On the identity of the Turkish species of the
\textit{Eriogaster ramicola}-group (Lasiocampidae)

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Abstract. \textit{Bombyx ramicola inspersa} Staudinger, 1879 \textit{stat. rev.} is raised from the rank of subspecies of \textit{Eriogaster ramicola} ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) to the rank of a separate species, with a new synonym \textit{Eriogaster nippei} de Freina, 1988 \textit{syn. n}. A lectotype for \textit{Bombyx Ramicola} Hb. var. \textit{Inspersa} Staudinger, 1879 is designated from the collection of the Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt-Universität, Berlin. A new subspecies, \textit{Eriogaster ramicola caharma} \textit{ssp. n.} is described (type locality: Western Turkey, Kizilcahaman). Distribution data are given for the species of the \textit{rimicola}-group in Turkey.


Introduction

The type series of \textit{Eriogaster ramicola inspersa} (Staudinger) was investigated in August 2005 during my revisional work of the type specimens of the Lasiocampidae of the collection of the Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt Universität, Berlin (ZMHB). This study led to two quite unexpected results. Firstly, the type series of \textit{inspersa} is not conspecific with \textit{Eriogaster ramicola} ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) from Europe, but is conspecific with \textit{Eriogaster nippei} de Freina, 1988. This means that the subspecies of \textit{Eriogaster ramicola} from Turkey, which is distinct from that of Europe, is yet unnamed. Thus \textit{Bombyx ramicola} var. \textit{inspersa} Staudinger is removed here from the rank of a subspecies of \textit{rimicola} and raised to the rank of a separate species, \textit{E. nippei} de Freina is synonymized with it, and a new subspecies of \textit{E. ramicola} is described from Turkey.

Abbreviations

CAHU collection of Armin Hauenstein (Untermühkheim-Schöneberg, Germany)
CMSW collection of Manfred Ströhle (Weiden, Germany)
MWM Entomologisches Museum Thomas Witt (München, Germany)
SMNK Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde (Karlsruhe, Germany).
ZMHB Museum für Naturkunde, A. Humboldt-Universität, Berlin (Germany)

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Eriogaster inspersa Staudinger, 1879, stat. rev.  
**Figs** 7–10, 16

_Bomb. Rimicola_ Hb., var. _Inpersa_ Staudinger, 1879: 356. Type locality: “bei Mersin”. Lectotype: male (ZMHB), here designated.


Diagnosis. The species differs externally from the European _E. rimicola_ as well as from its Turkish subspecies in being darker and stouter, with a shagreen ground color and an indistinct discal spot. It is slightly but constantly larger (wingspan: 31–33 mm in males and about 37–38 mm in females), and darker (especially in the coloration of the hind wing) than _rimicola_. The differential features between both species are given by J. de Freina (1988) in his description of _nippei_.

Male genitalia (Fig. 16). Without tergal appendages, with short bilobed valvae and flattened, broad, plate-like vinculum with rudimentar saccus. Phallus tubular, slightly curved, with dorsal opening of vesica, without cornuti.

Taxonomic notes. In the original description of _inspersa_ Strg., four specimens were mentioned as “Ich besitze hiervor zwei Paare” (Staudinger, 1879: 356). Both pairs are preserved in ZMHB. From these, a male bearing the following labels is designated as the lectotype: ‘Mersina | Ld’ <hand-written on yellowish paper>, ‘Origin.’ <printed on pink paper>, ‘ex coll. Staudinger’ <printed on white paper>, ‘Coll. HU-Berlin | Lasiocampidae | V. Zolotuhin prep. | GU 2005-18’ <printed within a black frame on white paper>, and ‘Lectotype | Bombyx Rimicola | Inpersa Strg, 1879 | V. Zolotuhin des.’ <printed on red card stock>. The other three specimens are designated paralectotypes and were given appropriate red labels.

Remarks. In contrast to the other species of the group, which are active from late autumn to early winter, _E. inspersa_ is on the wing in March-April. As far as known, the range of

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E. inspersa is limited to Turkey (Provinces of Adana, Antalya, Bilecik, Burdur, Corum, Hakkari, Isparta, Kizilcahaman, and Mersin).

