

On the little-known species *Depressaria caucasica* Christoph, 1877 (Lepidoptera: Depressariidae)

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Examination of the lectotype of *Depressaria caucasica* Christoph, 1877 shows that this taxon is merely an alpine form of *D. pastinacella* Dup.

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***Depressaria pastinacella* (Duponchel, 1838) f. *caucasica* Christoph, 1877, stat. n.**
(Fig. 1)

Depressaria caucasica Chr. was described from environs of the alpine village Kurush, on altitude about 2500 m. The village is situated in southern Dagestan, 90 km S of the town Derbent. Christoph (1877) found caterpillars and chrysalids on the undersides of stones. The caterpillars were rather thick, yellow-red, with small black plates bearing primary setae. The chrysalids were yellow-red and depressed. The moths appeared in the middle of August (Christoph, 1877).

Subsequently, this little-known species has not been investigated and was mentioned only in catalogues (Rebel, 1901; Meyrick, 1922; Gaede, 1939). All these catalogues give wrong locality – Armenia. The species was not mentioned in the “Katalog der Depressarien” (Hannemann, 1976).

I had an opportunity to examine a type specimen of this species from the collection of the Museum of Natural History, London. It is a male, wingspan 30 mm, length of the forewing 14 mm. The forewing is not dark, brown-grey, with a small dark discal spot. The hindwing is lighter. The head and thorax are light brown-grey. The colour pattern of the moth in natural size was shown in the original description (pl. VIII, fig. 66).

Examination of the genitalia of this specimen (Fig. 1) shows that *D. caucasica* is conspecific with *D. pastinacella* (Duponchel,

1838) (= *heracliana* auct.). Examination of a female from the same locality also shows that its genitalia are identical to those of *D. pastinacella* Dup.

There is a difference in the pattern of forewings between both examined specimens of *D. caucasica* and the normal specimens of *D. pastinacella*: the absence in *D. caucasica* of small dark touches on the forewing, which are characteristic of *D. pastinacella*. From this reason, I consider *D. caucasica* Chr. as an alpine form of *D. pastinacella* Dup. I examined a male and female from Manglisi in Georgia (a locality about 300 km westwards of Kurush, but much lower) in which the forewings and genitalia are typical of *D. pastinacella*.

In the Museum of Natural History, London, 2 males and 1 female of the type series of *D. caucasica* are kept. One of the males is designated here as lectotype. It has 8 labels: (1) two small golden circles; (2) small white circle with red border and printed “Type”; (3) small white square with black border and inscription “♂, Kurusch”, on the verso side “16 8 72”; (4) white rectangle “Christoph Coll.”; (5) white rectangle “Walsingham Collection, 1910-427”; (6) large white rectangle with inscription “*Depressaria caucasica* Christ., Hor. Soc. Ent. Ross., 12. p. 293, Type, ♂, t. 8-66 (1877)”; (7) red rectangle “Lectotypus, ♂, *Depressaria caucasica* Christoph, 1877, design. A. Lvovsky”; (8) white rectangle with inscription “B. M., Genitalia slide No. 28883 ♂”, on the verso side “*Depressaria pastinacella* Dup., f. *caucasica* Chr., det. A. Lvovsky”.

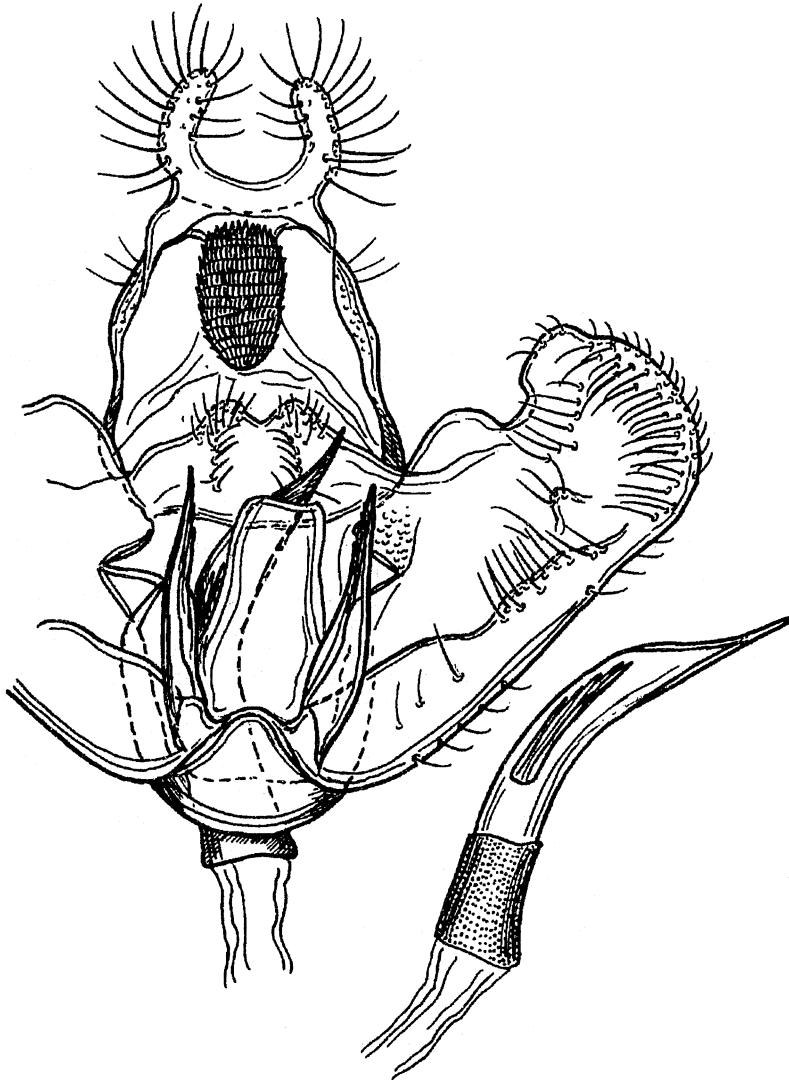


Fig. 1. *Depressaria caucasica* Christoph, ♂, lectotype, genitalia.

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