



COMPARATIVE Cytogenetics

International Journal of Plant & Animal Cytogenetic, Karyosystematics,
and Molecular Systematics

COMPARATIVE CYTOGENETICS ♦ 10(5), 2016

The Balkan Peninsula represents one of the hottest biodiversity spots in Europe. However, the invertebrate fauna of this region is still insufficiently investigated, even in respect of such well-studied organisms as Lepidoptera. Here we use a combination of chromosomal, molecular and morphological markers to rearrange the group of so-called anomalous blue butterflies of the genus *Polyommatus* and to reveal its cryptic taxonomic structure. We demonstrate that *P. aroaniensis* (Brown, 1976) has a dot-like distribution range restricted to the Peloponnese Peninsula in South Greece. *Polyommatus orphicus* Kolev, 2005 is a Balkan endemic represented by two subspecies: *P. orphicus orphicus* (Bulgaria) and *P. orphicus eleniae* Coutsis & De Prins, 2005 (Northern Greece). *Polyommatus ripartii* (Freyer, 1830) is represented in the Balkans by an endemic subspecies *P. ripartii pelopi*. The traditionally recognized *P. admetus* (Esper, 1783) is shown to be a heterogeneous complex and is divided into *Polyommatus admetus* sensu stricto (the Balkans and west Turkey) and *P. yeranyani* (Dantchenko & Lukhtanov, 2005) (east Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Iran). *Polyommatus nephobiptamenos* (Brown & Coutsis, 1978) is confirmed to be a species with a dot-like distribution range in Northern Greece. From Central Greece (Timfristos and Parnassos mountains) we describe *Polyommatus timfristos* Lukhtanov, Vishnevskaya & Shapoval, sp. n. which differs by its haploid chromosome number ($n=38$) from the closely related and morphologically similar *P. aroaniensis* ($n=47-48$) and *P. orphicus* ($n=41-42$).

KARYOSYSTEMATICS AND MOLECULAR TAXONOMY OF THE ANOMALOUS BLUE BUTTERFLIES (LEPIDOPTERA, LYCAENIDAE) FROM THE BALKAN PENINSULA

BY

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10(5) ♦ 2016
Special Issue

<http://compcytogen.pensoft.net>



COMPARATIVE A peer-reviewed open-access journal
Cytogenetics

International Journal of Plant & Animal Cytogenetics,
Karyosystematics, and Molecular Systematics

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