

Hyles hippophaes new for Bulgaria and *Euxoa cos crimaea* new for the Balkan Peninsula (Lepidoptera: Sphingidae, Noctuidae)

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Abstract. *Hyles hippophaes* (Esper, 1793) is reported for the first time from Bulgaria, and *Euxoa cos crimaea* A. Bang-Haas, 1906, previously known only from the Crimea, is reported as new to the Balkan Peninsula. Both species have been collected in the Balchik district, northern Black Sea Coast.

Samenvatting. *Hyles hippophaes* nieuw voor Bulgarije en *Euxoa cos crimaea* nieuw voor het Balkanschiereiland (Lepidoptera: Sphingidae, Noctuidae)

Hyles hippophaes (Esper, 1793) wordt voor het eerst vermeld uit Bulgarije en *Euxoa cos crimaea* A. Bang-Haas, 1906, voorheen uitsluitend bekend van de Krim, wordt vermeld van het Balkanschiereiland. Beide soorten werden waargenomen in het Balchik district, noordelijk deel van de Zwarte Zeekust.

Résumé. *Hyles hippophaes* nouvelle espèce pour la Bulgarie et *Euxoa cos crimaea* nouveau pour la Péninsule balkanique (Lepidoptera: Sphingidae, Noctuidae)

Hyles hippophaes (Esper, 1793) est mentionné pour la première fois de Bulgarie et *Euxoa cos crimaea* A. Bang-Haas, 1906, jusqu'à présent connu seulement de Crimée, est mentionné de la Péninsule Balkanique. Les deux espèces furent rencontrées dans le district de Balchik sur la côte nord de la Mer Noire.

Key words: *Euxoa cos crimaea* - *Hyles hippophaes* - Bulgaria - faunistics.

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On 10 August 1996 I spent a night between Balchik and Touzlata, 2 km from Touzlata, collecting at light in company of J. Nowacki and M. Bunalski. I collected on a small flat place among almost vertical sandy-rocky slopes, which are typical for this region. The Polish colleagues collected at a distance not exceeding some 100–150 m from me under the slopes. At 22:20 a male *Hyles hippophaes* (Esper, 1793) (fig. 1) came to my 160 W mercury vapour lamp. Less than an hour later the rain aborted collecting.

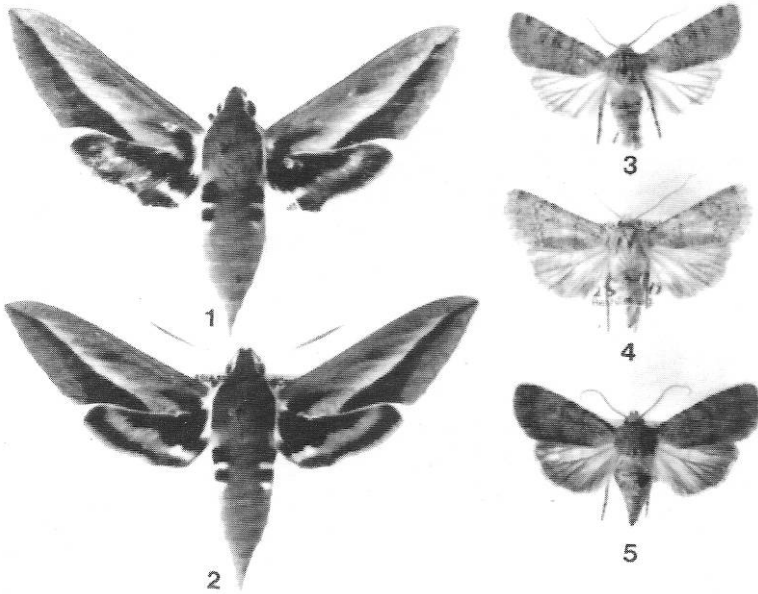
H. hippophaes has been expected for a long time to occur in Bulgaria. It is known from adjacent areas of Romania, Greece and Turkey (Aegean and sea of Marmara coasts and some of the Aegean islands — Pittaway 1982, 1983). In Romania it is known from its type locality ("Wallachei") in the Danube river basin, very close to the Bulgaria/Romania border. A specimen from Balchik ought to belong to the nominotypical subspecies.

