

A comparison between the female genitalia of *Gegenes pumilio* and those of *G. nostradamus* (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea)

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Abstract. The female genitalia of *Gegenes pumilio* (Hoffmansegg, 1804) and *G. nostradamus* (Fabricius, 1793) are figured and described, providing information for the safe identification of the females of these two closely allied and often misidentified similar species.

Samenvatting. Een vergelijking tussen de vrouwelijke genitalia van *Gegenes pumilio* en die van *G. nostradamus* (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea)

De vrouwelijke genitalia van *Gegenes pumilio* (Hoffmansegg, 1804) en van *G. nostradamus* (Fabricius, 1793) worden afgebeeld en beschreven. Hierdoor wordt het mogelijk om de wijfjes van deze twee, dikwijls verkeerd gedetermineerde soorten, op naam te brengen.

Résumé. Une comparaison entres les genitalia femelles de *Gegenes pumilio* et celles de *G. nostradamus* (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea)

Les genitalia femelles de *Gegenes pumilio* (Hoffmansegg, 1804) et celles de *G. nostradamus* (Fabricius, 1793) sont illustrées et décrites. Ainsi, une détermination certaine de ces deux espèces souvent confondues, devient possible.

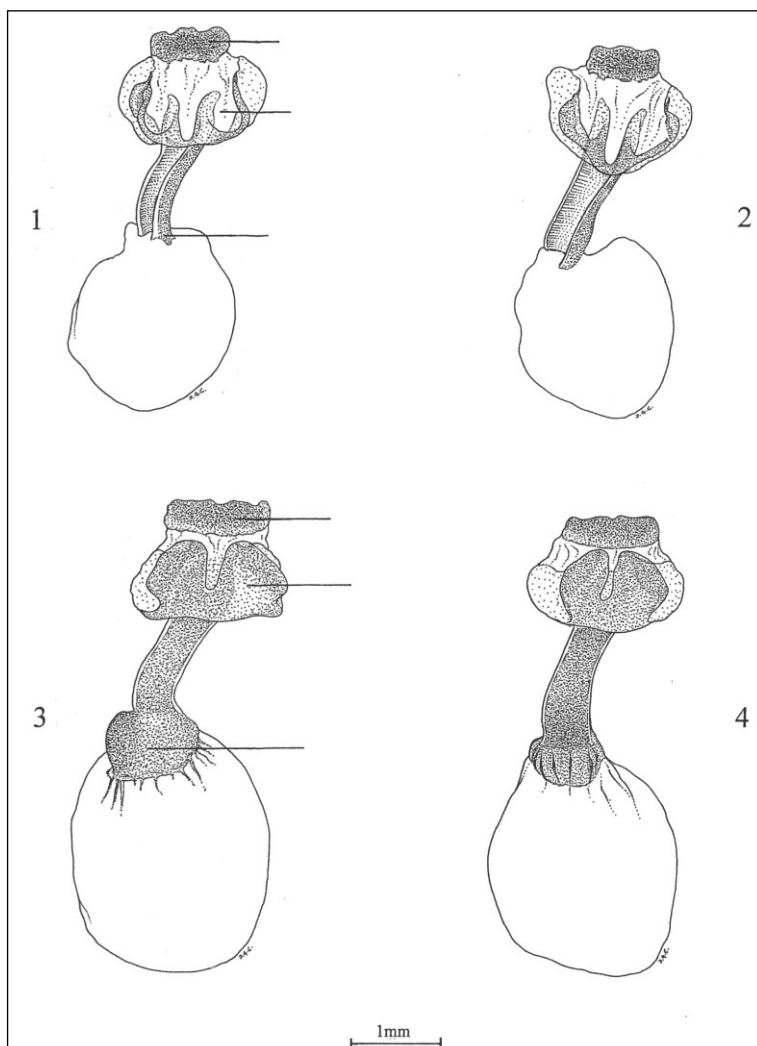
Key words: – Lepidoptera – Hesperioidea – *Gegenes* – *G. pumilio* – *G. nostradamus* – Female genitalia.

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Introduction

The similarity between *Gegenes pumilio* (Hoffmansegg, 1804) and *G. nostradamus* (Fabricius, 1793) has often led to misidentifications. Fortunately their respective male genitalia provide characters that

are useful for differentiating and identifying the males of both these species (Verity 1940, Evans 1949, Coutsis & Olivier 1993). In the case of females, however, no information regarding their genitalia has ever been provided, making it presently desirable to fill this vacuum.



Figs. 1–4. Ventral aspect of bursa copulatrix of *Gegenes* species from Greece. 1, 2. *G. pumilio*. 3, 4. *G. nostradamus*. 1.– Sími Island, near Pédi, sea level, 24.iv.2010; 2.– Spétses Island, sea level, 24.ix.1974; 3.– Spétses Island, Ágios Mámas, sea level, 10.ix.2001; 4.– Attikí, Ekáli, ca. 400m, 25.viii.1963.

The bursa copulatrix

[Genitalia component terms derived from Tuxen (1970)].

G. pumilio. (Figs. 1, 2). Lamella post-vaginalis shorter than in *G. nostradamus*; lamella ante-vaginalis halves deeply bifid; heavily sclerotized ductus bursae of even width throughout entire length; corpus bursae smaller than in *G. nostradamus*.

G. nostradamus. (Figs. 3, 4). Lamella post-vaginalis longer than in *G. pumilio*; lamella ante-vaginalis halves

rounded; heavily sclerotized ductus bursae distended at base; corpus bursae larger than in *G. pumilio*.

Discussion

The diversity and degree of these differences provide a means for easy identification of female *G. pumilio* and *G. nostradamus*, thus eliminating the possibility for misidentifications resulting from not all too clear wing characters.

References

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