

A new *Orthomiella* species from Nepal  
 (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae)

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**A new *Orthomiella* species from Nepal (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae)** – The description of a new polyommataine lycaenid species is given from the subtropical region of Nepal: *Orthomiella ronkayana* (type locality: Koshi, Taplejung area, SW of Mamanke).

INTRODUCTION

Forster (1942a), whilst he elaborated the lycaenid material of the Höne collection housed in the “Zoologisches Forschungsinstitute und Museum Alexander Koenig”, gave an overall picture of the genus *Orthomiella* de Nicéville, 1890. According to Forster, the genus is distributed from the eastern part of the Himalayas to Formosa. Forster considered the genus as Tertiary relict, very closely related to the Afrotropical genus *Cyclus* Butler, 1897. In spite of the fact that Forster repeated the original description of *Una pontis rovorea* Fruhstorfer, 1918 (type locality: Northern Burma, Chin Hills), he forgot to mention that according to Fruhstorfer’s opinion (Fruhstorfer 1918) *Una* de Nicéville and *Orthomiella* should be considered congeneric.

Forster distinguished three species in *Orthomiella*, namely polytypic *O. pontis* (Elwes, 1887) (type locality: Sikkim) describing the new subspecies *O. pontis fukienensis* (type locality: China, Fukien, Kuantun), *O. sinensis* (Elwes, 1887) (type locality: China, Myanmar) and *O. rantaizana* (Wileman, 1910) (type locality: Formosa). Later in a short, supplementary paper Forster described an additional member of the genus as *O. lucida*, again from China (type locality: Kwantung, Lung tao shan) (Forster 1942b: 580).

In his system Eliot (1973: 443) confirmed Fruhstorfer’s opinion and placed the genus *Orthomiella* with *Una* de Nicéville, 1890 in the same genus group (“*Una* section”) with the note that the couplet appears to be fairly close to the Eliotian “*Petrelaea* section”. The opinion of Forster concerning the close relationship of *Cyclus* and *Orthomiella* was most probably based on the homoplasy of the male valvae, which have heavily dentated apical part (cf. figs 190–192 for Afrotropical taxa in Stempffer 1967 and Bálint and Johnson 1995 for Neotropical taxa of the *Leptotes* genus group, and figs 5 (F–K), 6 (A–D) and 26 (C–D) in Hirowatari 1992 for *Orthomiella*).

D’Abrera (1986: 637) figured on his large folio plates only the taxa *O. pontis* and *O. rantaizana*.

The systematic placement of Eliot was accepted by Hirowatari (1992), who revised the polyommataines of the entire Oriental and Australian regions. Hirowatari also accepted the specific division of Forster in the case of *Orthomiella* (Hirowatari 1992: 15), but he did not list the taxa *rovorea* and *lucida* neither as synonyms, nor as good species.

Returning from his fourth entomological expedition to Nepal, my colleague, dr. László Ronkay brought an unusual *Orthomiella* species to my desk. The specimen turned out to be peculiar, especially its underside ground colour and maculation (see Table 1). This specimen represents a hitherto unknown species, described below, as the most northerly member of the genus *Orthomiella*.

Table 1. Underside ground colour and maculation of *Orthomiella* taxa based on Forster 1942a and 1942b, D'Abreva 1986

Taxon	Underside ground colour	Hind wing maculation
<i>O. pontis</i>	brownish grey	dark brown, sharp and complete
<i>O. fukienensis</i>	very light grey	grey, sharp and complete
<i>O. lucida</i>	brownish grey	dark brown, sharp, very large and complete
<i>O. ronkayana</i> sp. n.	dove grey	light grey, small, pale but complete
<i>O. rovoreae</i>	yellowish grey	light brown, vestigial and reduced
<i>O. sinensis</i>	greyish brown	dark brown, sharp but reduced
<i>O. rantaizana</i>	very dark brown	very deep brown, vestigial but complete

***Orthomiella ronkayana* sp. n.**

(Figs 1–2)

Diagnosis – Ground colour blue with greyish shade. Fore wing costal and marginal area with very wide black border. Hind wing costa also with black border. Underside pattern pale and vestigial. Female tergal apophysis anterioris very short and blunt.

