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A new subspecies of *Graphium bouyeri* Cipolla, 2021 and notes on taxonomic status of *Graphium biokoensis* Gauthier, 1984 (Lepidoptera, Papilionidae)

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Lepidoptera; taxonomy;
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Leptocircini; description;
Graphium; status reinstated;
bouyeri; Cameroon;
birketsmithi; Congo;
policenes; Africa.
biokoensis;

Abstract. – A new subspecies of *Graphium bouyeri* Cipolla, 2021 is described from Cameroon and from the Democratic Republic of Congo, *Graphium bouyeri birketsmithi* n. ssp. The taxonomic status of the *Graphium policenes biokoensis* Gauthier, 1984 is discussed and reinstated as a subspecies of *Graphium policenes* (Cramer, 1775), localized to Bioko Island.

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Introduction

There is still some confusion in the literature regarding the certain identification of some species of *Graphium* of the *policenes* group present in the Atlantic portion of Central Africa: we are referring in particular to *Graphium biokoensis* Gauthier, 1984. The characters indicated by the various authors, even recent ones, do not clarify the situation, and have led to the misidentification of some of the taxa involved. The aim of this work is to try to clarify the identity of *Graphium biokoensis*, its taxonomic status, and to describe a new subspecies of *Graphium bouyeri* Cipolla, 2021, the most recently described species of the treated group. *Graphium bouyeri* was originally described (Cipolla, 2021a) without a statement indicating the name and location of the collection where the holotype is deposited, rendering the name unavailable under ICZN Article 16.4.2. Subsequently, Cipolla (2021b) specified the collection where the holotype is deposited, thereby making the species name *Graphium bouyeri* available.

Material and methods

Photos of the habitus were taken with a Nikon D90 and AF-S DX Micro NIKKOR 85mm f/3.5G ED VR lens; photos of genitalia were taken with Nikon D90 digital camera and Laowa 25 mm f/2.8 2.5–5× Ultra Macro lens. All images were stacked using Helicon Focus 7.6.1 software.

Citations of labels

Labels are cited verbatim; different lines on a label are separated by a slash (/), different labels are separated by a double slash (//).

Acronyms

- BMNH: The Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom.
- CBRI: private collection of Claudio Belcastro, Rome, Italy.
- CTB: private collection of Thierry Bouyer, Chênée, Belgium.
- MBLI: private collection of Maurizio Bollino, Lecce, Italy.
- POMB: private collection of Philippe Oremans, Montigny-le-Tilleul, Belgium.

Taxonomic note about *Graphium biokoensis* Gauthier, 1984

Graphium policenes biokoensis Gauthier, 1984 was described from “Insel Bioko” from a male holotype, a female ‘allotype’ and an unstated number of paratypes of both sexes.

The taxonomic history of the taxon is summarized by Smith & Vane-Wright (2001: 567), who elevate it to the rank of species mainly on the basis of subtle but constant differences in the male genitalia compared to *Graphium policenes* (Cramer, 1775). The distribution indicated by them is: Western-central Africa, including Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Bioko), Gabon, Congo, western Democratic Republic of Congo.

However, reading the text (op.cit: 566-568) it is evident that their decision to elevate *Graphium policenes biokoensis* to species is based on the study of material from Cameroon (op.cit.: fig. 126), not from Bioko. In few words, Smith & Vane-Wright confirm that in Cameroon there is a species other than *policenes*, which they call *biokoensis*, but which may not be *biokoensis*, but something else. To confirm how much confusion existed in the past about the species of the group, it will suffice to cite the case of Darge (1994) who designated as Neallotype of *Graphium nigrescens*, now correctly considered a synonym of *Graphium policenoides* (Holland, 1892) (Aurivillius,

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1899; Larsen, 1994; Smith & Vane-Wright, 2001), a female of the taxon called *biokoensis* by Smith & Vane-Wright (2001).

It is worth underlining that Martin (2015) states that all specimens caught by him on Bioko Island are unequivocally *Graphium policenes*, basing his statement on the examination of male genitalia. We too, examining the male genitalia of a few specimens of *Graphium biokoensis* from Bioko, have come to the same conclusion: *Graphium policenes* is the only species of the *Graphium policenes* complex present on Bioko Island, and has characters that make the populations attributable to the ssp. *biokoensis* Gauthier, 1984.

