Paralectotypes: all [Greece]: Kreta, all but one (?) H. rebel leg. and all but one in NHMW (1♂ ex NHMW in OK):
2♂♂ & 2♀♀; locality as Holotype, but 15. - 28. vi. 1904;
6♂♂; St. Nicolo: 18. - 23. v. 1904;
1♂; Neapolis: 29. v. 1904;
1♂; Assistaeus;
1♀; Karusi: 21. v. 1904.

Distribution:

H. cretica is a relict isolated in Crete, one of a few endemic butterflies characteristic of this island. It appears to be widespread over the whole island and probably mostly abundant from low levels (approximately 200 m or below) to at least 1400 m. The flight period extends from late May, possibly even earlier at low levels, until at least early August, culminating probably in June. The habitat of cretica is dry rocky slopes with low vegetation, bushes and sparse trees, on trunks of which it rests during the hottest parts of day; it has been also found in olive groves.

Material from the folowing localities has been examined: Greece: Crete: Kristallenia, St. Nicolo, Neapolis, Assistaeus, Karusi, Rethimnon, Anogia, Stromion, Moni Arkadi, Suda Bay etc.

Hipparchia christenseni sp. nov.

Illustrations:
50, 125, 243.

External features: (243)

Although this taxon is by external features alone indistinguishable from other taxa of H. semele-species group, the features worthy of noting are listed below and compared with those of H. cretica, to which christenseni is spatially close.

♂: Upperside forewing with androconial patch long and narrow, reaching usually to the proximity of vein 2v; brown marginal area broad; orange ochreous markings diffused and rather dull; overall much paler than cretica.

Upperside hindwing with orange-ochreous submarginal patches small and dull, separated by ground colour from incomplete diffused pale ochreous postmedial band (i.e. they do not become gradually ochreous medially, as in the majority of similar taxa).

All other features, including underside of both wings, similar to cretica and other taxa of H. semele-species group, without constant diagnostic characters.

♀: Unknown.

Morphological features: (50, 125)

♂: Genitalia are slightly variable in size, but their proportions and shape remain constant; tegumen dorsally longer than in cretica; uncus broad, heavy, less than twice the length of tegumen; the broadest point of uncus approximately one third from the tip to tegumen; brachia heavier than in cretica, curved, shorter than uncus; phallus shorter than uncus and tegumen together; phallobase long; aedoeagus (slightly) curved; valva heavy, with rounded or triangular dorsal process; apical margin concave, with obsolete fin-like structure; distal termination long, broad, with rounded tip.

Androconium palaeomorphic, broader and at least one third shorter than in cretica.

Jullien's organ rudimentary.

♀: Unknown.

Variation:

Individual variation very slight in the overall size of male genitalia, the shape of dorsal process of valva and markings on both surfaces of wings. This degree of variation can be described as negligible and without taxonomic significance.

Diagnostic features:

Male genitalia offer the best constant diagnostic characters separating christenseni from all known species and subspecies of the genus (compare illustrations). The locality is a helpful aid in identification, as christenseni is the only species of this genus so far recorded from the locality.

Discussion:

H. christenseni differs in constant character from all known taxa of the genus Hipparchia. Uncus and brachia of christenseni slightly resemble pellucida, but their valvae are entirely different. Although christenseni is spatially closest to cretica, their male genitalia and androconia do not suggest close taxonomic relationship. The discovery of a female in the future could be helpful in providing further information on the taxonomic affinities of this species within the subgenus.

This taxon is named after my friend G. Christensen, a Danish lepidopterist currently living in Greece, whose assistance with material and information was very helpful throughout my work on the genus Hipparchia.

Material:

All known specimens of this species are included in the type-series, as listed below:

Holotype ♂ (LFW 28 mm): [Greece]: Insel Karpathos: Lastros Geb.: 15. vi. 1935: O. Wettestein [leg.]; depository: NHMW.

Paratypes:

6♂♂; same data and depository, but 1♂ ex NHMW in OK.

Distribution:

H. christenseni is an endemic species geographically isolated on the island Karpathos situated in E. Mediterranean Sea between Crete and Rhodos. It is known so far only from the type-locality and the habitat is unknown. Also unknown is its vertical and horizontal distribution over the island (Mt. Lastros is over 1000 m high) and biology.

Hipparchia turcmenica (Heydemann).

Hipparchia semele turcmenica Heydemann 1942. Dt. ent. Z. Iris, 55:94. Syntypes 1♂ & 1♀; TL: Turkmenistan und anschliesenden nordpersischen Steppen (= U.S.S.R.: Turkmenistan and N. Iran).

