

***Zerynthia cassandra* (GEYER, 1828) or *Zerynthia demnosia* (BOISDUVAL, 1828)? Which one is the correct name according to the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature?**

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Summary: The author succeeds in clarifying the taxonomic and nomenclatural uncertainties within the species complex of *Zerynthia polyxena* from Italy. Respecting the specific state of the Italian Festoon as proposed by DAPPORTO (2010), its species name must be *demnosia* BOISDUVAL, 1828 with the type locality ‘San Giórgio a Colónica’ (DAPPORTO, 2010), which corresponds to Florence in the sense of MANN (1844). The name *cassandra* GEYER, 1828 has to be considered as a younger synonym of *polyxena* [DENIS & SCHIFFERMÜLLER], 1775 and is not available as a species name for the Italian Festoon. The substitution of the species name *cassandra* sensu DAPPORTO (2010) by *demnosia* BOISDUVAL, 1828 allows furthermore the use of the name *cassandra* GEYER, 1828, as a *forma* to denote individual and local forms with strong patterning of *Zerynthia polyxena* and *Z. demnosia* in southern Europe including the populations of southern France and eastern Liguria.

Key words: *Zerynthia polyxena*, *Z. demnosia*, *Z. cassandra*, Lepidoptera, Papilionidae, Nomenclature, Taxonomy, International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN).

Introduction

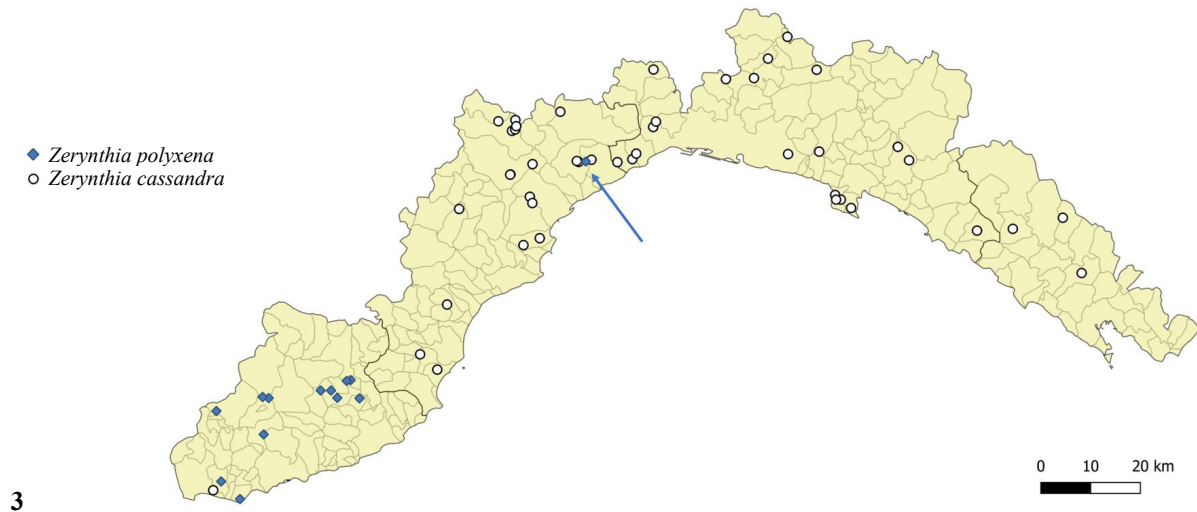
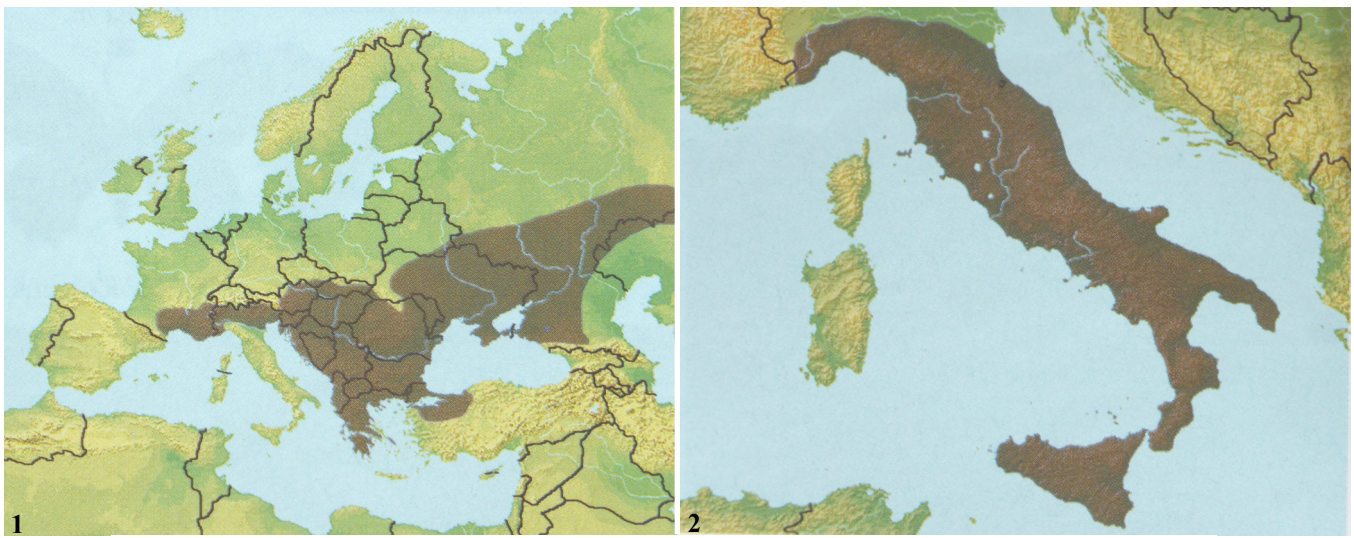
It has been nearly 200 years since the name *cassandra* was designated for the local form of *Zerynthia polyxena* present in south-east France. On the occasion of an entomological excursion to Piedmont in June 2019 being organized by the Entomological Society of Zürich, I was surprised to learn from an Italian excursion guide, that the species *Zerynthia polyxena* occurs in northern Italy only north of the Po River whereas *Zerynthia cassandra* replaces *polyxena* in the Ligurian provinces of Savona, Genoa and La Spezia as well as on the Italian peninsula and in Sicily (fig. 1-3).

