

Nymphalis vaualbum ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) confirmed for the fauna of Turkey (Lepidoptera : Nymphalidae)

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Samenvatting. *Nymphalis vaualbum* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) wordt bevestigd als behorende tot de fauna van Turkije (Lepidoptera : Nymphalidae). Op 1 augustus 1993 werd één mannetje *Nymphalis vaualbum* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) gevangen in de Meydancik-vallei (Turkije, prov. Artvin).

Résumé. *Nymphalis vaualbum* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) confirmé pour la faune de la Turquie (Lepidoptera : Nymphalidae). Un mâle de *Nymphalis vaualbum* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) fut capturé le 1 août 1993 dans la vallée de Meydancik (Turquie, province d'Artvin).

Key words : *Nymphalis vaualbum* - Turkey - faunistics - distribution.

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Nymphalis vaualbum ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) was reported from "Transkaukasien, Ak-Dagh, (nordöstliches Kleinasien)" (Heyne [1895] : 778). Since this single record for Turkey, the species has never been mentioned again for that country till 1 August 1993. During the summer expedition of the Workgroup Greek-Turkish butterflies, Dirk van der Poorten captured one male specimen of the species in Meydancik valley, very close to the Georgian border (prov. Artvin), at an altitude of 1800 m.

The specimen (plate 2, fig. 1) was captured, together with some *Aglais urticae* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Polygonia c-album* (Linnaeus, 1758) and several Lycaenids, all attracted to water on a sandy road. The specimen is somewhat darker than all the specimens with which we compared it (from Rumania, Servia, Kazakhstan, Chabarovsk region, Ussuri region, Japan). The fresh shape of the animal suggests that it is native in this region and did not immigrate from elsewhere.

The biotope consists of a narrow valley with steep slopes, covered with vast pine forests. Because of the frequent heavy rain in this region, the abundant vegetation was very varied and most of the lower plants in the open wood patches were flowering. Along the river many trees were growing: *Alnus*, *Populus tremula*, *Salix caprea*, *Ulmus*. All of them are possible larval food-plants according to the literature (e.g. Miljanowski 1964 : 106).

In the adjacent region *Nymphalis vaualbum* has been reported on several occasions from Caucasus and Transcaucasia : Borshom (Romanoff 1884 : 55), Gagra (Miljanowski 1947 : 287), Krasnaja Poljana (Kiritschenko 1913 : 197), Maikop (Schaposchnikow 1904 : 198), Suchumi (Miljanowski 1947 : 287) and Teberda (Mironov 1956 : 257).

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Legend of plate 2 :

1. *Nymphalis vaualbum* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775), male, Turkey, province of Artvin, Meydancik valley, 1800 m, 1.VIII.1993, leg. D. van der Poorten.
2. *Gonepteryx rhamni* (Linnaeus, 1758), gynandromorph, Óros Helmós, Aroania Óri, Nómos Ahaia, Pelopónissos, Greece, 1200 m, 30.VI.1984, leg. A. Olivier.
3. *Polyommatus bellargus* (Rottemburg, 1775), gynandromorph, 10-33 km NE Çatak, province of Van, Turkey, 2000-2200 m, 28.VII.1993, leg. D. van der Poorten.
4. *Tarucus balkanicus* (Freyer, [1844]), gynandromorph, Óros Falakró, Nómos Dráma, Makedonia, Greece, 350 m, 28.VII.1986, leg. D. van der Poorten.
5. *Tarucus balkanicus* (Freyer, [1844]), aberrant specimen, env. Kiliçkaya, 14-20 km SW Yusufeli, province of Artvin, Turkey, 1000 m, 19.VII.1993, leg. W. De Prins.
6. *Tarucus balkanicus* (Freyer, [1844]), ♂, Surpi, Nómos Magnissia, Greece, 16.VII.1981, leg. D. van der Poorten.
7. *Tarucus balkanicus* (Freyer, [1844]), ♀, as fig. 6.
8. *Tarucus balkanicus* (Freyer, [1844]), ♂ underside, 8-10 km SW Yusufeli, Çoruh valley, 900-1000 m, 4-9.VII.1991, leg. W. De Prins.

Plate 2

