

On the occurrence of *Pseudochazara orestes* De Prins & van der Poorten, 1981 in Bulgaria (Lepidoptera : Nymphalidae : Satyrinae)

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Samenvatting. Over het voorkomen van *Pseudochazara orestes* De Prins & van der Poorten, 1981 in Bulgarije (Lepidoptera : Nymphalidae : Satyrinae)
De auteur vermeldt het voorkomen van *Pseudochazara orestes* De Prins & van der Poorten, 1981 in het zuidwesten van Bulgarije.

Résumé. Sur la présence de *Pseudochazara orestes* De Prins & van der Poorten, 1981 en Bulgarie (Lepidoptera : Nymphalidae : Satyrinae)
L'auteur mentionne la présence de *Pseudochazara orestes* De Prins & van der Poorten, 1981 dans le sud-ouest de la Bulgarie.

Key words : *Pseudochazara orestes* - faunistics - Bulgaria.

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During the second half of June 1993, I visited a region situated between the Slavyanka and Pirin Mountains. This is the so called Paril Pass, as high as 700-1000 m above sea level (Fig. 1) (square with GL28 grid reference of UTM maps). This area was investigated by the best explorer of the Bulgarian high mountains Alexander Drenowsky almost sixty years ago.

In the morning of 23rd June I went in search of butterflies on the nearest slope of Pirin Mountains. I observed many specimens of *Satyrus ferula* (Fabricius, 1793) and *Melanargia larissa* (Geyer, [1827]), flying on the slope. Some time later I saw the first specimen of a large "Grayling" with extensive orange markings. In the next hour I managed to catch this and one more specimen. My recollections led me to believe that these were males of *Pseudochazara orestes* De Prins & van der Poorten, 1981. The next day I caught six more males. It is reported here as a new species for the Bulgarian lepidopterous fauna.

Pseudochazara orestes is described from N Greece, flying in mountains north of Drama (Phalakron Mts). The explored locality in Bulgaria is similar to the habitat of a type-locality of the species (De Prins & van der Poorten 1981). It is a rough rocky slope, with scattered bushes of *Juniperus* spp., as well as single trees of *Quercus* spp. and *Carpinus* spp. appearing here and there. The habitat is arid and with SE exposition. In addition to the above mentioned *Satyrus ferula* and *Melanargia larissa* I collected also a small series of a second generation of *Euchloe penia* (Freyer, [1851]).

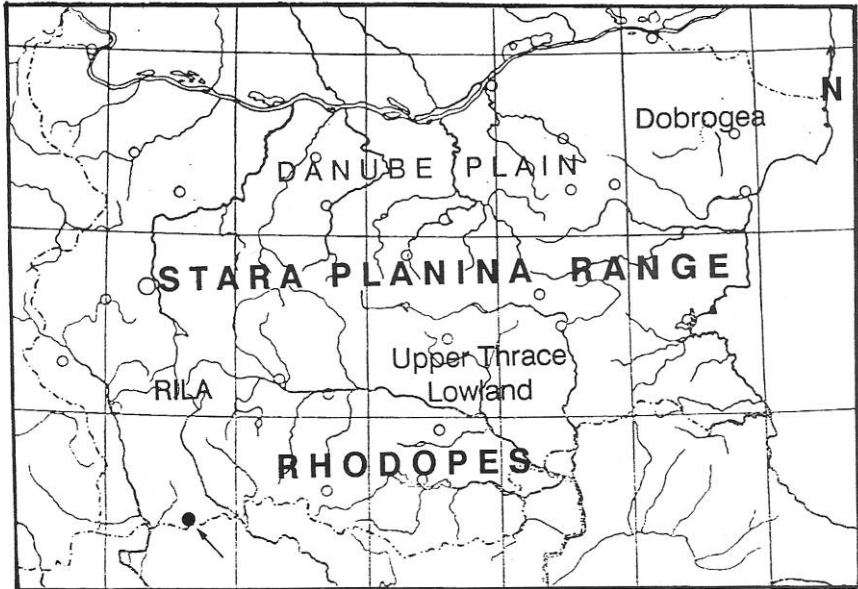


Fig. 1 : Schematic map of Bulgaria displaying the position of the locality of *Pseudochazara orestes* De Prins & van der Poorten, 1981.

Higgins & Riley's guide (1984) offers very little information on this species. The specimens from Bulgaria are not different in their externals from specimens which I saw from Greece. The existence of the species on the southern slopes of Pirin Mts extends the boundaries of its distribution. The locality is situated at 900 m above sea level, much lower than the Greek locality with an altitude of 1650-1700 m ⁽¹⁾. The flight period is from the end of June and July probably depending upon altitude. The species is heliophilous according to its sunlight preferences, xerophilous according to its ground-water preferences and thermophilous according to its thermic preferences.

References

- De Prins, W. & van der Poorten, D., 1981. Een nieuwe *Pseudochazara*-soort voor de wetenschap uit Noordoost-Griekenland (Lepidoptera, Satyridae). - *Phegea* 10(1) : 7-21.
 Higgins, L.G. & Riley, N.D., 1984. *A field guide to the butterflies of Britain and Europe*. Fifth ed., Collins, London, 384 pp.

⁽¹⁾ The type-locality of *Pseudochazara orestes* De Prins & van der Poorten, 1981 was given as "mountains of north-east Greece, Drama, 1700 m". However, since its original description, the species was found in many other localities in the same region in Greece, by several lepidopterists. Most of these localities are situated at much lower altitudes than the one given in the original description. (Red.)