

Precedence between simultaneously published new taxa names in the genus *Pseudochazara* (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae) with a synonymisation act based on the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature

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Abstract. Recently, the new species *Pseudochazara misjai* Parmentier, 2025 (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae) was published in *Phegea* 53(1), and simultaneously *P. tisiphone dibra* Cuvelier & Marafi, 2025 was published in the new online journal 'AWPL', based on limited observations of the same populations found in Central Albania (Dibër Province). However, we argue that, according to Article 24.1. of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, the latter subspecies, *P. tisiphone dibra* Cuvelier & Marafi, 2025, **syn. nov.** should be handled as a subjective synonym of the newly described *P. misjai*. Furthermore, we discuss that the new AWPL journal, its current authors, editors, and publishers (that are largely overlapping), and its 'open peer-review process' use dubious principles that do not conform to the ICZN. Actions should be undertaken by the scientific community against such malicious new online journals.

Samenvatting. Onlangs werd de nieuwe soort *Pseudochazara misjai* Parmentier, 2025 (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae) gepubliceerd in *Phegea* 53(1), en tegelijkertijd werd *P. tisiphone dibra* Cuvelier & Marafi, 2025 gepubliceerd in het nieuwe online tijdschrift 'AWPL', gebaseerd op beperkte waarnemingen van dezelfde populaties gevonden in Centraal-Albanië (provincie Dibër). We stellen echter dat, volgens artikel 24.1. van de International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, de laatstgenoemde ondersoort, *P. tisiphone dibra* Cuvelier & Marafi, 2025, **syn. nov.** behandeld moet worden als een subjectief synoniem van de nieuw beschreven *P. misjai*. Verder bespreken we dat het nieuwe AWPL tijdschrift, zijn huidige auteurs, redacteurs en uitgevers (die elkaar grotendeels overlappen) en zijn 'open peer-review proces' dubieuze principes gebruiken die ook niet in overeenstemming zijn met de ICZN. De wetenschappelijke gemeenschap zou actie moeten ondernemen tegen dergelijke kwaadaardige nieuwe online tijdschriften.

Résumé. Récemment, la nouvelle espèce *Pseudochazara misjai* Parmentier, 2025 (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae) a été publiée dans *Phegea* 53(1), et simultanément *P. tisiphone dibra* Cuvelier & Marafi, 2025 a été publiée dans le nouveau journal en ligne 'AWPL', sur la base d'observations limitées des mêmes populations trouvées en Albanie centrale (province de Dibër). Cependant, nous soutenons que, conformément à l'article 24.1. du Code international de nomenclature zoologique, la dernière sous-espèce, *P. tisiphone dibra* Cuvelier & Marafi, 2025, **syn. nov.** devrait être traitée comme un synonyme subjectif de *P. misjai*, nouvellement décrit. En outre, nous discutons du fait que la nouvelle revue AWPL, ses auteurs, rédacteurs et éditeurs actuels (qui se chevauchent largement) et son « processus ouvert d'évaluation par les pairs » utilisent des principes douteux qui ne sont pas non plus conformes à la CIZN. La communauté scientifique devrait entreprendre des actions contre ces nouvelles revues en ligne malveillantes.

Key words: Synonymisation — Taxonomic Act — ICZN — *Pseudochazara* — Albania.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.28912289>

LSID: zoobank.org/pub:4EECDF90-B0D5-470C-A5CA-D5923B76498F

Introduction

Recently, a new species belonging to the genus *Pseudochazara* found in central Albania was published in this journal (*Phegea* 53-1), *Pseudochazara misjai* Parmentier, 2025 in Parmentier & Qirinxhi (2025). Newly obtained COI sequences of the new taxon with the direct reference to the holotype were submitted to Genbank – an open source DNA database (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/>) together with the taxon name of the new species (ID: 3381441) on 18.xi.2024, and published online by NCBI on 07.i.2025 (Fig. 1) (NCBI 2025). The description and presentation of the new species used an integrative approach, combining a phylogenetic analysis and morphometric analysis of wing patterns and biometric assessment of androconial scales. This article was submitted on 7.vii.2024 and accepted for

publication on 15.xi.2024 (pers. comm. by mail, J. De Prins, editor-in-chief of *Phegea*). The article's abstract containing the new species name was published online on the *Phegea* website (16.i.2025, Fig. 2), and the full article was published in the first issue of the year (January-February-March issue published and released open source at 01.iii.2025) and in Zoobank (Zoobank 2025). However, during the establishment of the species' publication, a new online journal was created by S. Cuvelier and M. Taymans, called "Archives of the Western Palearctic Lepidoptera (AWPL, 2025)", with the release date 20.i.2025 (last modifications reported by the ISSN website on 11.ii.2025; ISSN 2025). Just a few days later, a first issue was published that contained only two articles, of which one taxonomic article handling the same population and which was then named *P. tisiphone dibra* Cuvelier & Marafi, 2025, published online on 26.i.2025. Based on,