Firstly, TSHIKOLOVETS (2011: p. 86) revealed in his guide “Butterflies of Europe & the Mediterranean area” the separation of the Italian Festoon as a distinct species under the name of “*cassandra* GEYER, 1828” (fig. 4, 5). As key differentiators of diagnostic importance of this new species, DAPPORTO (2010) referred to the different male genital armatures, to the caterpillar provided with scoli missing the black ends (fig. 21-24) and to genetical differences whereas it is not separable from the Vienna Festoon (*Zerynthia polyxena*) on the basis of characters of its wing pattern. A neotype of the new species with type locality “San Giórgio a Colónica” near Prato in the surroundings of Florence was defined and designated with the historical name of “*cassandra* GEYER, 1828” being based on the figures 910-913 of *Pap. Cassandra* published without description by HÜBNER’s successor GEYER (fig. 4, 5) in part 1 of “Sammlung europäischer Schmetterlinge”.

For making available the name of *cassandra*,

BOISDUVAL’s indications of provenance of his material: “Hyères” (Var) (1832) and Galloprov. (=Provence) (1840), had to be ignored and a substitute name for renaming “*cassandra*” as the local form of Provence and western Liguria was required. For filling the gap, the historical name of “*creusa* MEIGEN, 1829” (fig. 10, 11) – the original specimen seems to be missing – was used and its type locality “Italy” indicated by MEIGEN redefined in “Passo di Ghimbegna” situated in western Liguria (BALLETO *et al.* 2021). As a result of the conversion of use however, the two names “*cassandra* GEYER” and “*creusa* MEIGEN” were completely removed from their historic context. On request of the Italian specialists, I was simply referred to the article 75 of the set of rules of the ICZN treating with the formation of neotypes.

Two final instar caterpillars of BOISDUVAL’s *Thais cassandra* with provenience from Hyères (Var, Provence) published in “Collection iconographique et historique des chenilles” by BOISDUVAL, RAMBUR and GRASLIN [1837] (fig. 13-15), show clearly the black ends of scoli, a characteristic feature of *polyxena*. By ignoring these figures of excellent quality, the opportunity was missed to respond to BOISDUVAL’s previously unanswered question concerning the correct nomenclature and taxonomy of his *Thais cassandra* on the basis of DAPPORTO’s distinctive criterion for caterpillars of both, Vienna and Italian Festoon. There is no doubt that the two caterpillars of BOISDUVAL’s *Thais cassandra* belong to *Zerynthia polyxena* and that they have nothing to do with the Italian Festoon *Zerynthia cassandra* [GEYER, 1828 (DAPPORTO, 2010)] = *Zerynthia demnosia* (BOISDUVAL, 1828).



