

**A new subspecies of *Syrichtus cribrellum* (EVERSMANN, 1841)
from the Amur Province**

(Lepidoptera, Hesperidae)

by

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Summary: A new subspecies of *Syrichtus cribrellum* (EVERSMANN, 1841) from the southern part of Amur Province is described. This skippers differ from the Siberian subspecies, *S. c. obscurior* (STAUDINGER, 1892), by small white spots forming two separate rows on the hindwing underside along the margin. The same spot configuration is characteristic for another species *Syrichtus tessellum* (HÜBNER, 1802). Formerly this type of pattern of *Syrichtus cribrellum* from the Amurland used to lead to mistakes in determination.

Резюме: В статье описывается новый подвид *Syrichtus cribrellum* (EVERSMANN, 1841) с юга Амурской области, имаго которого отличаются от сибирского подвида *S. c. obscurior* (STAUDINGER, 1892) мелкими белыми пятнами вдоль внешнего края нижней стороны задних крыльев, расположенными двумя рядами. Такая конфигурация этих пятен характерна для другого вида - *Syrichtus tessellum* (HÜBNER, 1802), что ранее приводило к неверному определению приамурских экземпляров *S. cribrellum* (Ev.).

The systematic situation of the skippers of the genus *Syrichtus* BOISDUVAL, 1834, ranging in the Middle Amur, was unclear for a long time. According to contemporary material, only one species of the genus occurs there. This species was mentioned by GRAESER (1888) for Pokrovka (Upper Amur) and by STAUDINGER (STAUDINGER & REBEL, 1901) for "Amur" under the name "*Hesperia cribrellum* Ev."; later the species was recorded as "*Muschampia tessellum* Hb." from the neighbourhood of the town Zeya (SVIRIDOV, 1981) and as *Syrichtus tessellum* (Hb.) for the Middle Amur (KORSHUNOV & GORBUNOV, 1995). In the latter case the authors had only one female specimen from the vicinities of the town Zeya that brought about the difficulty in the correct determination. As appears from A. N. STRELTZOV's studies, all specimens from the Amur region territory examined by him belong to *Syrichtus cribrellum* (EVERSMANN, 1841) according to the morphology of the male genitalia; moreover, they evidently differ from the South Siberian *S. c. obscurior* (STAUDINGER, 1892), described from Transbaikalia, and are described below as a new subspecies. The holotype is preserved in the collection of the Siberian Zoological Museum, Institute of Animal Systematics and Ecology (Novosibirsk).

Syrichtus cribrellum **heilong** **subspec. nov.**

(fig. 1)

Description

Forewing length: in males 14.9–16.0 mm, in females 14.8–15.0 mm. Pattern of wing upper-side as in the Transbaikalian subspecies *S. c. obscurior* (STAUDINGER, 1892) (fig. 2). The



Fig. 1: *Syrichtus cribrellum heilong* subsp. nov., general view.

Fig. 2: *S. c. obscurior*, general view.

forewing underside has a brown ground colour and the pattern of light spots is characteristic for *S. cribrellum*. The hindwing's underside ground colour is brownish with a light green tint. The shape and position of the white basal spot and the white discal band in general show no differences as compared with the *S. c. obscurior* pattern. Disposition of the white spots in the marginal band is quite different: they are small, in the holotype specimen they are of approximately equal size, distinctly separated from the wing margin by the dark contrasting ground colour. Both paratypes have two spots between veins M1 and M3 almost fused into one spot divided with a narrow dark line along the fold of M2, but they are also clearly separated by the dark ground colour from the wing margin.

Genitalia as in *S. cribrellum* (figs. 3, 4).

Material

Holotype ♂: Blagovestchensk [Благовещенск], surroundings of Lake Peschanoje [озеро Песчаное], a xerophyte meadow on the slope of SE exposition, 13.VI.1990 (STRELTZOV).

