

Comment (Case 3767) – Support for the proposed conservation of the specific name *Papilio phoebus* Fabricius, 1793

(currently *Parnassius phoebus*) because of prevailing usage

(see BZN 76: 14–22 [Case]; BZN 77: 86–88; 78: 36–37, 38–41, 128–129, 130–131 [Comments])

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I support Case 3767 (Lukhtanov et al., 2019) proposing to conserve the name *Papilio phoebus* Fabricius, 1793 (currently *Parnassius phoebus*) as valid because of its prevailing usage (paras. 6 and 13 of the Case), which I illustrate below quantitatively. A considerable part of the range of the species considered belongs to the huge Altai-Sayan Mountain System shared by Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and China. Its occurrence in the three former countries are covered by the series “Butterflies of Palearctic Asia published by Vadim Tschikolovets, namely by “Butterflies of Altay, Sayans and Tuva” (Tschikolovets et al., 2009a), “Butterflies of Kazakhstan” (Tschikolovets et al., 2016), and “Butterflies of Mongolia (Tschikolovets et al., 2009b). This series references to all records of all butterfly species ever reported for the regions covered, with indication under which name in each source. This provides a unique opportunity for quantitative assessment of usage of different names for the species considered in literature devoted for those regions. Below I count only specific binomens, disregarding numerous subsequent subspecies and variety names, as well as the name authorities (indicated not in all sources). The tally for Altai, the Sayans and Tuva (Russia) is as follows: *Parnassius phoebus* – 51 sources (including the summarising source, Tschikolovets et al., 2009a), *Parnassius delius* – 14 sources (last time used in 1968), *Parnassius intermedius* - 2 sources of 1855. The counts for Kazakhstan: *Parnassius phoebus* – 29 sources (including Tschikolovets et al., 2016), *Parnassius delius* – 5 sources (last time used in 1908), *Doritis delius* - 1 source of 1855. The counts for Mongolia (with explicit indication to Mongolia rather than generally to Altai or Sayans; the sources referring to the localities Arasagun Gol and Munko-Sardyk, actually in the Russian territory, being excluded): *Parnassius phoebus* – 25 sources (including Tschikolovets et al., 2009b), *Parnassius delius* – 5 sources (last used in 1971). In sum we have 105 uses of *Parnassius phoebus* versus 27 uses of three other binomens, neither of which used after 1971. This illustrates the overwhelming predomination of *Parnassius phoebus* in literature devoted to most of the Asian part of the species’s range and its exclusive use for at least 38 years (1972–2009).

References

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