Description of a new subspecies of *Lethe baucis* Leech, 1891 (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) from N. Yunnan, China

Song-Yun Lang

**Abstract.** The species status of *Lethe baucis* Leech, 1891 from China is confirmed based upon male genitalia characters and a new subspecies, *L. baucis huanghaoi* ssp. nov. from N. Yunnan province, is described and illustrated in this paper.

**Samenvatting.** De soortstatus van *Lethe baucis* Leech, 1891 uit China wordt door de eigenschappen van de mannelijke genitalia bevestigd en een nieuwe ondersoort, *L. baucis huanghaoi* ssp. nov. uit de provincie N. Yunnan wordt beschreven en geïllustreerd.

**Résumé.** Le statut spécifique de *Lethe baucis* Leech, 1891 de Chine est confirmé sur base des caractères des génitalia et une nouvelle sous-espèce, *L. baucis huanghaoi* ssp. nov. en provenance de la province du Yunnan septentrional, est décrite et illustrée.

**Key words:** Nymphalidae – Satyrinae – Satyrini – *Lethe* – new subspecies – China – Yunnan – Jiuzhushan.

Lang S.-Y.: Chongqing Museum of Natural History, Beibei, 400700, Chongqing, China. langsongyun@gmail.com

---

**Introduction**

*Lethe baucis* Leech, 1891 (Satyrinae: Satyrini) with its junior synonym *L. procris* Leech, 1891 is a species which has been known from western and central China region, Sichuan (Chia-kou-ho, Moupin, Wa-shan, Omei, Wassekou) and W. Hubei (Chang-yang) (Leech 1892; South 1902; Seitz 1907; Draeseke 1925). It is regarded by Fruhstorfer (1911) as the West Chinese local race of *L. insana* [sic] (Kollar, 1844), viz. *L. insana* [sic] *baucis*, and this viewpoint was followed by D’Abrera (1990). It deserves to be mentioned that the name *insana*, an incorrect spelling of *isana*, is a junior synonym of *L. hyrania* (Kollar, 1844) (Lang & Lamas 2016). Chou (1994) recorded *L. insana* [sic] *baucis* from SE China (Zhejiang and Fujian) but it is only a misidentification of *L. hyrania caerulescens* Mell, 1923 and, at the same time, Chou (1994) recorded a couple of *L. insana* [sic] *brisanda* de Nicéville, 1886 from Yunnan province which are actually misidentifications of *L. baucis*. It is worth to mention that the specimens illustrated by Chou (1994) were also the first known records of *L. baucis* from Yunnan. In this research, the following taxa from China have been studied including *L. hyrania dinarbas* (Hewitson, 1863), *L. hyrania caerulescens* Mell, 1923 and *L. baucis*. The male genitalia of *L. baucis* can be easily separated from those of *L. hyrania*, therefore the species status of *L. baucis* can be confirmed. A series of *L. baucis* from Sichuan, Chongqing and Yunnan have been studied in this research, and the population from Yunnan can be distinguished from typical *L. baucis* by some superficial characters and it is herein described as a new subspecies.

**Material**

Materials studied in this research are deposited in the following public or private collections in China: Chongqing Museum of Natural History, Beibei, Chongqing (Coll. CMNH), Dr. S.-Y. Lang’s private collection, Shuangliu, Chengdu, Sichuan (Coll. LSY), Mr. H. Huang’s private collection, Qingdao, Shandong (Coll. HH).


**Taxonomic accounts**

*Lethe baucis* Leech, 1891 (figs. 3, 11)


*Lethe procris* Leech, 1891. Entomologist 24 (Suppl.): 2, Type locality: Wa-shan.


Material. 17♂ 2♀ CHINA: Sichuan, Omei, 1460–1200 m, 10–11.VIII.2013, leg. LSY (Coll. LSY); 1♂, ditto, 1750 m, 17.VI.2014, leg. LSY (Coll. LSY); 1♂, CHINA: Chongqing, Chengkou, 1180 m, 17.VIII.2008, leg. Xiao-dong Yang (Coll. CMNH); 2♂, CHINA: Chongqing, Jiangjin, Mt. Simianshan, 1000–1500 m, 2.IX.2008, 9.VIII.2009, leg. Ai-ming Li (Coll. CMNH).