Description – Female. Length of fore wing costa: 11 mm. Fore wing upper side ground colour blue with greyish shade, veins darkly pigmented, costal and marginal area

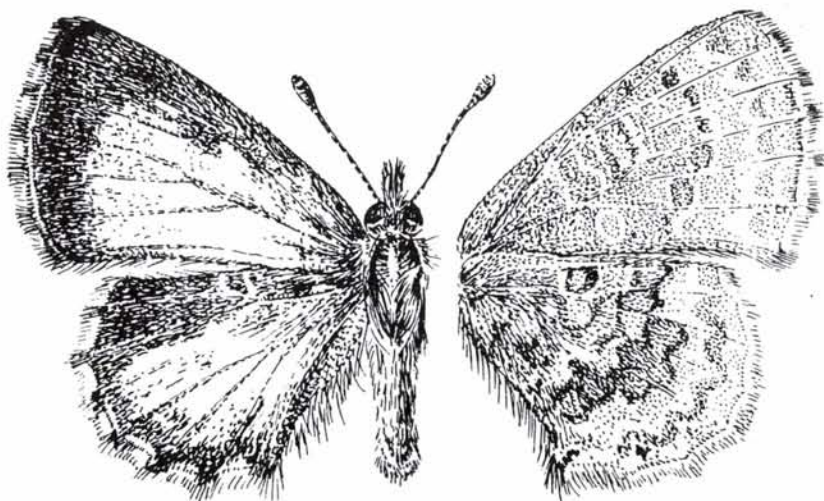


Fig. 1. *Orthomiella ronkayana* sp. n., holotype, female

with very wide black border. Fringes chequered. Hind wing costa straight, upper side ground colour as in fore wing, costal area with very wide black border, marginal area suffused with black scales, especially along margin. Fore wing underside ground colour brownish grey, marginal area dove grey. Basal, discal, discoidal and postdiscal spots greyish brown but indistinct. Marginal area lighter with suffused, wide arrow-head markings. Hind wing ground colour slightly darker with indistinct discoidal spot, postdiscal spots greyish brown and coalescent, marginal area with row of greyish and brownish arrow-head markings, anal angle with two little black marginal spots. Tergal apophysis anterioris very short and rounded. Genital terminalia well sclerotised with folded edges, genital plate stiff, not evertable. Male unknown.

Type material – Holotype, female, labelled as “NEPAL, Koshi, Taplejung area, SW of Mamanke, 1700 m, 87°57'E, 27°26'N, 6–7. IV. 1996, leg. G. Csorba, S. T. Kovács and L. Ronkay”, “gen. prep. No. 649, det. Zs. Bálint”, deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest.

Type locality – Nepal, Koshi, Taplejung area, SW of Mamanke, 1700 m.

Bionomics – The primary type specimen was collected at a moderate elevation, at the very beginning of April, sitting in a rocky hole enlightened by the light trap of the collector.

Remarks – This new species is quite outstanding and could be confused only by its presumably sister species, *O. pontis*. Diagnostic characters, typifying these taxa are listed in Table 2.

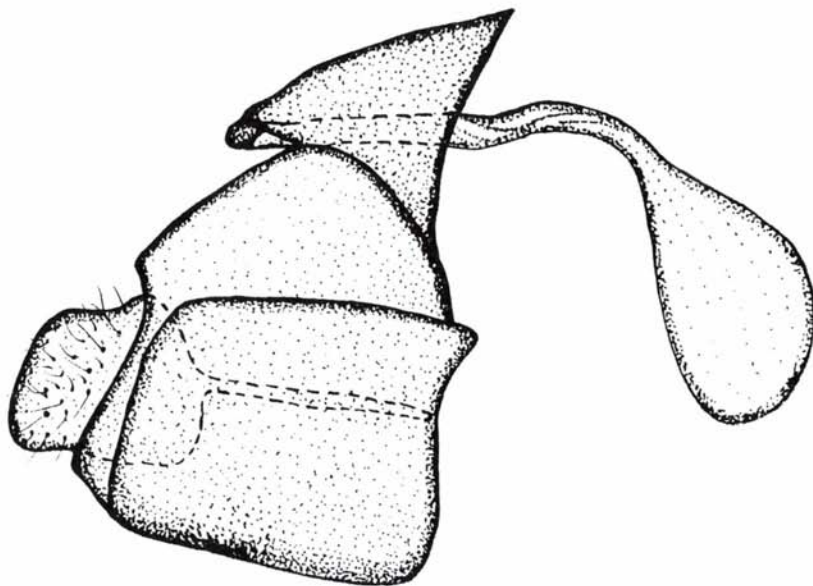


Fig. 2. *Orthomiella ronkayana* sp. n., female genitalia

Table 2. Characters typifying the females of taxa *O. pontis* and *O. ronkayana*

Character	<i>O. pontis</i>	<i>O. ronkayana</i>
Wing upper side ground colour	luminous blue	greyish blue
Hind wing marginal border	very wide	very narrow
Wing underside ground colour	brown	grey
Underside pattern	sharp with large spots	vestigial with small spots
Anterior apophysis	short, blunt-ended	very short, rounded

Etymology – Patronym for László Ronkay, noctuid specialist of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, the collector of the primary type specimen.

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