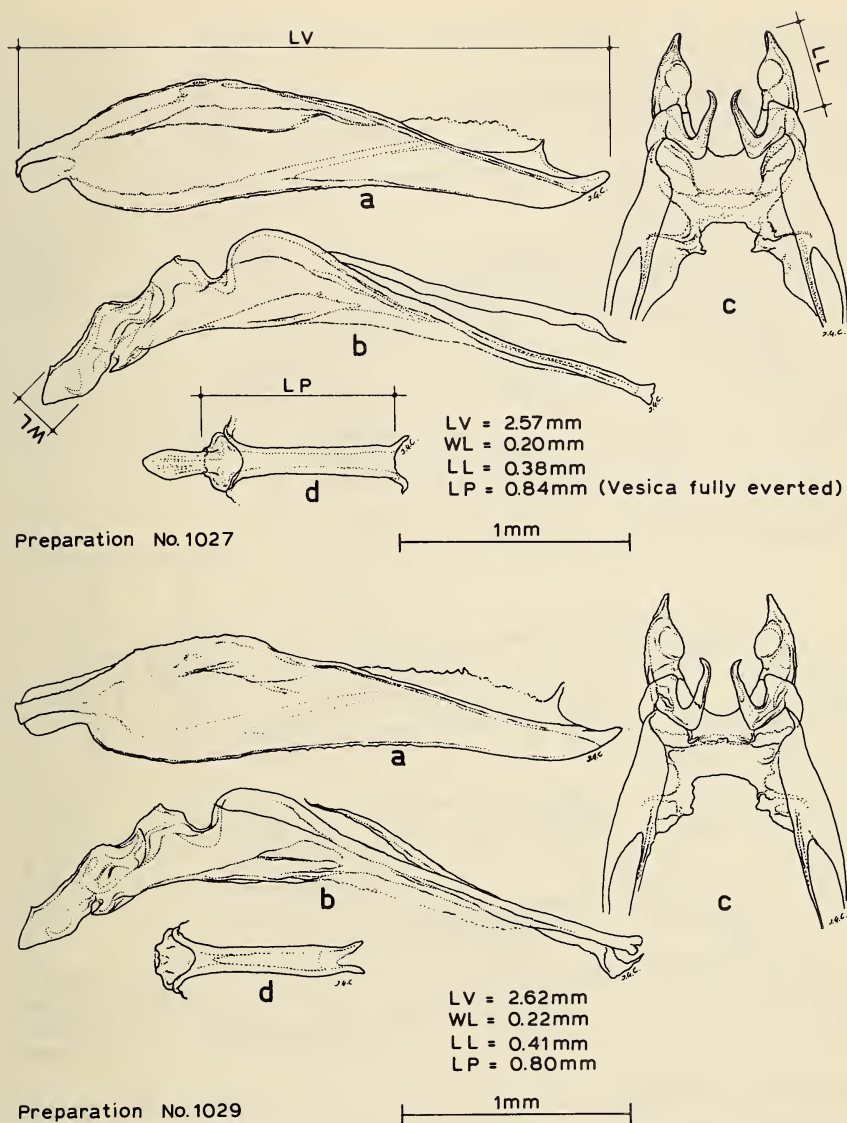


FIG. 3. – Male genitalia of *Agrodiaetus iphigenia araratensis* DE LESSE (1957).
Preparations Nos. 1027 and 1029 : Turkey, Kars Province, 8 kms West of Kazikoporan, 2200-2500 m, 16-21.VII.1977.
a. Lateral view of exterior face of right Valva.
b. Lateral view of Genitalia ; Valvae and Penis removed.
c. Ventral view of Labides, Falces and Tegumen.
d. Ventral view of Penis.