We therefore restore the original status of subspecies to *Graphium policenes biokoensis* Gauthier, 1984 **stat. rev.**, a taxon restricted to the Island of Bioko, where it replaces the nominotypical subspecies.

Having established that the taxon *biokoensis* is present only on the Island of Bioko, it remains to establish what, however, is present in Cameroon and the western Democratic Republic of Congo, and which the previously quoted authors had mistakenly considered as *Graphium biokoensis*. From the examination of the material in our possession, as well as of the few iconographic material available (Berger, 1981: pl. 18, fig. 6; Darge, 1994: 30; Smith & Vane-Wright, 2001: fig. 29, 183; Vande weghe, 2010: pl. 22, fig. 5-6) it is evident that the specimens examined are all attributable to *Graphium bouyeri* Cipolla 2021, even if some characters suggest their belonging to a still unpublished subspecies which we describe here below.

Graphium bouyeri birketsmithi n. ssp.

(Fig. 1a-d)

ZooBank: <https://zoobank.org/9FDE243D-C59D-4672-9235-4AF6D95575BB>

Holotype, ♂, Cameroun – South Province / near Lolodorf / ~ 3°14' N 10°44' E / January 2020 - m 450 / Lgt. J. Fouda - coll. M. Bollino presently in MBIL (Lecce, Italy), will be deposited in BMNH (London, United Kingdom).

Paratypes (41 ♂, 7 ♀)

- 2 ♂, 1 ♀, Cameroun - région du Sud / near Lolodorf village / (département de l'Océan) / ~ 3°14' N 10°44' E / V.2021 - m 450 / Lg. J. Fouda - coll. M. Bollino;

- 8 ♂, 1 ♀, Cameroun – South Province / near Lolodorf / ~ 3°14' N 10°44' E / January 2020 - m 450 / Lgt. J. Fouda - coll. M. Bollino;

- 3 ♂, 1 ♀, Cameroun - région du Sud / near Ebodjé village / (département de l'Océan) / ~ 2°34' N 9°49' E / VI.2020 - m 50-100 / Lg. J. Fouda - coll. M. Bollino;

- 2 ♂, 1 ♀, Cameroon / Bidou, Kribi (South Region) / ~ 3°00' N 10°04' E / X-XII.2018 - m 70 / Lg. J. Fouda - coll. Bollino;

- 1 ♂, Cameroon – Kribi / near Bidjap / ~ 2°25' N 10°41' E / m 300 – I.2002 / Lg. Nicolas Ayissi / coll. Bollino ;

- 1 ♀, Cameroon - Upper Nyong Div. / near Somalomo / Réserve de faune du Dja / ~ 3°22' N 12°43' E / IX.2021 - m 650 / Lg. M. Owono - coll. Bollino ;

- 2 ♂, Cameroon / Near Ebogo / (Lekié Dept.) / ~ 3°23' N 11°28' E / XI.2000 / coll. Maurizio Bollino ;

- 4 ♂, Cameroon / near Ebogo / October – December 2000 / local collectors / coll. Bollino;

- 2 ♂, Cameroon – near Ebogo / Zoatoupsi / February 1999 / coll. Bollino;

- 2 ♂, Cameroun / Ekombitié (Mbalmayo) / IV.2002 / Lg. local people / coll. Bollino;

- 1 ♂, Cameroun / Mbalmayo / III-V.2003 / Lg. local people / coll. Bollino;

- 4 ♂, Cameroon / Ekali / (32 km. E. Yaoundé) / m 500 – XII.2000 / Local collectors / coll. Bollino;

- 2 ♂, Cameroon / Mbalmayo / (Dept. Nyong-et-So'o) / february 2023, Lg. local people – coll Bollino, all in MBIL;

- 1 ♂, Cameroun : Mont Kala / (1120m), 4 - I – 1975 / leg Ph. Darge;

- 1 ♂, Cameroun : Ayos / (River du Nyong) / 25 - IV – 1974 / leg. Ph. Darge;

- 1 ♀, Cameroun / Département du Nyong - et - So'o / Environ de Nseng – Nlong / 9 - IV – 1990 / local Collector / Coll. Ph. Oremans.;

- 1 ♀, Réserve Forestière / d'Ototomo / (Cameroun) / 24-I-1971 / Chasses Ph. Darge // Neallotype / Ph. Darge 1993, all in POMB;

- 1 ♂, South / Cameroun / Ndanga near Djoum / February 2014 / local collector / coll. C. Belcastro;

- 2 ♂, Cameroun / Ebogo / Dec. 2014 / local collector / coll. C. Belcastro;

- 1 ♂, Sud Cameroun / Mount Bikoka / Bet. Kribi Lolodorf / Dec. 2013 / local collector / coll. C. Belcastro, all in CBRI;

- 1 ♂, Cameroun, Mengueme-Bane, leg. A. Mbarga Ndi, in CTB;

- 1 ♂, Cameroun, Lolodorf, X-2022, leg. local collector in CTB.