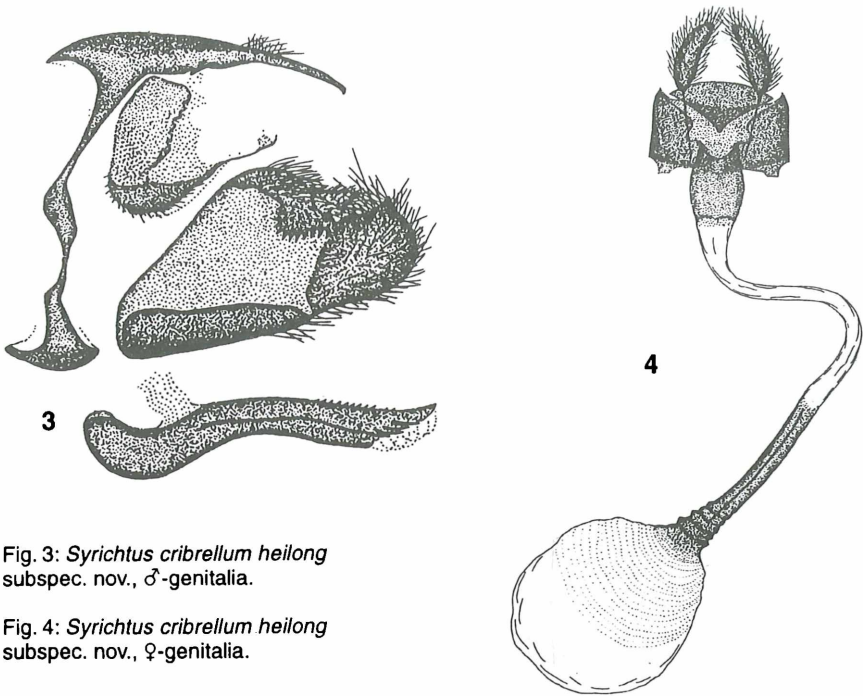


Fig. 3: *Syrichtus cribrellum heilong* subsp. nov., ♂-genitalia.

Fig. 4: *Syrichtus cribrellum heilong* subsp. nov., ♀-genitalia.

Paratypes: 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, Amur Region, 12 km S from town Svobodny [Свободный], village Malaya Sazanka [Малая Сазанка], 20., 25.VII.1992 (STRELTZOV); 1 ♂, Blagovestchensk, 13.VI.1991 (STRELTZOV); 1 ♂, Blagovestchensk, 12.VI.1991 (STRELTZOV); 1 ♂, Blagovestchensk, 1.VII.1993 (STRELTZOV); 1 ♂, Blagovestchensk, 4.VI.1995 (KUZMIN).

Notes on systematics

Skippers of the new subspecies resemble *S. tessellum* (Ev.) by their wing pattern, so they have been confused sometimes (SVIRIDOV, 1981; KORSHUNOV & GORBUNOV, 1995). Both taxa have marginal white spots on the hindwing underside, distinctly separated from the wing edge by the dark ground colour. The marginal white spots on the hindwing underside in earlier known subspecies of *S. cribrellum* (ssp. *cribrellum* from the South of European part of Russia and the Southern West Siberian Plain and ssp. *obscurior* from the South Siberia mountains, east to Transbaikalia) are large and usually situated closely to the wing edge. The shape of the wings in the new subspecies is the same as in typical *S. cribrellum*, that is noticeably narrower than in the transbaikalian *S. tessellum dilutior* RÜHL, 1895, and more tapered towards the top. The genitalia of the butterflies of the new subspecies show no differences from *S. cribrellum obscurior* (fig. 3).

The name of the new subspecies was formed from the word "Heilong" – a black dragon (in Chinese), first two syllables of the word "Heilongjiang" – the Chinese name of the River Amur.

Distribution

Typical specimens of the new subspecies occur in the southern parts of the Amur Province. To the North (the vicinity of the town Zeya) and, especially, to the West (Pokrovka), *S. cribrellum* specimens transitory to the Transbaikalian *S. c. obscurior* are found in the serial material.

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