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1 submission

Submission	Title	App	Status	Updated
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FOLLOW NCBI

AccessionReport.tsv 202402254342...pdf MasterDef.vowite...doc email.txt ReflectionsLeg1.doc EvaluationEsp...doc

Pseudochazara misjai voucher LP17_AL072_1 cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COX1) gene, partial cds; mitochondrial

GenBank: PQ612762.1

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ACCESSION PQ612762
VERSION PQ612762.1
KEYWORDS
SOURCE mitochondrion Pseudochazara misjai
ORGANISM *Pseudochazara misjai*
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REFERENCE 1 (bases 1 to 658)
AUTHORS Parmentier, L. and Qirinxhi, X.
TITLE Unexpected cryptic diversity revealed through integrative analysis within isolated populations of the Graylings (Lepidoptera: Satyrinae) in the western Balkans
JOURNAL Phegea 53 (1), 22-38 (2025)
REFERENCE 2 (bases 1 to 658)
AUTHORS Parmentier, L.
TITLE Direct Submission
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Customize view

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Run BLAST

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Protein

Taxonomy

Recent activity

Turn Off Clear

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- Pseudochazara misjai voucher LP17_AL066_1 cytochrome c oxidase: Nucleotide
- Pseudochazara misjai voucher LP17_AL064_2 cytochrome c oxidase: Nucleotide
- Pseudochazara misjai voucher LP17_AL064_1 cytochrome c oxidase: Nucleotide

misjai (5)

Nucleotide

See more...

Fig 1. Print screens showing submission of barcodes (including HT) of *Pseudochazara misjai*. **a.** submission portal indicating submission date (18.i.2024) and (pop-up screen) showing release date (07.i.2025) with Genbank accession numbers of the COI barcodes of *P. misjai*, including the HT; **b.** detail of the released barcode and accession number of the HT with the accepted new species name (taxon ID: 3381441).

and in violence against different paragraphs of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, hereafter named 'the Code' (ICZN 2012), we state that the latter taxon should be regarded as a subjective synonym of *Pseudochazara misjai* Parmentier, 2025.

Results and conclusion

In the article by Cuvelier & Marafi (2025), a new subspecies was described with a limited diagnosis based on descriptive differences in habitus as compared with

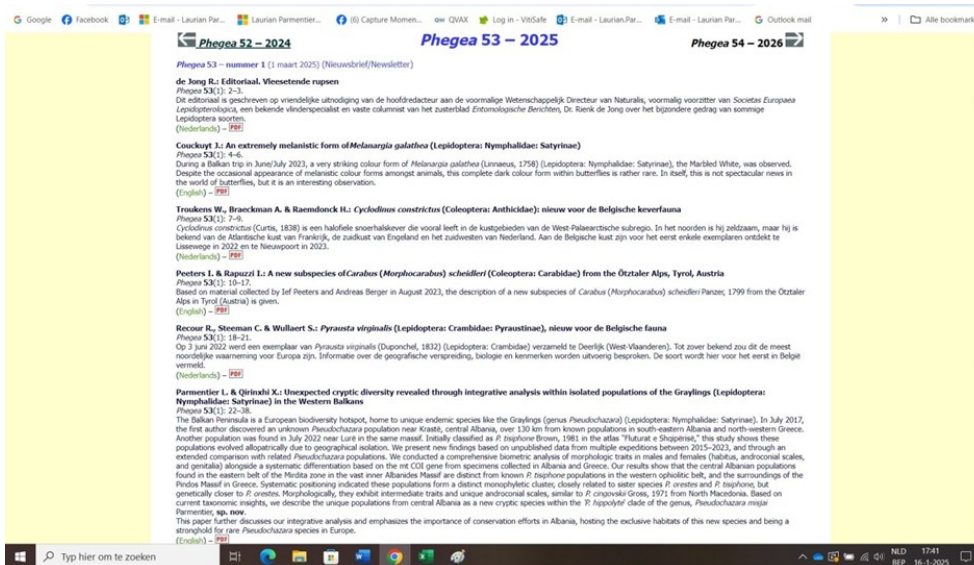


Fig. 2. Print screen of the Phegea homepage [accessed 16.i.2025] showing the abstracts of the Phegea 53(1), with the online publication of the new taxon name “*Pseudochazara misjai* sp. nov.” and details of the population situated in Central Albania (Kraštë, Dibër prov.).