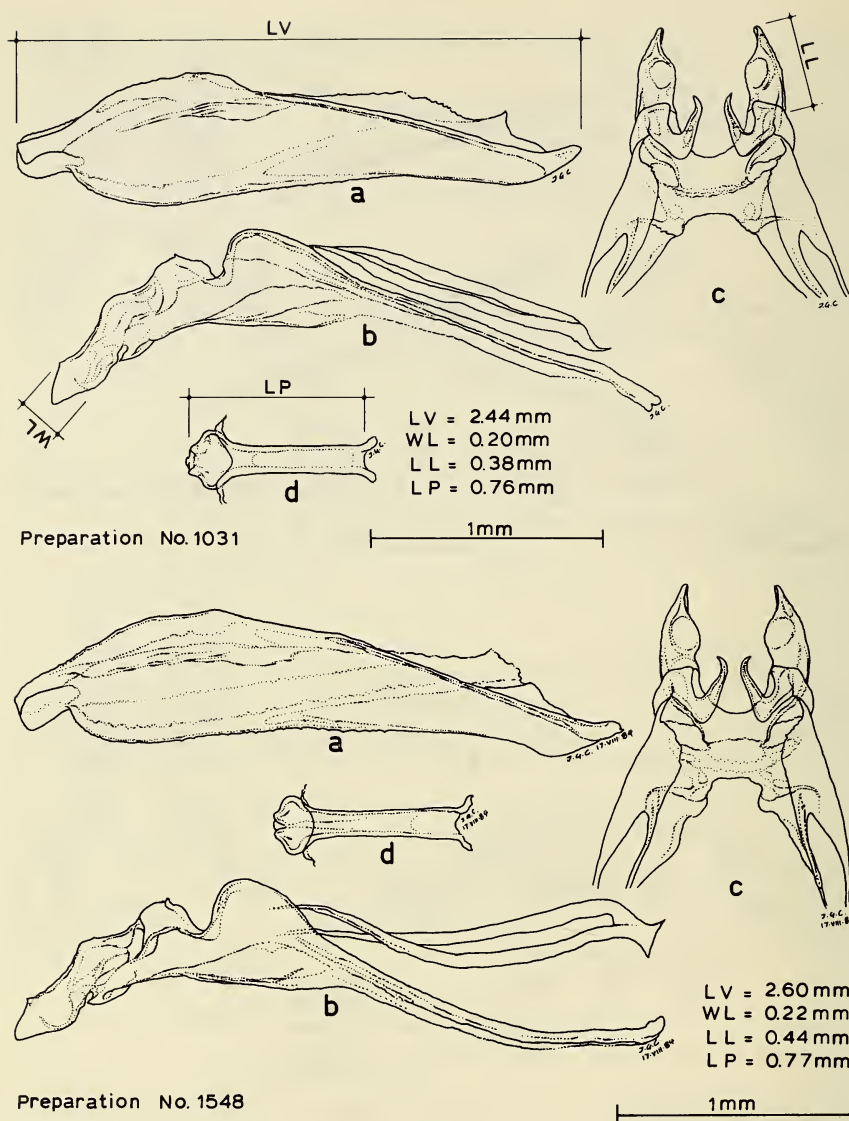


FIG. 4. – Male genitalia of *Agrodiaetus iphigenia nonacriensis* BROWN (1977).
Preparation No. 1031 : Greece, Mts of North Peloponnissos, 1600 m,
14.VII.1978.

Preparation No. 1548 : Greece, Mts of North Peloponnissos, 1600 m,
3.VII.1984.

- a. Lateral view of exterior face of right Valva.
- b. Lateral view of Genitalia ; Valvae and Penis removed.
- c. Ventral view of Labides, Falces and Tegumen.
- d. Ventral view of Penis.

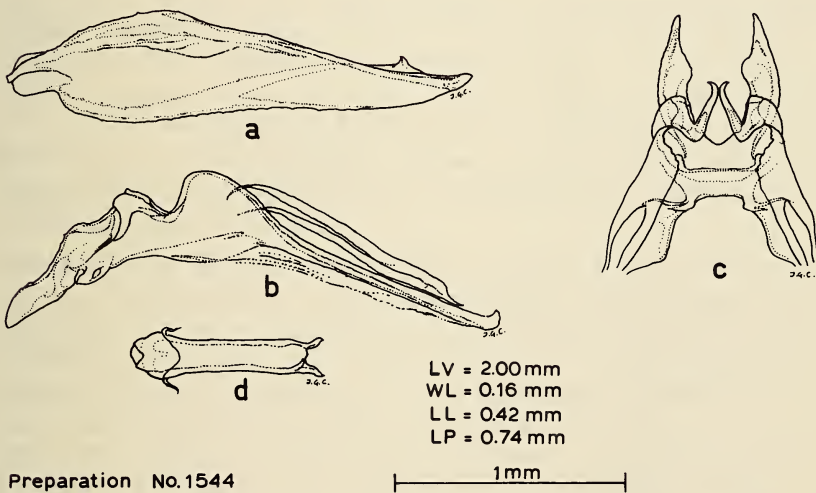
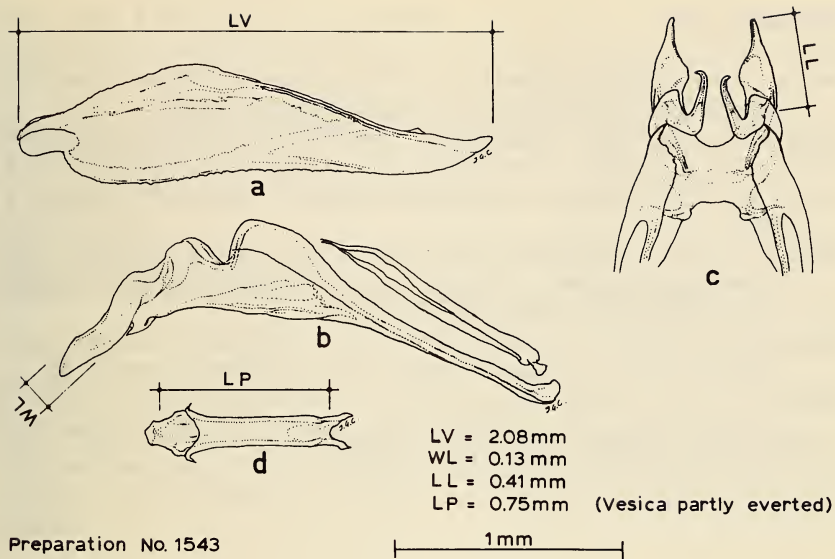


FIG. 5. – Male genitalia of *Agrodiaetus turcicus* KOÇAK (1977).

Preparation No. 1543 : Turkey, Erzurum Province, S.W. Palandöken, 2200 m, 25-26.VII.1981.

Preparation No. 1544 : Turkey, Kars Province, 8 kms West of Kazikoporan, 2200-2500 m, 16-21.VII.1977.

- a. Lateral view of exterior face of right Valva.
- b. Lateral view of Genitalia ; Valvae and Penis removed.
- c. Ventral view of Labides, Falces and Tegumen.
- d. Ventral view of Penis.

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