

Euchloe penia (Freyer, 1852) from SW Bulgaria (Lepidoptera : Pieridae)

Zdravko Kolev

Abstract. The first record of *Euchloe penia* (Freyer, 1852) from Mt. Pirin in SW Bulgaria is published here. Together with this interesting butterfly, Bulgarian Pieridae reach a total of 25 species.

Samenvatting. *Euchloe penia* (Freyer, 1852) uit Zuidwest-Bulgarije (Lepidoptera : Pieridae)

Euchloe penia (Freyer, 1852) wordt hier voor het eerst met zekerheid uit Bulgarije vermeld, daardoor stijgt het aantal Pieridae-soorten voor dat land tot 25.

Résumé. *Euchloe penia* (Freyer, 1852) dans le sud-ouest de la Bulgarie (Lepidoptera : Pieridae)

L'auteur mentionne ici *Euchloe penia* (Freyer, 1852) pour la première fois de la faune bulgare. Avec cette espèce, la faune bulgare des Pieridae monte à 25 espèces.

Key words : *Euchloe penia* - distribution - Bulgaria.

Kolev, Z. : Street Zornitsa 8/A ap. 7, BG-4700 Smolyan, Bulgaria.

The range of *Euchloe penia* (Freyer, 1852) was said by both Higgins & Riley (1984) and Whalley (1987) to include "Bulgaria", without specifying any localities. However, no records from the Bulgarian territory existed so far in maintenance of their statement. It was for this reason that Abadjiev (1992) placed *penia* among the doubtful taxa of the Bulgarian butterfly fauna.

While on a collecting trip on Mt. Alibotusch in the spring of 1993, I paid a short visit to the adjacent southernmost slopes of Mt. Pirin on 18th April. There, along the road between the villages of Nova Lovtcha and Paril, I captured at ca. 850 m a single male *penia* in perfect condition. No other specimens were found despite the thorough search that followed, probably due to the cold and windy weather. By the middle of May, the flight of the first generation had ceased, as a second visit at that time showed. This record raises the number of positively recorded Bulgarian Pieridae to 25 species.

Later that year, specimens of the second generation were collected by Mr S. Abadjiev (Sofia, Bulgaria) on those same slopes east of Paril village; two females of them were recently illustrated, with accompanying data "S. Pirin Mts: Paril Col: 900 m: 23 Jun 1993" (Abadjiev 1993: Pl. XIII, Figs. 4 & 5). The locality indication, however, needs a not irrelevant correction. The Paril Pass, defined as the highest joint between Mt. Pirin and Mt. Alibotush, lies several kilometres west of Paril village, at ca. 1100-1200 m. A more humid and cool mountainous climate prevails there, and its biotopes are rather lush,

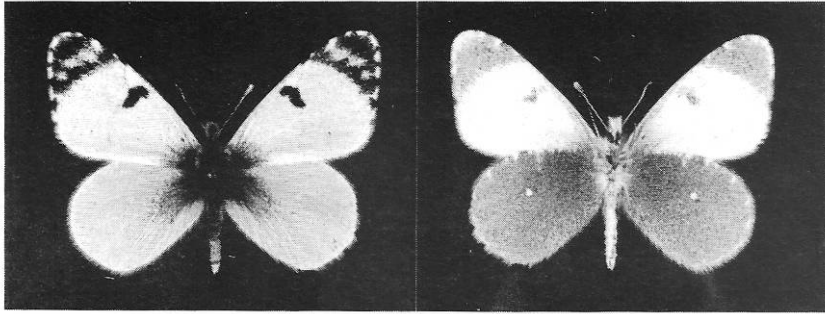


Fig. 1. *Euchloe penia* (Freyer, 1852), gen. vern., male; SW Bulgaria, S Pirin Mts, arid rocky slope east of Paril village, ca. 850 m, 18.IV.1993, leg. et coll. Z. Kolev. Left: upperside, right: underside; enlarged $\times 1.5$. Photo: R. Tyynelä (Zoological Museum of Helsinki, Finland).

much unlike the arid, rocky habitat of *Euchloe penia*, described below. This, within all probability, makes the occurrence of this Pierid on the pass unlikely. The same correction applies to the locality of *Pseudochazara orestes* De Prins & van der Poorten, 1981, which was found together with *Euchloe penia* gen. aest. (Abadjiev 1993: 45).

The habitat of *Euchloe penia* in S Pirin is a dry stony slope covered with low herbaceous vegetation, *Juniperus* scrub and sparse *Pinus* trees. Fortunately, not much human activity (mostly grazing) is being done on this rough terrain. Nevertheless, I consider new investigations most desirable to establish the true status of the so far only Bulgarian colony of this interesting species and to recommend conservation measures, if such are necessary.

In Europe, *Euchloe penia* is known from Kara Dag in European Turkey (Rebel 1913), Macedonia (ex-Yugoslavia): several localities near Skopje and Prilep (Thurner 1964, Jakšić 1988, Schaider & Jakšić 1989), and Greece: Mt. Phalakron near Drama (van der Poorten 1982), Mt. Orvilos, near Kozani (Leestmans & Back 1992), Mt. Olympos (Metzger 1936, Zuber 1993) and Mt. Chelmos (Arheilger & Wolf 1991, Leestmans & Back 1992). It should be noted that the first two Greek localities mentioned are relatively close to the Bulgarian border. In Asia the species occurs in Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Israel and Lebanon (Leestmans & Back 1992).

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