Diagnosis. – Species very similar to *Graphium liponesco* (Suffert, 1904) from which it is easily distinguished by its male genitalia; differs from *G. policenoides* in the absence of a clear discal stripe in hindwing upperside cell M3; it differs distinctly from *G. policenes* by the more elongated dark submarginal spots in R1 and R2, separated from the marginal spots by a narrow light space.

Remark. – Since most of the characters of the new subspecies are shared with the nominate subspecies, we will avoid giving a verbose detailed description of the holotype, referring to Cipolla (2021a) for this, and limiting ourselves to highlighting the differences between the two subspecies, distributed respectively in the east of the Congo Basin, in Western Uganda and in North Angola (*Graphium bouyeri bouyeri*) and west of the Congo basin and Southern Cameroon (*Graphium bouyeri birketsmithi* n. ssp.).

Differences between *Graphium bouyeri bouyeri* Cipolla 2021 and *Graphium bouyeri birketsmithi* n. ssp. (Fig. 2)

Graphium bouyeri bouyeri Cipolla 2021

A: Transverse bars of the forewing (FW) discal cell broader, resembling those of *policenes*.

B: Postdiscal marks in FW cells M3-CuA2 often fused and separated only by veins.

C: Outer margin of the FWs with a slightly marked concavity at vein M2.

D: Dark submarginal spots in R1 and R2 of the hindwing rectangular, covering less than half the corresponding space.

Smaller: FW length 36.26-39.28, average 37.53, n=57 males.

Graphium bouyeri birketsmithi n. ssp.

A1: Transverse bars of the FW discal cell very thin.

B1: Postdiscal marks in FW cells M3-CuA2 smaller and separated by a dark space along veins.

C1: Outer margin of the FWs more prominently concave at vein M2.

D1: Dark submarginal spots in R1 and R2 of the hindwing rectangular, covering more than half the corresponding space.

Larger: FW length 41.07-45.87, average 44.15, n=33 males.

Male genitalia (Fig. 3). – General scheme typical of the *Graphium policenes* group. Dorsal terminal process with a large internal upper branch, and the external lower branch formed by a serrated basal tooth. The dorsal harpe is more finely serrated than in *G. policenes*.

Etymology. – The new subspecies is dedicated to the late Jorgen Birket-Smith (*1920-†1983), who first (1960) suspected that a species closely related to *Graphium policenes* existed in Cameroon and neighboring regions.

Distribution. – Western-central Africa, including Cameroon, Republic of Congo, western Democratic Republic of Congo.

We take this opportunity to summarize in a diagram the external differences between *Graphium policenes* and *Graphium bouyeri* plus *Graphium liponesco* (the latter two easily distinguishable from each other due to the different male genital pattern) (Fig. 3).



Fig. 1. a-d. *Graphium bouyeri birketsmithi* n. ssp.
a-b. Male holotype. c-d. Female paratype. a & c. Dorsal. b & d. Ventral.

Graphium policeses (Cramer, 1775)

- A:** Dark submarginal spots in R1 and R2 of the hindwing typically quadrangular, well separated from the marginal spots by a broad light space.
- B:** Dark area distal to the red band in CuA1 of the hindwing narrow (usually narrower than the preceding red band).
- C:** Tails with a very noticeable white tip.
- D:** Transverse bars of the forewing discal cell broader.

Graphium bouyeri Cipolla 2021 (and *G. liponesco* (Suffert, 1904))

- A1:** Dark submarginal spots in R1 and R2 of the hindwing typically rectangular and elongated, just separated from the marginal spots by a narrow light space.
- B1:** Dark area distal to the red band in CuA1 of the hindwing wide, often much wider than the preceding red band.
- C1:** Tails with a barely noticeable white tip, frequently totally absent.
- D1:** Transverse bars of the forewing discal cell narrower.

