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## Obituary

## Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ömer Koçak

## (25 10 1947-18 11 2020)



Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ömer Koçak is world-renowned researcher, entomologist, taxonomist, and the greatest Turkish lepidopterist ever in the field of nomenclature, irreplaceable scientist. He is the curator and founder of Research Centre for Entomology (Centre for Entomological Studies Ankara, CESA), which he laid the foundations of when he was a student in the Ankara University in 1966 and officially announced in 1988 (http://www.cesa-tr.org/). Therewithal, he was the founder, editor, publisher, and writer for international scientific journals of great importance, such as the Priamus (1981), Miscellaneous Papers (1989), Memoirs (1991), Priamus Supplement (2006-2020), and Cesa News (2008-2018). Extremely plain, humble, contented, sincere, and loving in his private life, the most important part of his life was to produce and research. We are in great sorrow for the loss of Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ömer Koçak on November 18, 2020, who had never stopped working and producing.

Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ömer Koçak was born on 25 October 1947 in Bayburt (Turkey). He completed primary, middle, and high school education in Ankara between 1953-1964. He graduated from the University of Ankara Faculty of Science Department of Biology in 1968. With his appointment, he started his academic life, which he would carry on until the end of his life. After completing his master's program in 1971 and his doctorate program in 1974, he became a lecturer at the same department in 1980. He was appointed as the founding head of department of the Gazi University Biology Department as an Assoc. Dr. in 1982 and worked in this position until 1987. In 1988 he became a Professor of Zoology in the Biology Department of the Gazi University. He was appointed Deputy Dean of the Faculty Science and Literature in September 1988 and worked in various academic commissions during his three-year tenure. Prof. Koçak continued to carry out his academic research at the Department of Biology of the Faculty of Science and Literature of the University Van Yüzüncü Yıl between 2000 and 2014. At the same university, between the years 2004-2007, he worked as the Faculty Dean, and between 2007-2010 he worked as the Head of the Biology Department. After his retirement in 2014, he started an even harder and intense working order and continued this regiment until his passing away. After his retirement (2014), he started a more intense working life spending more time on his research until his passing away.

Prof. Dr. Koçak, as a DAAD scholarship holder for subjects of research, was educated in the Natural History Museum in the city of Karlsruhe between 1977-1979, and in 1983 he went to the same institution again to conduct more research. Prof. Dr. Koçak, conducted his expeditions and research activities for CESA, both in Turkey and abroad after 1980 by his own financial means. To collect scientific materials belonging to the order Lepidoptera and make observations about nature he traveled to Germany many times between 1977 and 1996, and to Austria, Italy, Switzerland, and France in 1978 and 1979. Between 1978 and 1990 he conducted countless expeditions to Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, and Bulgaria; to Pakistan in 1987, in 1989 to Northern Cyprus; to Macedonia, Northern Iran, and Turkmenistan in 1994, twice in 1996 to Ethiopia and the Philippines in the same year; twice to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in 1999 and 2000; four times to South Africa between 2003 and 2004; 2005 to Uyghur Ili; and he has organized and conducted by himself three entomological expeditions to Thailand between 2005-2006.

Prof. Dr. Koçak, in his life full of research (1966-2020), traveled over 1.000.000 kilometers in scientific expeditions around the world. Throughout his various expeditions, he collected over 400.000 scientific materials.

Prof. Dr. Koçak devoted 46 years to education and research during his academic career in Ankara University, Gazi University, and Van Yüzüncü Yıl University. During these years, he educated world-renowned researchers and made important contributions to filling the country's shortcomings in this field.

Prof. Dr. Koçak's field of study didn't only consist of *Lepidoptera*. He both raised researchers and published academic articles concerning *Orthoptera*, *Homoptera*, *Hemiptera*, *Mantodea Neuroptera*, *Diptera* and *Coleoptera* orders. Also, he did important nomenclature work concerning other invertebrates on the orders of *Arenea*, *Acarina*, and *Chilopoda*.

Prof. Dr. Koçak defined new taxa in genus, species, and subspecies categories, mostly in Palearctic regions, between 1975-2020 and made important studies in terms of nomenclatures. The names he has given in the above categories have exceeded 600. He has published 835 articles dealing with morphological, taxonomic, nomenclature, biological, ecological, faunistic, and geographic aspects of various animals. Among these, he has carried out very important source studies that provide the first comprehensive data to the entomofauna of Central Asia, the Middle East, South East Asia, East Africa, South Africa, and Turkey with quite voluminous and extensive articles.

Cesa, as an organization founded by Prof. Koçak; is a non-profit, scientific consortium, an independent research center, Museum, and Library. It has published on ecological, biodiversity, conservation of natural areas and species, bibliography, checklists, catalogs, and especially on world Lepidoptera and regional fauna. Since its establishment, Cesa has collaborated with many

foreign research institutions, museums, and libraries and exchanged publications. Among these institutions, 35 institutions have been in uninterrupted cooperation until 2013 (<u>http://www.cesa-tr.org/</u>). In addition, Cesa has notified more than 350 researchers and institutions that follow their publications online.