Figs 1-3: Distribution of the two Festoon species – 1: *Zerynthia polyxena* D. & S., 1775. 2: *Zerynthia cassandra* [GEYER, 1828 (DAPPORTO, 2010)] = *Zerynthia demnosia* (BOISDUVAL, 1828). 3: Ligurian contact zone with *polyxena* (blue dots) in the Imperia province and *cassandra* GEYER, 1828 (DAPPORTO, 2010) = *Zerynthia demnosia* (BOISDUVAL, 1828) in the provinces of Savona, Genoa and La Spezia (ringlets). Maps according to TSHIKOLOVETS, 2011 (fig. 1,2) and BONIFACINO and GALLO, 2023 (fig. 3). Publication of the maps of Europe and Italy authorized by Vadim TSHIKOLOVETS (19.09.2024) and that of Liguria by Marco BONIFACINO and Enrico GALLO (8.07.2024).



Figs 4-5: Original illustrations of Festoons from HÜBNER's "Sammlung europäischer Schmetterlinge", Papilio (vol. 1), plate 185 with figs 910-913 (♂♂♀♀) of *Papilio Cassandra* published around 1828 by HÜBNER's successor GEYER. 5: the same figures 910-913 enlarged. In comparison with the following two figures of *Pap. Polyxena*, *cassandra* shows a more extended black pattern. The copy used for reproducing the two figures is privately held. Dating of HÜBNER's plates see HEMMING (1937) and HEPPNER (1982).



Figs 6-8: Illustrations from HÜBNER's works "Sammlung europäischer Schmetterlinge" and, fig. 9: from "Geschichte europäischer Schmetterlinge" for comparison – 6: Plate 78 with figs 392, 393 of *Papilio Polyxena* and figs 394, 395 of *Papilio Rumina*. 7, 8: this ♀ of *Papilio Polyxena* (fig. 392, 393) was published around 1800. As "patria" (region of origin), HÜBNER (1805) indicated Austria and Hungary. In Austria, the presence of *Z. polyxena* is limited to the eastern part (HÖTTINGER *et al.* 1999). 9: Caterpillar of *Papilio Polyxena* likewise published by HÜBNER around 1800 with the black ends of the scoli distinguishing the populations of the Vienna Festoon (*Z. polyxena*) from those of the Italian Festoon (*Z. cassandra* [GEYER, 1828 (DAPPORTO, 2010)] = *Z. demnosia* (BOISDUVAL, 1828). The copies used for reproducing these figures are privately held. Dating of HÜBNER's plates see HEMMING (1937) and HEPPNER (1982).