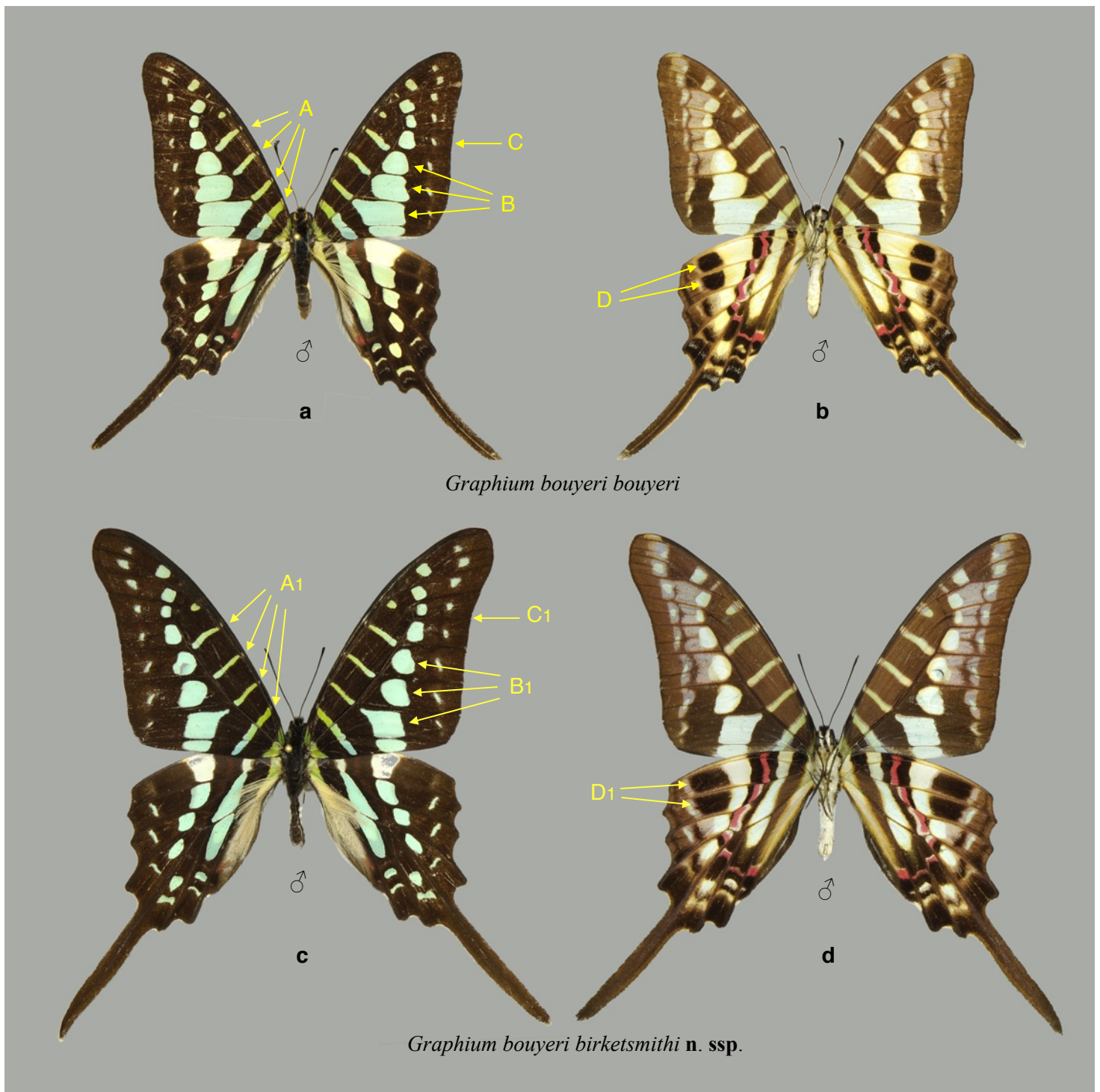


Fig. 2. Differential characters between *Graphium bouyeri bouyeri* (a-b) and *Graphium bouyeri birketsmithi* n. ssp. (c-d). Refer to the text for the legend.