Fig. 236 - 243

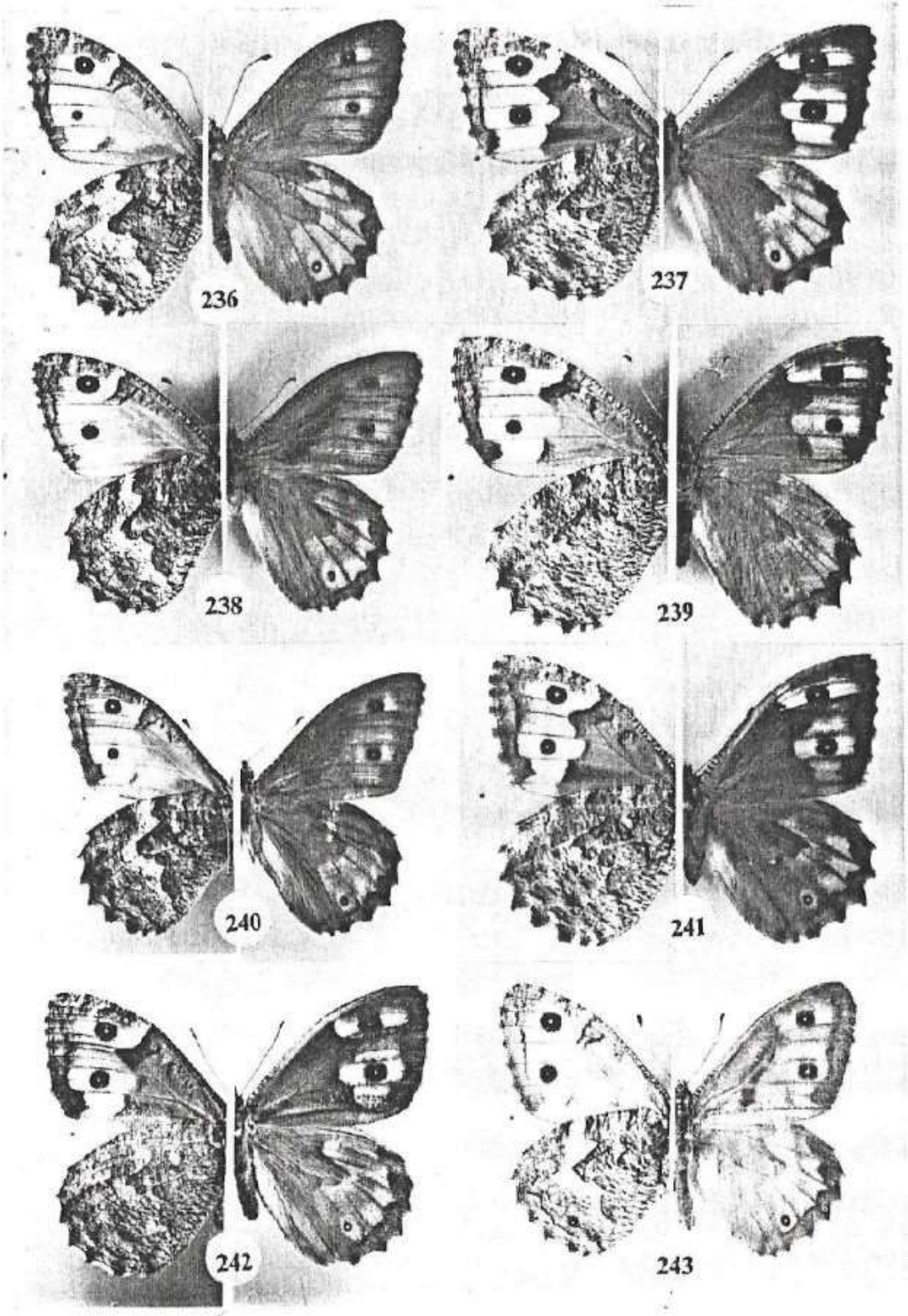

Fig. 236 - 243
External features

236. H. semele wilkinsoni; ♂; Italy: Sicily: Mt. Etna; Holotype.
237. as 236; ♀; Italy: Sicily: Palermo district; Paratype.
238. H. volgensis volgensis; ♂; U.S.S.R.: Volgograd: Beketovka; Paratype.
239. as 238; ♀; Paratype.
240. H. volgensis delattini; ♂; Yugoslavia: Kosovo: Priština; Holotype.
241. as 240; ♀; Yugoslavia: Macedonia: Skopje district.
242. as 240; ♀; Greece: Peloponnese: Mt. Chelmos.
243. H. christenseni; ♂; Greece: Karpathos; Paratype.