**Eriogaster ramicola cahama** ssp. n.  

**Material.** Holotype \( \sigma \), 'Asia min[or]. | Kizilcahaman | 10.10 1977 | Friedel leg. | coll. Th. Witt | München/Weiden', 'Holotype | *Eriogaster* | *rimicola* | *cahama* sp. n. | des. V. Zolotuhin' < printed on red card stock> (MWM). – Paratypes: 39 \( \sigma \) with same data as holotype (MWM); 1 \( \sigma \), [Turkey] Anatolien, Kizilcahaman, x.1970, Pinker leg. (MWM); 1 \( \sigma \), Asia min., Kizilcahaman, 11.–13.xi.1977, Friedel leg. (MWM); 1 \( \sigma \), Turkey, Prov. Ankara, Camlidere, 1500 m, 32°25'E, 40°26'N, 8.x.1988, Szaboky leg. (MWM).

**Description.** A d u l t m a l e (Fig. 3). Wingspan 23–28 mm. Wings and body light brownish rosy, fore wings short and broad, with rounded outer margin and with slightly darker costal edge and indistinct round discal spot sometimes absent. Cilia dull brownish-rosy, uninterrupted.

**Male genitalia** (Fig. 14). Without tergal appendages, with narrow vinculum and slender saccus; valvae short and compact, with lower membranous setose love. Phallus tubular, slightly curved, with short apical spur, vesica without cornuti.

**Diagnosis.** This subspecies differs from the nominate subspecies by its smaller size (wingspan: 23–26 mm, rarely reaching 28 mm, in contrast to the 25–31 mm of the nominate subspecies), softer and lighter ground colour, and remarkable reduction of the whitish discal spot of the forewing. There are no significant differential features in the male and female genitalia from the nominate subspecies (Fig. 14). From *E. inspersa* it can be differentiated easily by the narrow (not plate-like) vinculum and distinct, slender (not rudimentary) saccus, and more compact valvae.

**Etymology.** The epithet “cahama” originates from “Kizilcahaman”, the name of the type locality.

**Distribution.** Western, northern, and central Turkey.

**The other Eriogaster species of Turkey**

*Eriogaster* is represented in the fauna of Turkey by five more members of the *pfeifferi-*group and the *lanestris-catax*-group. Surprisingly, so far no species of subgenus *Autosphyla* Rambur, 1866 are known from Turkey whereas *E. (A.) neogena* F. de Waldheim [1823] 1823-1824 and *E. (A.) henkei* Staudinger, 1879 are known from neighboring territories where they have been found in late autumn in arid biotopes. One more subspecies of *Eriogaster ramicola* Hbn. is known from Turkey, *E. r. hackeri* de Freina, 1999. It is characterized by a larger size (wingspan: 32–34 mm in males) and darker brownish-rosy ground color (Figs 5, 6). Its distribution is limited to eastern Turkey (Prov. Tokat, Icel, Konya, Erzurum, Erzincan, Kütahya) and Iraq (based on 17 males, 2 females, Iraq, Zawita Dohuk, 1-3.XII 1977, leg. Topal & Zilahy in MWM). Probably this was the subspecies that was mentioned by Wiltshire (1957: 43) as “*Eriogaster philippsi* Bart. ? subsp. n.” with the following comment: “Inhabits oak woods in the mountains. Univoltine, probably flying in early November. The larva feeds on oaks (*Quercus*) and is gregarious in flat webs usually at the roots of trees. Their position is thus different from that of the typical *philippsi* of the Lebanon, whose webs are high in oak branches.
The larval coloration differs. Unfortunately efforts to rear the adults from larvae at Shaqlawa and Salah-ud-Din were unsuccessful and the adult has not yet been captured”.

*Eriogaster philippsi* Bartel, 1904 is the smallest member of the group; it has the forewing with a light ash-rose ground color and a dark yellowish costal field. It is known from Palestine, Syria, Israel, and Jordania, and flies between November and January. It is yet unknown in Iraq, where only *E. rimicola hackeri* appears to be native. Similar moths, but probably not belonging to ssp. *hackeri* are also known from south-western Iran (Fars: Kazerun).
Thus, the complex of species of the *Eriogaster rimicola*-group can be considered as consisting of the following members in Turkey:

*Eriogaster rimicola hackeri* de Freina, 1999: figs 3j–4b; pl. 11, figs 13–15
Type locality: Turkey, Prov. Erzurum, Siganli Dağl., Ovit-Paβ, 10 km NW Ispir, 1450–1500 m. Holotype: male (MWM).

*Eriogaster rimicola cahama* Zolotuhin, ssp. n.
Type locality: Turkey, Kizilcahaman.

*Eriogaster inspersa* Staudinger, 1879
Type locality: Turkey, Mersin.

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References