## The rediscovery of *Utetheisa pulchella* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Lepidoptera: Arctiidae) in the Crimea after 68 years of apparent absence

KONSTANTIN A. EFETOV

Crimean State Medical University, UA-95006 Simferopol, Crimea, Ukraine

## Synopsis

After 68 years of apparent absence, *Utetheisa pulchella* (Linnaeus, 1758) has been rediscovered in the Crimea; because of its rarity in the Ukraine, it is listed as a Red Data Book species.

Key words: Utetheisa pulchella (Linnaeus, 1758), Crimea, Ukraine.

The arctiid moth *Utetheisa pulchella* (Linnaeus, 1758) was first recorded in the Crimean peninsula in 1881 (Grumm Grshimailo, 1882). While examining Lepidoptera material in the collections of the Museum of Natural History of the Kharkov University (Kharkov, Ukraine), the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (St Petersburg, Russia), the Zoological Museum of the Kiev University (Kiev, Ukraine), and the Zoological Museum of the Tavricheskiy University (Simferopol, Ukraine), as well as searching for relevant data in the literature (Grumm Grshimailo, 1882; Melioransky, 1897; Kryukova *et al.*, 1988), it was found that all the specimens of *U. pulchella* from the Crimea had been collected between 1881 and 1939. During this period, only 33 specimens were found or recorded from the following localities: Yevpatoriya, Sevastopol, Simferopol, Mt Chatyr-Dag, Miskhor, Gurzuf, Alushta, Feodosiya and Kerch. This very rare species has been listed in the *Red Data Book of Ukraine* (1994).

Thirty years of intensive field observations in the Crimea by the present author produced no further records of *U. pulchella* and it was assumed that it had become extinct in the peninsula. However, during an autumn expedition in 2007, a female (Fig. 1) was found in a very beautiful biotope (Fig. 2) in Bakhchisaray district; precise data for the specimen are as follows, 'Crimea, 1 km NE. of Krasnyy Mak, 44°39' N, 33°47' E, 100 m above sea level, 3.xi.2007'. The female was at rest amongst grassy vegetation near calcareous rocks on the west-facing slope of the Internal mountain ridge of the Crimea (Efetov, 2005: 98, fig. 53) and is a representative of the third generation. Hitherto, the third generation in the Crimea had been recorded as occurring from September–October (Efetov & Budashkin, 1987; 1990), but this record shows that the flight can continue until the beginning of November.

Thus, this recent locality record confirms the presence of *U. pulchella* in the Crimea and may be the result of a new wave of immigration.



Photo: K. A. Efetov

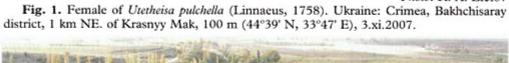




Photo: K. A. Efetov

Fig. 2. Locality on the western bank of the river Belbek where Utetheisa pulchella (Linnaeus, 1758) was found. Ukraine: Crimea, Bakhchisaray district, 1 km NE. of Krasnyy Mak, 100 m (44°39' N, 33°47' E), 3.xi.2007.

## Acknowledgements

For help in examining the collections in the institutions mentioned above, the author expresses his sincere thanks to Mr I. Yu. Kostjuk (Kiev), Dr S. A. Mosyakin (Simferopol), Dr S. Yu. Sinev (St Petersburg) and Dr V. P. Zolotarev (Kharkov). The author is also indebted to Prof. Dr G. M. Tarmann (Innsbruck), Prof. Dr V. G. Yena and Dr An. V. Yena (Simferopol) for fruitful discussions and to Dr W. G. Tremewan (Truro) for editing the English typescript.

## References

- Efetov, K. A. 2005. The Zygaenidae (Lepidoptera) of the Crimea and other regions of Eurasia 420 pp., col. frontispiece, 78 text-figs, 59 monochrome and col. pls. Simferopol.
- Efetov, K. A. & Budashkin, Yu. I. 1987. Arctiidae (Lepidoptera) of the Crimea. Vestnik Zoologii 21 (3): 77–78.
- Grumm Grshimailo, P. [sic] 1882. Neskolko slov o cheshuyekrylykh Kryma [A few words on the Lepidoptera of the Crimea]. [In Russian.] Trudy Russkogo entomologicheskogo Obshchestva 13: 153–168.
- Kryukova, I. V., Luks, Yu. A., Privalova, A. A., Kostin, Yu. V., Dulitsky, A. I., Maltsev, I. V. & Kostin, S. Yu. 1988. Redkiye rasteniya i zhivotnyye Kryma [Rare plants and animals of the Crimea]. [In Russian.] 176 pp., figs. Simferopol.
- Melioransky, W. 1897. K faune Macrolepidoptera yuzhnago berega Kryma [Einiges über die Grossschmetterlinge der Südküste der Halbinsel Krim]. [In Russian.] Trudy Russkogo entomologicheskogo Obshchestva 31: 216–239, pl. 7, figs 6, 7.
- Szczerbak, M. M. (Ed.) 1994. Red Data Book of Ukraine. Animal Kingdom 464 pp., figs. Kiev.