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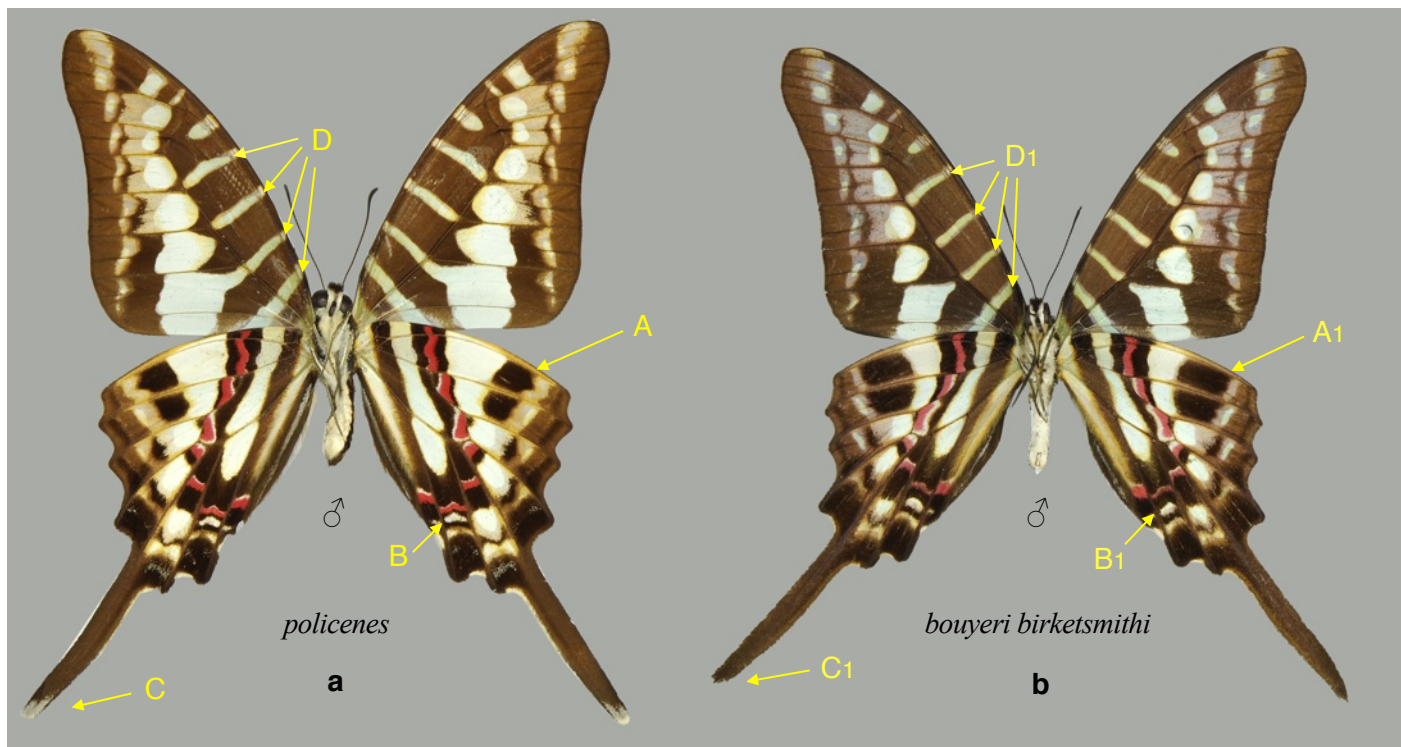


Fig. 3. Differential characters between *Graphium policenes* subspecies (a) and *Graphium bouyeri birketsmithi* n. ssp. (b) / *Graphium bouyeri bouyeri*. Refer to the text for the legend.