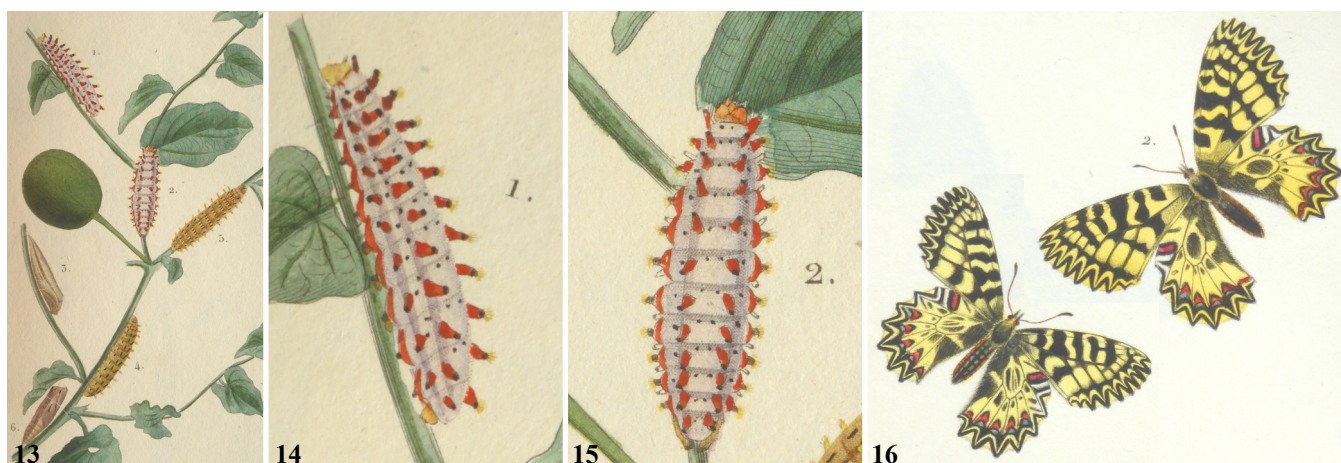


Figs 10-12: Illustrations from MEIGEN's vol. 1 of "Systematische Beschreibung der europäischen Schmetterlinge" published in 1829 – 10, 11: plate 42 with fig. 1 of *Thais Creusa* MEIGEN. The real reason making MEIGEN to figure this individual on the supplementary plate nr. 42 should have been the yellow colour of this individual. However, "*creusa* MEIGEN" is listed in the STAUDINGER catalogue of 1901 under "v. *Cassandra*" and not under "ab. *Ochracea*". According to MANN (1844), the black pattern of the figure of "*creusa* MEIGEN" matches with that of individuals from Florence sold by DAHL as "*Demnosia*". A receiver of DAHL's *Demnosia* from Florence was BOISDUVAL who listed this name in 1828 in "Europaeorum Lepidopterorum Index Methodicus" with type locality "Italia" (fig. 26). "*Demnosia* BOISDUVAL" complies with the first mention of the Italian Festoon in the literature and has to be considered as the correct name of this species. 12: The yellowish specimen of "*Thais Creusa* MEIGEN" contrasts sharply with the white specimen of *Thais Polyxena* presented as fig. 2a on plate 2 in MEIGEN's vol 1 and resembles the form *ochracea* STAUDINGER, 1861 (fig. 32ab). The copy used for reproducing these figures is privately held.

The beginnings of the names of *cassandra*, *creusa* and *demnosia* go back to Georg DAHL (*1769-†1831), insect dealer leaving in Währing near Vienna (MANN 1844). A price list of the beetles and butterflies in stock of this dealer (fig. 25) has been preserved and can be consulted in digital form (DAHL 1823).

Friedrich TREITSCHKE (1834) who did an internship of one day with DAHL reported that this dealer sold large quantities of Festoons emerged from pupae and that he profited from the large natural variation of this species and, in particular, from the forms distributed in Italy with widened and brighter black pattern on

average than in *polyxena* occurring around Vienna (fig. 28, 29) and thus appropriate to be sold at a higher price. Furthermore, TREITSCHKE wrote that DAHL picked out the *polyxena* individuals with a particular attractive pattern to sell them afterwards under the names of *cassandra* and *creusa* whereas he eliminated individuals of the appearance of *polyxena* from Vienna as unprofitable. In this way, the dealer gave his uninitiated customers the impression that the selected individuals belonged to different species. Through the path of the commerce and the exchange, DAHL's names denoting individuals of Festoons with particular



Figs 13-15: Illustrations from BOISDUVAL's "Collection iconographique et historique des chenilles" and, fig. 16: from "Icones historique des Lépidoptères nouveaux ou peu connus". 13: plate published in 1836 or 1837 with 2 caterpillars and 1 pupa of *Thais Cassandra* (nr. 1-3) and of *Thais Medesicaste* = *Zerynthia rumina* (nr. 4-6). 14, 15: The black ends of the scoli of BOISDUVAL's caterpillars corresponding with *Zerynthia polyxena* cannot be overlooked. 16: ♂ and ♀ of *Thais Cassandra* on plate 3 (1832) of "Icones historique". These individuals cannot be distinguished from those of the Italian Festoon, but they are well defined by BOISDUVAL's illustrated caterpillars. Dating of BOISDUVAL's plates see COVAN (1970).



Figs 17-20: Photographs of adult caterpillars of the Vienna Festoon (*Zerynthia polyxena*) from different regions for comparison with BOISDUVAL's caterpillars – 17: Sisteron (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence), 15.05.2022. 18, 19: Leibnitz (Styria), both 26.05.2022. 20: Kulata (Bulgaria), 31.05.2023. Photographs Gregor MARKL.