Male genitalia (figs. 14–19). Uncus: in lateral view, it is ridgy dorsally, whereas in *L. hyrania* it is normal in width with its dorsal ridge not protruding upwards. Valva: in lateral view, it is tapering towards the tip, whereas in *L. hyrania* it is rounded at the end; in dorsal view, it is gradually sharpened towards the tip and with its apex bent inwards, whereas in *L. hyrania* the tip is round or triangular and with a tiny sharp spine on its inner edge. Aedeagus: It is slightly longer than that of *L. hyrania*.

Distribution. China (W. Hubei, Sichuan, Chongqing).
**Lethe baucis huanghaoi** ssp. nov.  
( figs. 1, 2, 9, 10)  

Holotype. ♂, CHINA: Yunnan, Binchuan, Mt. Jizushan, Muxiangping, 2300 m, 23.IV.2015, leg. H. Huang (Coll. LSY).

Paratypes. 1 ♂ 1 ♀, the same dates as the holotype (Coll. LSY); 1 ♂, ditto (Coll. CMNH); 5 ♂ 2 ♀, ditto (Coll. HH); 1 ♂, CHINA: Yunnan, Shangri-la, Hutiaoxia, Jinxing village, 1700 m, 28–29.V.2004, leg. H. Huang (Coll. HH); 1 ♀, ditto, 1800 m, 22.V.2004, leg. H. Huang (Coll. HH).

Description. Male. Dorsal: ground colour uniformly brown with markings the same as in *L. baucis*. Ventral: ground colour pale brown with forewing apical half and hindwing distal half strongly tinged with orange; wing pattern the same as in *L. baucis*. Female. Dorsal: forewing apical half blackish, crossed by an oblique whitish discal band. Ventral: forewing discal band the same as on the dorsal surface, broad and straight.

---

*Fig. 9, 10. – Lethe baucis huanghaoi** ssp. nov. ♂, holotype, dorsal- and ventral side, Jizu-shan, Yunnan (Coll. LSY).

*Fig. 11. – Lethe baucis* ♂, dorsal- and ventral side, Omei, Sichuan (Coll. LSY).

*Fig. 12. – Lethe hyrania dinarbas* ♂, dorsal- and ventral side, Medog, Tibet (Coll. LSY).

*Fig. 13. Distribution map (SW. China) of Lethe baucis.*
Diagnosis. The new subspecies can be distinguished from the nominate ssp. baucis by the combination of the following characters: 1) Both sex are smaller in size. 2) Male: 2a) On the ventral forewing, the apical area is light purple, whereas in baucis it is more greyish; 2b) On the ventral forewing, the discal line is almost straight near the costa, whereas in baucis it is always bent inwards near the costa; 2c) On the ventral forewing, the outer edge of the discal line is obscure, whereas in baucis it is a more distinct creamy white line; 2d) On the ventral hindwing, the discal area is less purple coloured than baucis; 2e) On the ventral surface, the ground colours of the forewing apical half beyond the discal line and the hindwing distal half outside the discal line are strongly tinged with orange, whereas in baucis they are dark reddish brown. 3) Female: 3a) On both surfaces of forewing, the whitish discal band is straight and more broad in width, whereas in baucis it is bent inwards near the costa and narrow in width; 3b) On the dorsal forewing, the ground colour of the apical half is more
blackish than *baucis*; 3c) On the ventral hindwing, the ground colour of the outer half outside the discal line is strongly orange as in the male but not tinged with dark reddish as in *baucis*.

**Etymology.** The subspecific name *huanghaoi* is named after my friend Mr. Huang Hao who collected the typical specimens.

**Distribution.** China (N. Yunnan).

**Acknowledgements**

I express my sincere thanks to Mr. Huang Hao (Qingdao), Mr. Vadim V. Tshikolovets (Kiev) and Mr. Ulf Eitschberger (Marktleuthe) for their various help.

**References**