nominotypical *P. tisi phone tisi phone* Brown, 1980 and referring to the mtDNA differences between south-eastern Albanian and north-western Greek populations; the latter element being published by Dapporto *et al.* (2022), but without any further nomenclatural act. Only a picture of the holotype male is shown, while this male specimen was published earlier as “*P. tisi phone*” on the website of Albanian Lepidoptera (Butterflies of Albania 2025). Given a very limited morphometric, no biometric and no newly obtained phylogenetic analysis targeted for this article, while differentiating its separate taxonomic status, the authors came to the conclusion to present it as a new subspecies of *P. tisi phone*. In the case of the publication by Parmentier & Qirinxhi (2025), an extended analysis was performed based on newly barcoded and retrieved from Genbank samples of the type locality population in Kraštë and surrounding populations near Bulqizë in comparison with other *P. tisi phone* populations in the Balkans. Besides, an extended morphometric analysis of habitus (males and females), and androconial scales and genitalia of males is richly illustrated. Also, a detailed spatial population analysis is presented, confirming its allopatric distribution in Central Albania and the validity of the new taxon description. Based on this comprehensive and multi-evidence analysis, the Central Albanian population was described as a new species, sister to *P. orestes* De Prins & van der Poorten, 1981 and *P. tisi phone* Brown, 1980. As both publications were established simultaneously, Article 24.1 “Precedence between simultaneously published names, spellings or acts”, defines that the “Automatic determination of precedence of names” of the Code should be applied. This includes: “When homonyms or synonyms are established simultaneously, but proposed at different ranks, in the family group, genus group or species group, the name proposed at a higher rank takes precedence [Articles 55.5, 56.3, 57.7]. Thus, in the case of *P. misjai* Parmentier, 2025 and *P. tisi phone dibra* Cuvelier & Marafi, 2025, this rule should be applied, concluding that *P. misjai* at species rank takes advantage and *P. tisi phone dibra* should be treated as a subjective synonym.

Taxonomic Act:

Herewith, following Articles 24.1 and 57.7 of the ICZN we state *Pseudochazara misjai* Parmentier, 2025 = *P. tisi phone dibra* Cuvelier & Marafi, 2025 **syn. nov.**

Moreover, there exist other important issues concerning the ethics of the publication of *P. tisi phone dibra* **syn. nov.** in the new online Journal ‘AWPL’.

At first, the AWPL journal’s principles related to the publication of new taxa are dubious. A major issue is the ‘open Peer review process’ that seems not to meet the needed quality; in the case of the Cuvelier & Marafi publication, the only reviewer that was mentioned (in the acknowledgements) was Morten Mølgaard, which is a close friend of the first author. This entomologist cannot be seen as an independent reviewer, as the first author has published different papers together (e.g. Cuvelier & Mølgaard 2016, 2021), thus being at least a subjective one. An example of poor review is seen in the handling of their COI data analysis. As the authors mention a COI analysis in their article discussing differences with *P. tisi phone* as a basal argument of their subspecies description, the authors themselves (or through the reviewers’ comments) should at least have checked the latest Genbank entries, which would have resulted in a very close match showing the new taxon name of *P. misjai* (see Fig. 1b). These COI sequence of new species were already published well before the publication of their new subspecies. Moreover, the authors should have double-checked whether their new taxon would conflict with the research of other peers. Especially S. Cuvelier may have known about the research activity on Albanian *Pseudochazara* (pers. comm. L. Parmentier and X. Qirinxhi, who is working on a PhD thesis dealing with this particular genus, and also via Prof. A. Paparisto, being her advisor). It is stated in the Code of Ethics (Appendix A of the ICZN) that, “a zoologist should not publish a new name if he or she has a reason to believe that another person has already recognized the same taxon and intends to establish a name for it” (Principle 2 of the Appendix A Code of Ethics of the ICZN). The authors

Cuvelier & Marafi may have known about the upcoming publication in *Phegea* as the COI barcode and the new taxon name have already been published online as an advanced publication with details on the type population. Following the Code of Ethics of the ICZN and COPE Publication Ethics (see <https://publicationethics.org/>) the corresponding author S. Cuvelier certainly should have contacted the authors L. Parmentier and X. Qirinxhi. It was not done, so this can be regarded as a case of plagiarism. This is also a serious violation of the Code for both the authors and editors of this new journal (Appendix A: Code of Ethics, Principles 2 and 6), as well as a violation of scientific publication ethics.

Secondly, also the validity of the new journal 'AWPL' as a publication in the sense of the Code is disputable. According to the ISSN principles, taxonomic journals should publish new issues with a minimum number of articles on a regular basis and in a continuous way; a minimum number of 5 articles per issue is given (ISSN

2025). This is not met, with only two articles in the first issue, of which S. Cuvelier and M. Taymans are the main authors, being editors of this new journal.

Taken together, the list of violations against the Code and dubious practices that both the authors and editors of AWPL handle, it should be concluded that both the new taxon name, its publication and its journal cannot be taken seriously. It is almost ridiculous but worth mentioning that on the website of AWPL it is stated that "Taxonomic papers that include nomenclatural acts and/or new species names must comply with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 2012).", but "If authors choose to deviate from a recommendation, they must provide a well-reasoned justification."

Our plea is that measures should be taken against malicious new journals like AWPL and taxonomists that do not follow the Code in a serious, honest way and according to scientific and ethical standards.

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Received: 31 March 2025

Accepted: 03 April 2025

Advanced online publication: this article was not published as an advanced online publication