Figs 21-24: Photographs of adult caterpillars of the Italian Festoon [*Zerynthia cassandra* GEYER, 1828 (DAPPORTO, 2010)] = *Zerynthia demnosia* (BOISDUVAL, 1828) for comparison – 21: the first documented caterpillar of the Italian Festoon was reared from eggs found by Enrico GALLO on mount Manfria (Pollino massif, Southern Italy) on 5.06.1975. The rearing was carried out by using *Aristolochia lutea* and the photograph taken towards the end of June/ early July 1975. 22: Rieti (Lazio), 28.05.2013. Photo Wolfgang WAGNER, www.pyrgus.de. 23: Oltrepò Pavese (Pavia, Lombardia), 400 m, 10.06.2015. Photo Gianluca ANCARANI, obtained via Alessandro BISI and Enrico GALLO. 24: Parco Naturale delle Capanne di Marcarolo, La Benedicta (Alessandria, Piedmont), 26.06.2013. Photographer unknown, obtained by Enrico GALLO. The characteristic feature of caterpillars of the Italian Festoon are the missing black endings of the scoli.

characters of wings were put into circulation a long time before MANN (1844) and HERRICH-SCHÄFFER (1845) specified and discussed their characters after DAHL's death in 1831. Obviously, DAHL furnished at the latest in 1828 a pair of *Pap. cassandra* to GEYER in Augsburg (fig. 4, 5). In the same period, BOISDUVAL listed in his "Index methodicus" of 1828 the name of "Var. *Demnosia* DAHL" referring to "Italy" (fig. 26). It is known by MANN (1844) that the Festoons sold by DAHL as *Demnosia* had been collected in the area of the Italian Festoon near Florence.

Supposed origin of Geyer's *cassandra*: DAHL's Italian *polyxena* material on sale should have originated mainly from the region of the Adriatic

littoral. This can be derived from the fact that Festoons traded by DAHL as *cassandra* from the Italian Peninsula or Sicily were still unknown to MANN (1844). Moreover, the relatively short distances of about 350 km between Vienna and the Adriatic littoral would have facilitated the procurement and exchange on a large scale of rearing material with paid helpers in the zone of origin and DAHL would have covered double the distance to Florence, namely by horse or by postal service coach at his time. TREITSCHKE (1834) indicated "Italy" as origin of *cassandra*. It was known by the Hungarian scientist ABAFI-AIGNER (1898: 52) that "György" DAHL collected and worked for the count HOFFMANSEGG, that he became a great

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	fl.	kr		fl.	kr
Betulae, L. F. H. E.	—	15	GENUS XIV. COLIAS,		
GENUS X. PAPILIO.			Edusa, F. O. (Hyale, W.V. E. B.)	—	12
Ajax, F. E. (Marcellus, Cram.)			Aurora, F. H. E.		
Podalirius, L. F. H. E.	—	20	Myrmidone, H. E. B.	—	30
Machaon, L. F. H. E.	—	15	Chrysotheme, H. E. B.	—	48
GENUS XI. ZERYNTHIA.			Phicomone, H. E. B.	1	—
Polyxena, H. O. (Hypsibyle, F.)	—	24	Hyale, L. F. O. (Palaeno, E. B.)	—	12
Medesicaste, O. Illig.	1	—	Palaeno, L. F. O. (Europome, E. B.)	—	48
Rumina, L. F. Ill. O.			Rhamni, L. F. H. E.	—	12
			Cleopatra, L. F. H. E.	—	40

Fig. 25: Section of DAHL's price list for beetles and butterflies of 1823. Georg DAHL was an insect dealer with commerce in Währing near Vienna.

{	HYPsipYLE, F., Panz., Petag., God.	{	Austria.	Maii.
{	Polyxena, H., Schr.	{	Italia.	
{	Var. <i>Demnosia</i> , Dahl.	{	Italia.	
{	RUMINA, L., F., H., Och., God.	{	Hispan.	Maii
{	Var. <i>Medesicaste</i> , H., Och., God.	{	Occitan.	
{	APOLLINA, Esp., God., Och.	{	Insul. Græciæ.	
{	Pythius, Esp.	{		
{	Thia, H.	{		

Fig. 26: References to the Festoon listed by BOISDUVAL in 1828 – BOISDUVAL didn't list the authors of the "Wiener Verzeichnis" (later quoted under the formula of [DENIS and SCHIFFERMÜLLER]) who created the name of *polyxena* in 1775. For this reason the synonym *hypsipyle* penned by FABRICIUS in 1777 comes first and the name of *polyxena* referred to HÜBNER (1800) second. In third place appears the name of "*demnosia*, DAHL" with "Italia" as designation of origin. Obviously, BOISDUVAL has received a Festoon labelled *demnosia* by the Vienna insect dealer Georg DAHL. However, author of this name is not DAHL, but BOISDUVAL himself publishing it as the first author. It is known by MANN (1844) that the Festoons traded by DAHL as *demnosia* originated from the surroundings of Florence. Thus, this name can be assigned to the Italian Festoon.