Prof. Koçak has started a database study of tens of thousands of types with the card system since 1968. Since 1998, this system has been expanded with the Foxpro 2.5 database program, which he has worked on himself, and has been used for wider geographies in faunistic and bibliographic studies. and in publications on geographic distribution maps of Pterygota insects, coding 7039 geographic points worldwide. All these institutions show how large and comprehensive the dimensions of Prof. Koçak's research and field of interest are.

This database program consists of updated name combinations in which data on synonymic, faunistic, morphological, biological, systematic, taxonomic, nomenclature, and geographic distribution of insects in all these coded geographical regions are collected. Prof. Dr. Koçak recorded over 195 thousand taxa in the category of families, genera, and species into Cesa's infosystem. This growing database study provides crucial information about the history and current taxonomic status and distribution of each species.

Prof. Dr. Koçak has carried out research on hundreds of countries and geographic regions, mainly in Turkey, Africa, Europe, Australia, Americas, Southwest and Southeast Asia. Prof. Dr. Koçak has devoted his life to science with his uninterrupted work for 54 years and has made important contributions to entomology literature worldwide. We hope that his belief in science and his will to defend the truth and never give up attitude will set an example for young scientists.

Dr. Muhabbet Kemal Koçak

**Note**: The sudden death of Prof. Dr. Koçak has shaken me deeply. I was also infected by the Chinese virus and gotten sick at the same time period, which is what resulted in the delay of the obituary. Therefore, I would like to apologize to the friends and collegues who loved Ahmet Ömer Koçak and tried to contact him, unbeknownst of the fact that he had passed away.

This issue has been dedicated to Prof. Dr. Kocak. This is the last article that Prof. Kocak worked on. The article was planned to release on November 10th, 2020 on the death anniversary of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic. Unfortunately, he fell sick, and passed away on 18th of November, 2020.

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http://zoobank.org/References/A7FFAD06-DDEF-4080-A190-D970B7D6FFAC

## Additional notes on the nomenclature of Pyraloidea (Lepidoptera)

#### Ahmet Ömer Koçak Muhabbet Kemal<sup>1</sup>

Abstract: Additional notes on the nomenclature of Pyraloidea (Lepidoptera). Misc. Pap. 218: 4-7. In this paper, scientific names of seven species are discussed nomenclaturally. Four new names are proposed validly. Synonymic names of three species are also discussed. Key words: Iangaigheria, Pseudocatharylla, Pyrausta, Syllepte, Pyraloidea, Lepidoptera, nomenclature.

The present paper contains complementary notes to the previous paper on the nomenclature of the World Pyraloidea (Kemal & Koçak, 2020). Totally, the validities of the species group names of some species are discussed. Among them, four replacement names are proposed validly. Several new synonyms and homonyms are proposed. The problem of a double described and named species of *Syllepte* is discussed and solved.

#### Iangaigheria Kemal & Koçak,2004

Iangaigheria Kemal & Koçak,2004, Misc. Pap. 88/89: 14 (replacement name for Joannisia Balinky, 1994, pre-occupied). Type-species: Joannisia jansei Balinsky, 1994. Neojoannisia G.Leraut, 2019, Rev. Fr. Ent. Gén. 1 (2): 100 (replacement name for Joannisia Balinky, 1994, pre-occupied). Type-species: Joannisia jansei Balinsky, 1994 (syn. nov.)

*Neojoannisia* was proposed by G. Leraut as a replacement name for *Joannisia* Balinky, 1994, unnecessarily. This name is junior objective synonym of *Iangaigheria* Kemal & Koçak, 2004.

### Pseudocatharylla Bleszynski,1961 Pseudocatharylla africola nom. nov.

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:EoD6BB64-E64F-429C-B8C7-B128E93513B7

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We hope that this very troubled process, we are experiencing due to the coronavirus pandemic, is over as soon as possible by using the scientific methods not by praying, if it is natural. We wish most of us to return to our happy and healthy days again- AÖ.Koçak.

Pro *Crambus argenticilia* Hampson,1919: 439 nec *Crambus argenticilia* Hampson,1896: 937 (Ceylon).

*Crambus argenticilia* was decribed by Hampson (1896) from Ceylon [Sri Lanka] and currently valid name in the genus *Calamotropha* Zeller (Crambinae). Another *Crambus argenticilia* was described by Hampson (1919) from Sierra Leone and currently valid name in the genus *Pseudocatharylla* Bleszynski (Crambinae). Unfortunately, the latter name is junior primary homonym of the former (**hom. nov.**); therefore it cannot be used as valid because of the Homonymy Rules of the ICZN. Currently it has no available synonym (Nuss *et al.*, 2003-2021). Therefore we propose here a replacement name, *Pseudocatharylla africola* **nomen novum** for *Crambus argenticilia* Hampson,1919 nec Hampson,1896.