The food plant of *H. hippophaes*, *Hippophae rhamnoides* is known in Bulgaria only from a single locality: Galata cape near Varna on the Black Sea Coast. This place is situated ca. 30 km from the collecting site near Balchik. Another food plant is *Elaeagnus angustifolia*, a common, though not native, tree in Bulgaria and in its northern Black Sea Coast. It is abundant in the mentioned collecting site, and there were several trees just within a few metres from the lamp. There is not a doubt that it is the food plant of *H. hippophaes* in Bulgaria. The distribution data of *Elaeagnus angustifolia* in Bulgaria suggest *H. hippophaes* could be found in some other places where *Elaeagnus* is common: SW Bulgaria, Eastern Rhodope Mts., Danube Plain and Dobrogea (Dobruja).

With this find the number of sphingid moth species for the Bulgarian faunal list is extended to 27. The previous sphingid moth species new to Bulgaria — *Sphingonaepiopsis gorgoniades gorgoniades* (Hübner, [1819]) — was reported from almost the same place (Beschkov 1990, Beshkov 1995).

On 25 August 1996, in the same locality, aided with a 160 W mercury vapour lamp and 75 W black light bulb, a male specimen of *Euxoa cos crimaea* A. Bang-Haas, 1906 (fig. 3) was collected. This specimen agrees well with those figured by Fibiger (1990: pl. 5, fig. 24). About a year ago (23.IX.1995), in Belija Briag (SBA) touring camping

between Balchik and Kavarna a single female *E. cos* (fig. 4) was collected on light (S. Beshkov & B. Goater leg.), which recalled *E. cos crimaea*. We did not report it as *E. cos crimaea*, because we were not absolutely confident about its subspecific identity (Beshkov & Goater, in press). Now there is not a doubt that it really represents the Crimean subspecies. It agrees well with the lectotype designated and illustrated by Fibiger (1990: pl. 5 fig. 26).



1. – *Hyles hippophaes hippophaes* ♂: Bulgarian northern Black Sea Coast, between Balchik and Touzлата, 2 km from Touzлата, 10.VIII.1996, S. Beshkov, J. Nowacki & M. Bunalski leg. 2. – *H. hippophaes ?-bienerti* ♂: Asia Minor, Ilgaz Mts., Prov. Çankırı, near Kuruz, 4 km to Kurtcimeni, 17 km to Çrekes from Gerede, 1090 m, 11.VII.1995, S. Beshkov, J. Gelbrecht & E. Schwabe leg. 3. – *Euxoa cos crimaea* ♂: Idem, 25.VIII.1996, S. Beshkov, M. Beshkova & K. Beshkova leg. 4. – *E. cos crimaea* ♀: Bulgarian North Black Sea Coast, Belija Briag (SBA) a camping between Balchik and Kavarna, 23.IX.1995, S. Beshkov & B. Goater leg. 5. – *E. cos cos* ♀: Bulgaria, Trivoditzi, Pazardzhik Region, 200 m, 26.VIII.1986, S. Beshkov leg.

According to Fibiger (1990) and Svendsen & Fibiger (1992), *E. cos crimaea* is an endemic taxon known only from the Crimea. From the distribution map 27 in Svendsen & Fibiger (1992), it may be seen that both nominotypical and Crimean subspecies are pronouncedly allopatric. Between Crimea and Balchik there are only two localities: in the Romanian part of Dobrogea and on the coast, both very close to the border with Bulgaria. The capture of *E. cos crimaea* near Balchik eliminates its status of an endemic subspecies for Crimea. Its range is thus extended from the Crimea to Balchik, and probably some more kilometres further southwards of Balchik. The nominotypical subspecies *E. cos cos* (Hübner [1824]) is widely distributed in Bulgaria, South and West of the Balchik region, often called "Silberküste".

The locality of both *H. hippophaes hippophaes* and *E. cos crimea* is illustrated in colour and described together with the vegetation and a list of synchronic and syntopic taxa (Beshkov 1997, plate 1, fig. 10).

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Barry Goater (Chandlers Ford, England) for the linguistic corrections.

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