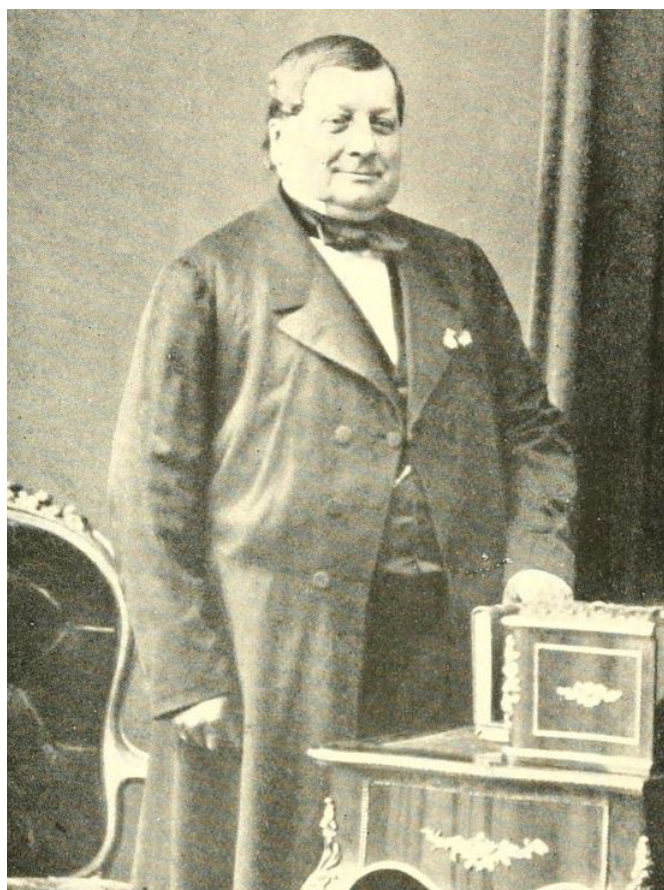


Fig. 27: Jean-Baptiste BOISDUVAL (*1799 et †1879 Ticheville, Normandie), doctor in medicine, one of the most famous entomologists of the 19th century and author of numerous and important works. BOISDUVAL was the first who listed the Italian Festoon as “Var. *Demnosia* DAHL” in his “Europaeorum Lepidopterorum Index Methodicus” of 1829 with the first copies edited end of 1828 (fig. 26). Portrait published by Charles OBERTHÜR in “Lépidoptérologie comparée”, fascicle 9, 2nd part (1914).

insect dealer in Vienna who extended his collecting trips across Europe and that he collected in 1824 in Fiume (=Rijeka, Croatia) and Dalmatia. On page 53, ABAFI-AIGNER reports that another Vienna insect dealer, Karoly STENTZ, collected also occasionally near Fiume, Karlobag and in the Velebit mountains (Croatia) where he captured *Thais* var. *Cassandra*, *Melanargia* ab. *turcica* (melanistic form of *galathea*) and *Melanargia* *larissa* (first proof in Hungary for that time). In DAHL’s time, the region of Fiume and the Velebit Mountains belonged also to Italy.

The most important entomological works published at the beginning of the 20th century listed the Adriatic littoral as an area where Festoons of the appearance of *cassandra* were found frequently. Thus, SEITZ (1909) wrote under *Thais polyxena*: “Individuals with reinforced black pattern are described as *cassandra* Hbn. (*demnosia* FRR., *creusa* MEIG.). The enlargement of the black pattern however can gradually vary; melanistic individuals emerge everywhere as isolated aberrations, but they can be found regularly in certain regions as for example in Dalmatia” (fig. 29). And REBEL (1910) wrote: “The var. (ab.) *cassandra* HB. (= *creusa* MEIG.) occurring also near Trieste and,

beyond this, in Italy and southern France is of smaller size and its black pattern is much more extended (fig. 29). Especially STAUDER (1921: p. 143, 144) revealed the existence of strong populations of *Thais polyxena* in the continental and insular Illyrian Adriatic zone. Below attached his comment in excerpts: “Scattered about the whole region as well as in the adjoining countries with mostly very localized occurrence, but common and sometimes in droves in the habitats being identical with the sites of its host-plant. Places where it can be found: surroundings of Gorizia/ Görz (common in some places), Vipava valley, almost everywhere on the plateau near Trieste (the food plant grows protected in dolines) (...) In Dalmatia attested from Zadar/ Zara to Dubrovnik/ Ragusa (fig. 29ab), besides this detected with certainty on the islands of Meleda and Lussin. (...) The nominate form is absent from the region. The individuals from Gorizia/ Görz are intermediary, between the nominate form and *cassandra*. Around Trieste and in Dalmatia, the species occurs exclusively in the form *cassandra*, but in small sized and often very darkened individuals; ab. *ochracea* STAUDINGER (1861) is not rare in the south of Dalmatia and near Split (fig. 32ab). (...)”.

