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**BALIOCHILA WARRENGASHI -
A NEW BUTTERFLY FROM THE USAMBARA MOUNTAINS IN TANZANIA
(LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE)**

S. C. Collins* & T. B. Larsen**

* P O Box 14308, Nairobi, Kenya

** 358 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8PL, UK

Introduction

On a collecting trip to the Usambara Mountains in northeastern Tanzania, Haydon WARREN-GASH caught a white *Baliochila*. He was immediately aware that he had made an interesting find, since no other white members of the genus is known. A year later, Peter NAMAKANA WALWANDA was sent to the area and managed to secure a long series of paratypes. Closer examination confirmed that the species was new, but also established its close affinity with *Baliochila congdoni* Kielland, 1990, a species so far known only from the neighbouring Uluguru Mountains.

Baliochila warrengashi sp. nov. Figs. 1 & 2

The cream ground-colour of the male apart, this species is in all respects close to the orange *B. congdoni* Kielland, 1990, from the Uluguru Mountains, with which it shares a pattern of genitalia so specialized that it might have been given generic rank, were it not for the typical penis and valves of the *Baliochila*, the same neuration, and the characteristic subcylindrical club of the antennae.

Male upperside: Forewing 10 mm. Ground-colour light cream. At the junction between white and the black borders there is slight orange scaling. The ground-colour of *B. congdoni* is light yellowish-orange. The costa is broadly black, but the black markings only take up just over half the space of the cell. There is a broad black margin to the forewing. The hindwing also has a broad black margin. In *B. congdoni* the entire forewing cell is encroached upon by black scales and the margins of all four wings are wider.

Male underside: The forewing ground-colour is as the upperside. The costa and cell is greyish-brown, expanding to beyond the cell, where a wedge of the ground colour extends almost to the costa, though overlaid with an orange tinge. There are regular, small orange spots along the costa, as well as three orange spots in the cell. Beyond the white wedge begins a large apical marginal dark patch, tapering to an end in space 1b. This contains two parallel rows of orange submarginal spots, the outer one ending in space 2, the inner one in space 3. The hindwing underside is uniformly greyish-brown with a distinct pearly sheen, as emphasized also in the description of *B. congdoni*.

Female upperside: The female upperside is the usual ochreous colour of the genus. The costa is much more narrowly black, constricted at the end of the cell to the point where the ground-colour practically reaches the costa. The apical patch is almost as large as in the male, but the dark margin tapers off strongly, reaching the tornus only as a narrow marginal line. The hindwing has a narrow dark marginal line and black cilia, slightly enhanced at the end of the veins. Female underside: The underside is like that of the male, but all markings are paler; the forewing discal area and inner margin is orange instead of white. The female of *B. congdoni* is unknown.

Male genitalia: The male genitalia differ from those of *B. congdoni* in having rather longer valves, appearing thereby also to be more slender. The genital structure is different from other *Baliochila* in two main respects. First, the uncus consists of a distinct, easily detachable, structure which is relatively loosely sutured to the broad tegumen which is a continuation of the vinculum. Its colour is lighter and the chitin more brittle. In normal *Baliochila* the two elements are wholly fused. The uncus lobes are quadrate, but the distal lower end is drawn out to a long point. The upper distal end is serrated. It is almost impossible to mount this structure in frontal view without damage or distortion. Viewed from the side, there is a distinct similarity to the genitalia of *Baliochila hildegarda* Kirby, 1887, with its quadrate uncus lobes, but the whole structure is qualitatively different. The second main difference from typical *Baliochila* lies in the special processes, which are vestigial, consisting of a simple, unadorned loop. The poor development of the special processes and the loosely sutured uncus seem likely to be archaic features (fig. 2).

Holotype male: Ambangulu, Usambara Mountains, Tanzania, iii.1993 (P. WALWANDA leg.).

Paratypes male: Two males, same locality, 25.ii.1992 (H. WARREN-GASH leg.), 13 males, 8 females same data as holotype. Holotype to be placed in The Natural History Museum, London. Paratypes in Coll. H. WARREN-GASH, S. C. COLLINS, J. KIELLAND, and T. B. LARSEN.

The species must be very scarce, localized, and/or seasonal to have escaped attention for so long, since most serious collectors would immediately have recognized a 'white' *Baliochila* as being something of extraordinary interest. The Uluguru and the Usambara Mountains are both of considerable antiquity, with significant levels of endemism. That they should have two distinct, special, yet closely related species is not that surprising; that both should have been discovered almost simultaneously certainly is.

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References:

KIELLAND, J. 1990. The butterflies of Tanzania. Hill House, London & Melbourne.

Fig. 1. *Baliochila warrengashi*. Top left: male holotype; Top right: female paratype; Bottom: male underside. All specimens from Ambangulu, W. Usambara, Tanzania (1.1 x natural size).

Fig. 2. The male genitalia of *Baliochila warrengashi* (only one valve shown). To the left a side view of the tegumen and uncus in situ; the uncus is less firmly chitinized and of lighter colour than the tegumen.