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Distribution of *Erebia scipio* BOISDUVAL in Italy (Lepidoptera, Satyridae)

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Erebia scipio BOISDUVAL (1832) is an endemic species of the mountains of the South of France, from Vaucluse (Mont Ventoux) and Mont de Lure to the Alpes de Haute Provence, bordering on the Italian Maritime Alps.

Although the distribution of this species in France has been clearly established (well-known localities are Beauvezer, Draix, and the Col de Larche ; locus typicus : Basses-Alpes), its distribution in the Italian Alps, as that of other localised *Erebia* species (*E. christi* RAETZER and *E. flavofasciata* HEYNE ; G. LEIGHEB, 1976), has always been rather uncertain. VERITY (1953) does not even mention this species in his extensive text on Italian butterflies. HIGGINS and RILEY (1980) vaguely mention the "Maritime Alps, including the Italian slopes (rare)". BALLETTO and TOSO (1978) confirm this statement and report captures by DUJARDIN and EPSTEIN (1978) on the Italian slopes of the Col de Larche (Colle della Maddalena). BALLETTO and TOSO captured a ♂ *E. scipio* in the Province of Cuneo, in the Valley of the Maira, above the head of the river (Acceglio, 1,800 m) on July 30, 1975. This report confirmed the presence of *E. scipio* in a valley North of the Stura Valley (which begins at the Colle della Maddalena).

A series of researches carried out in the years 1980-81-82-83 has enabled us to establish the distribution and frequency of *E. scipio* on the Eastern slopes of the Western Alps.

The species is more or less common, with differences from year to year, on the Colle della Maddalena, west of Cuneo, where it flies at an altitude of about 2,000 m, at the end of July or in the first half of August, with a 15-day emergence. As usual, the males appear before the females. It prefers steep, rocky, sparsely grassy screes. On windy days the butterflies assemble in the less exposed parts of gullies and ravines. They can be observed to rest indifferently on the rocks or on flowers and are more active in the morning. *E. scipio* is sympatric with *E. pluto* DE PRUNNER and *E. montana* DE PRUNNER, although the former is usually more precocious. In flight, *E. scipio* is hard to distinguish from *E. montana.*

In August 1981, E. RIBONI found an abundance of *E. scipio* in a rather unusual biotope and at a relatively low altitude, 1,500-1,600 m, along the course of the river Stura of Demonte. The butterflies were blown down the slopes on the left side of the valley by a strong wind and came to rest on the sand in the bed of the river.

The most interesting finding, however, is the presence of *E. scipio* in the Cottian Alps, in the Valley of Susa, more than 70 km to the north. *E. scipio* has been taken regularly at the end of July (30.VII.1982, 25.VII.1983 and following years) on the steep, rocky, impervious slopes of Mount Chaberton at over 1700 m. It has thus been ascertained that the distribution of this species extends much farther to the north than was formerly believed. In this connection, G. LEIGHEB found a specimen in the E. MANINO collection, labelled "Granon (Briançon), 1700 m", taken by WEISS in July, 1970. This specimen was therefore captured on the French side of the Montgenèvre.

Doubtlessly, *E. scipio* must also be present, in scattered colonies, in the mountains of the valleys of the Province of Cuneo between the Col de Larche and the Montgenèvre.

E. scipio represents another example of the extension to the east of the Western Alps of a species originated in the Spanish and French regions, as in the case of *Papilio alexanor* ESPER and *Euchloe tagis* HÜBNER (P. CAMERON-CURRY, LEIGHEB, RIBONI and V. CAMERON-CURRY, 1983).

E. scipio is mentioned as a rare and vulnerable species in the publication : "Threatened Rhopalocera in Europe" by the Council of Europe (J. HEATH, 1981) and needs protection.

Summary

The distribution of *E. scipio* BOISDUVAL in Italy is described.

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Book reviews – Buchbesprechungen – Analyses

J. BUSZKO : Noctuidae, in : Klucze do oznaczania owadów Polski (Keys for the Identification of Polish Insects), Nr. 135, Part 27, Lepidoptera, Fasc. 53 g (in Polish), 17 pp., paperback 17 × 24 cm. Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warszawa-Wrocław, 1985. Price zł 30.

This volume is the fifth part in the series of keys for the identification of the Polish Noctuidae (see Nota lepid. *7*: 88), and deals with the small subfamily Bryophilinae. Nine species are treated, seven of which occur in Poland and two of which could possibly be found. The present key follows the same style as all those previously published. The selected bibliography comprises 5 titles.

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J. BUSZKO & E. BARANIAK : Roeslerstammiidae, Acrolepiidae, Orthotaeliidae, in : Klucze do oznaczania owadów Polski (Keys for the Identification of Polish Insects), Nr. 134, Part 27, Lepidoptera, Fasc. 17, 18 (in Polish), 31 pp., paperback 17 × 24 cm. Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warszawa-Wrocław, 1985. Price zł 60.

The present volume deals with three families of the microlepidoptera : Roeslerstammiidae with 2 species, Acrolepiidae with 10 species of which the occurrence of two is considered possible in Poland, and Orthotaeliidae with 1 species.

A review of the systematic position and characteristics of the families begins this work. Keys for the identification of genera and species are based on wing pattern and genitalia of both sexes. All species are briefly described, including diagnostic characters, bionomy, general distribution and occurrence in Poland, and are well illustrated by line-drawings of external and internal features, most of which were prepared by the authors. Only some figures of wing patterns seem to be too schematic, e.g. *Digitivalva pulicariae* (fig. 37). A bibliography (8 titles) and an index to the scientific names complete this issue.

This volume will be welcomed mainly by Polish lepidopterists, but it could also be useful to microlepidopterists elsewhere in Europe.

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