Identifying the real species with the help of their caterpillars: GEYER (1828) was convinced that his *Pap. Cassandra* was a species being distinct from the Vienna Festoon *Pap. Polyxena*. This is shown by the fact that he realized a juxtaposition of always one caterpillar and one pupa of *polyxena* and of *cassandra* (fig. 33ab) in HÜBNER’s parallel work “Geschichte europäischer Schmetterlinge” being dedicated to caterpillars. He figured there a fully grown caterpillar of *polyxena* being recognizable by its whitish colouration whereas that of *cassandra* shows its blackish immature appearance pretending to descend from another species. Probably as a result of the preparation, the black ends of scoli being typical of *polyxena* cannot clearly be recognized in both of GEYER’s caterpillars. Therefore, it is impossible to ascertain the species represented by the two caterpillars in accordance with DAPPORTO’s (2010) standards. In contrast, the pictures of BOISDUVAL’s (1832) two caterpillars (fig. 14, 15) with black ends of their scoli are so well-made that they can easily be recognized as those of *polyxena*.

Rearing variations of Festoons: From today’s perspective, *Zerynthia polyxena* and the Italian sister species share similar or identical variations (see VERITY, 1947), with *cassandra* as the most well-known variation, showing a marked black pattern. Since DAHL, the number of described variations multiplied and those resembling *cassandra* were subdivided. STAUDER (1921: p. 143, 144) well demonstrated the phenomenon of the large variation of wings in *polyxena* by writing: “I reared the species in Gorizia/ Görz from caterpillars I had collected hundreds of them in the Grojna valley from a strongly smelling *Aristolochia* with violet flowers giving large quantities of imagines of most diverse variations after a rearing very easy to carry out. – The form *bipunctata* COSM. I often met among



Figs 28, 29: “*Thais*” *polyxena* from Vienna and from Zadar for comparison, STANDFUSS collection box 65, ETH Zürich Entomological Collection – 28ab: ♀ of the nominate form from Vienna/ Wien, 1898. 29ab: ♀ from Zadar/ Zara (Croatia). The imagines of the Zadar series should represent the form *cassandra* GEYER. By the year 1900, the north of the Adriatic littoral was the best-known zone where the form *cassandra* was recorded, a part from south-eastern France.



Figs 30-32: Yellow Festoons in the STANDFUSS collection box 65, ETH Zürich Entomological Collection, all belonging to *Zerynthia polyxena* – 30: warmth form, Vienna/ Wien, 1898. 31: warmth form, Zadar/ Zara. 32ab: natural form “*polymnia* MILLIÈRE, 1874” (= *ochracea* STAUDINGER, 1861), Greece. STAUDINGER’s name *ochracea* traces back to BOISDUVAL’s (1840) “Var. B. (*alis fulvo-ochraceis*)” from Moræa = Peloponnese.



Fig. 33: GEYER’s illustrations from around 1828 of the caterpillars of his *Papilio Cassandra* (dark grey, fig. 1a) and *Papilio polyxena* (yellowish white, fig. 2a) in HÜBNER’s “Geschichte europäischer Schmetterlinge”. The differences in colouration are based on the degree of maturation and therefore, they are without taxonomical significance. Unfortunately, the blackish tinge of the ends of scoli is not distinctly enough for enabling a clear attribution to one of the two actual Festoon species. Dating of HÜBNER’s plates of caterpillars see HEMMING (1937).

the imagines captured in the field was represented in every rearing series up to 50%. If I wanted to describe all the combinations, this would mean to carry owls to Athens considering the extraordinary variability of the species. Fritz HOFFMANN (1916) detected 26 forms described for southern Styria and he bothered to communicate also their characteristics. If one or the other of the authors of these aberrant forms could see my mediterranean series of *cassandra* (my collection comprises 90 individuals a part from 3000 individuals I had exchanged or given away), one should still add at least a dozen of new names! The following forms find among my *cassandra* and transitions: *gracilis*, *subalbida*, *thusnelda*, *confluens*, *latevittata* SCHULTZ, *nigromaculata* ZELEDNY (abundant among *cassandra*), *creusa* TOMALA, *bipuncta* COSM., *meridionalis* and *rubra* ZELEDNY, *bella* NEUBURGER, *nora* and *marpha* SCHULTZ; still numerous of connections and transitions of these forms should be added; furthermore, the red pattern varies also in nuances. (...)."