Etymology: The proposed name is after the occurence of the species in Africa. Range: Sierra Leone.

## *Pyrausta* Schrank,1802 *Pyrausta kocaki* Kemal (nom. nov.)

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:7A11008B-A124-40E9-ADE0-1B6B3188DA5E

Pro Pyrausta sumptuosalis Caradja,1927 nec Pyrausta sumptuosalis Walker,1866.

*Pyrausta sumptuosalis* Caradja (1927: 418) and *Pyrausta sumptuosalis* Walker (1866:1281) are two scientific names, currently placed in the genus *Pyrausta* Schrank (Nuss *et al.*, 2003-2021). They are primary homonyms, and *sumptuosalis* Caradja,1927 the junior one cannot be used as a valid name for a taxon (**hom. nov.**). Moreover, it has no available synonym. But yet, it is currently considered as a valid name of a taxon from Sichuan (China) (Nuss *et al.*, 2003-2020). Therefore, we propose here a replacement name *Pyrausta kocaki* **nomen novum** for *Pyrausta sumptuosalis* Caradja,1927 nec Walker,1866.

Etymology: The new name is dedicated to Turkish entomologist Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ömer Koçak. Range: China: Sichuan.

## Pyrausta ilhamtohti nom. nov.

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:7FCCA983-EE30-4785-BDB3-BC7541B46A62

Pro Pyrausta minimalis Caradja,1925 nec Pyrausta minimalis Hampson,1903.

*Pyrausta minimalis* Caradja (1925: 371) and *Pyrausta minimalis* Hampson (1903: 223) are two scientific name currently seems to be valid in the genus *Pyrausta* Schrank (Nuss et al., 2003-2021). Unfortunately, *minimalis* Caradja (1925) is the junior synonym of *minimalis* Hamson (1903) and cannot be used as a valid name for a taxon within the same genus **(hom.nov.)**. Therefore, we propose here a replacement name *Pyrausta ilhamtohti* **nomen novum** for *Pyrausta minimalis* Caradja,1925 nec *Pyrausta minimalis* Hampson,1903.

Etymology: The new name is dedicated to Uyghur Academician Prof. Dr. Ilham Tohti, who was awarded the important Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. Range: China: Guandong.

### Pyrausta rahiledawut nom. nov.

#### urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:9BCF3FE7-6340-49D1-B601-7432EFAB92DA

## Pro Eurycreon rubralis W.Warren,1896 nec Phalaena rubralis deVillers,1789.

The names *Eurycreon rubralis* W.Warren (1896: 97) and *Phalaena rubralis* deVillers (1789: 452) were placed in the past in the genus *Pyrausta* Schrank,1802. This case is currently accepted (Nuss *et al.*, 2003-2021). Under the same genus, these names are secondary homonyms according to the Homonymy Rules of ICZN (**hom. nov.**). The name *rubralis* W.Warren,1896 is considered as a valid name. Unfortunately, it cannot be used as a valid name. There is no available synonym of

*rubralis* W.Warren,1896 (Nuss *et al.*, 2003-2020). Therefore, we propose here a replacement name, *Pyrausta rahiledawut* **nomen novum** for *Eurycreon rubralis* W.Warren,1896 nec deVillers,1789.

Etymology: New replacement name is dedicated to Prof. Dr. Rahile Dawut, a famous Uyghur Academician in Xinjiang University. Professor Dawut, known worldwide for her Uyghur studies, reportedly disappeared in China, in 2017. She was an expert on Uyghur folklore and traditions. Range: India: Khasi Hills.

## Pyrausta microdontaloides Maes,2009

*Pyrausta microdontaloides* Maes,2009, *J. Afrotropical Zool.* 5: 50 (Annexe): "*microdontaloides* Maes new name for *microdontalis* Hampson,1918 Tanzania"

*Pyrausta kenyaensis* Kemal & Koçak,2020, *Misc. Pap.* 215: 2 new name for *microdontalis* Hampson,1918 nec *microdontalis* Hampson,1912 **(syn.nov.)** 

**Note:** *Pyrausta microdontaloides* Maes,2009 not included in the Globiz (Nuss *et al.*,2003-2020) (also pers. comm. with K. Maes via e-mail on 28.9.2020).

## Syllepte Hübner,1823

## Syllepte picalis (Hampson, 1899)

*"Sylepta picalis,* n.sp." Hampson, 1899, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London* 1898 (4): 719-720, pl. 49 fig.14 Types ∂♀: India, "Khasis".

*"Sylepta picalis,* n.sp." Hampson,1903, *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 15: 216, pl.C fig.9. Types  $\Diamond \uparrow$ : India, "Khasis". **(syn. nov.)** 

Remarks: These two names, descriptions (text) and illustrations are completely the same. Hampson described this species as *"Sylepta picalis"* in 1899, and repeated it in 1903, as if it were new. We would like to clarify this situation in order not to mislead the other readers. Range: India.

## Acknowledgements:

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