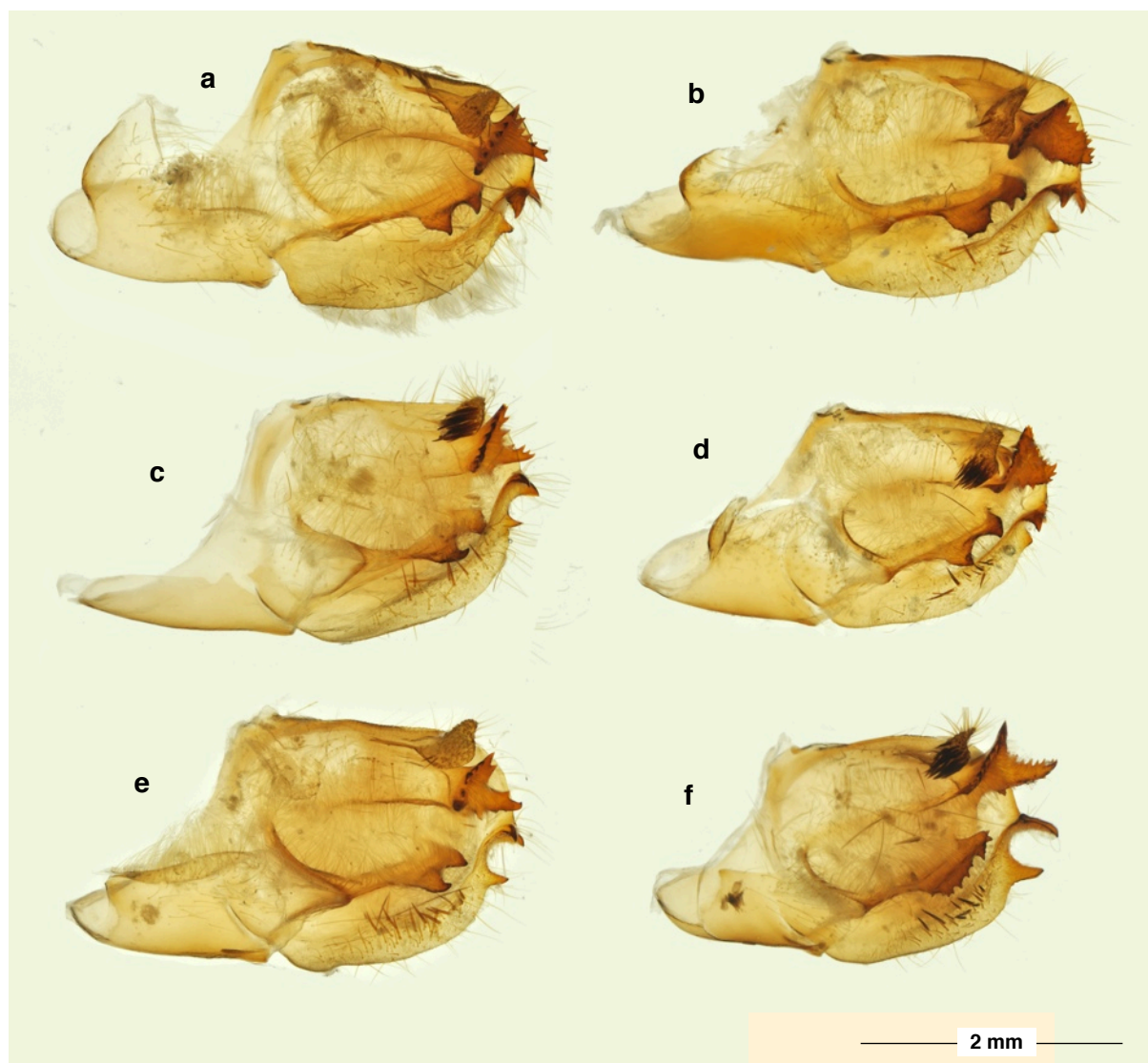


Fig. 4. Left valves of male *Graphium*.

a. *G. policenes policenes* (Cameroon). b. *G. bouyeri birketsmithi* n. ssp. (Cameroon). c. *G. policenes policenes* (DRC, Kivu). d. *G. bouyeri bouyeri* (DRC, Kivu). e. *G. policenes biokoensis* (Equatorial Guinea, Bioko I). f. *G. liponesco* (Sierra Leone).

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Writing the article. – MB & TB

Description. – MB & TB

Article proofreading. – MB

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¹ MB = Maurizio Bollino – TB = Thierry Bouyer

Résumé

Bollino M. & Bouyer T., 2024. – Une nouvelle sous-espèce de *Graphium bouyeri* Cipolla, 2021 et notes sur la taxonomie et le statut de *Graphium biokoensis* Gauthier, 1984 (Lepidoptera, Papilionidae). *Faunitaxys*, 12(8): 1 – 6.

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Mots clés. – Lepidoptera, Papilionidae, *Graphium*, *bouyeri*, *birketsmithi*, *polices*, *biokoensis*, taxonomie, nouvelle espèce, description, statut restauré, Cameroun, Congo, Afrique.

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