Discussions

If we consider the principles of specific identity and time priority as crucial for nomenclature, the priority belongs to the name of "*demnosia* BOISDUVAL, 1828" being clearly defined as name for denoting the Italian species group. Why?

1) BOISDUVAL (1828) defined his *demnosia* by listing it under *polyxena*. The reference to the Italian species group results from the indicated provenience "Italy". Moreover, Mann (1844) specified the provenience of *demnosia* "Florence". This place is identical with the type locality "San Giòrgio a Colònica" near Prato attributed to *Zerynthia cassandra* [GEYER, 1828 (DAPPORTO, 2010)], a designation becoming a junior synonym of *Zerynthia demnosia* (BOISDUVAL, 1828).

2) The name "*cassandra* GEYER, 1828" however cannot be referred to the Italian species group as proposed by DAPPORTO (2010). Two facts are against this: BOISDUVAL's [1837] two caterpillars of *Thais cassandra* from Provence (fig. 14, 15) of unmistakable appearance of *polyxena* as well as the provenience of DAHL's *cassandra* specimens for sale originating with high probability from reared or living material collected somewhere in the Adriatic littoral (see TREITSCHKE 1834, MANN 1844, ABAFI-AIGNER 1898, SEITZ 1909, REBEL 1910, STAUDER 1921), a zone being populated exclusively by the *polyxena* species group. For the reasons mentioned above and contrary to the opinion held by STETTEN and BOZANO (2021), BALLETO *et al.* (2021) and BALLETO *et al.* (2023), "*cassandra* GEYER, 1828" has to be considered as a junior synonym of *polyxena* [DENIS and SCHIFFERMÜLLER] (1775) rather than as conspecific with the Italian species group.

3) According to MANN (1844), "*creusa* DAHL" refers to Festoons from Sicily whereas the figure of

"*creusa* MEIGEN, 1829" (fig. 11) with provenience indicated "Italy" by this author to Festoons from Florence. Anyway, "*creusa* MEIGEN, 1829" has to be considered as a junior synonym of "*demnosia* BOISDUVAL, 1828". The yellowish colouration of the figure of "*Thais creusa* MEIGEN, 1829" resembling "*f. ochracea* STAUDINGER, 1861" (fig. 32 a,b) underlines the probably southern provenience of MEIGEN's no more existing original specimen. Thus, this name should not be used to denote any population of the *polyxena* species group as happened when BALLETO *et al.* (2021) linked the name of "*creusa* MEIGEN, 1829" with a locality in western Liguria.

Final word

Replacing *cassandra* as the name of the local form of *Zerynthia polyxena* of Provence and western Liguria by naming it ssp. "*creusa* MEIGEN, 1829" was a makeshift step introduced by BALLETO *et al.* (2021) to safeguard *cassandra* sensu DAPPORTO (2010) in its new function as a species name of the Italian Festoon. By selecting the name of *cassandra* to designate the Italian species group and *creusa* as a substitute name for denoting the local form of *polyxena* of Provence and Western Liguria however, all the Italian authors listed above applied these names in a way contrary to the original species group they referred: *cassandra* to the *polyxena* group and *creusa* to the Italian or *demnosia* group respectively. Furthermore, their intervention demanded a displacement of the provenience originally corresponding with these names into the area of the other species group. It is hard to imagine that this practice is approved by any of the rules defined by the ICZN. Apart from this, I noticed that some contacted French lepidopterists were not informed about the fact that *cassandra* shall no more be valid as name of the local form occurring in Provence and that it shall be named "*creusa* MEIGEN" in future. It is predictable by ignorance among lepidopterists of other countries than Italy that the retention of the nomenclatural model with Italian roots will cause disharmonies in future concerning the uniform application of the specific nomenclature for the two Festoon groups: *demnosia* BOISDUVAL, 1828 for the Italian Festoon and *polyxena* ([DENIS and SCHIFFERMÜLLER], 1775), the name *cassandra* being retained for the darker form of both *Z. demnosia* and *Z. polyxena*.

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Literature

Most of the indicated references are listed in the bibliography of *Zerynthia polyxena* by JUTZELER and LAFRANCHIS, where they are partly illustrated and provided with links leading to the original source which can be downloaded from the Internet: <http://diatheo.weebly.com/zerynthia-polyxena.html>

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