HOLARCTIC DISTRIBUTION OF
CHORISTONEURA ALBANIANA (WALKER), WITH
NEW SYNONYMY (TORTRICIDAE)

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ABSTRACT. Choristoneura albaniana (Walker) occurring in the northern regions
of North America, and C. lapponana (Tengström) occurring in northern Europe and
Siberia, are conspecific; the name C. albaniana has priority. This new synonymy helps
determine the holarctic range of this species.

Additional key words: Choristoneura lapponana, transcontinental, male genitalia.

Choristoneura Lederer is a Holarctic genus. Choristoneura fumiferana (Clemens),
C. rosaceana (Harris), and C. conflictana (Walker) of the Nearctic, and C. diversana (Hübner),
C. murinana (Hübner), and C. lafauryana (Ragonot) of the Palaearctic, are widespread and
transcontinental, but none has been recorded in both regions (Freeman 1958, Powell 1983,

Choristoneura albaniana (Walker), described from a specimen collected in St. Martin’s Falls,
Ontario, is a transcontinental species that has been recorded in northern parts of North America, i.e., Alaska,
Yukon, Northwest Territories, northern Manitoba, western Ontario, northern Quebec, and Labrador to Newfoundland. A southern record
is represented by two specimens from Mt. Evans, Colorado. A specimen
collected from Black Sturgeon Lake, Ontario, has a note indicating pin
cherry, Prunus pensylvanica L. (Rosaceae) as a host plant.

Choristoneura lapponana (Tengström), described from Finland, has
been recorded in northern parts of the Palaearctic region, including
Sweden, Finland, Ural, Trans-Baikal, Amur, and along the taiga zone
1987), and in Yukon, Canada (Kuznetsov & Mikkola 1991). A food plant
has not been identified positively for this species; larvae were reportedly
found on larch (Kuznetsov 1978), but this record requires confirmation.

Study of the male genitalia of C. albaniana from North America and
C. lapponana from Finland (Dang 1992) revealed that the structures
of these two species are similar in every comparable aspect. The character­
istic longitudinal split, connecting with the apical opening of the
aedeagus, is distinctly shifted laterally to the right side, whereas in other
Choristoneura species it is dorsally located; the apical spine of the
aedeagus is vestigial. The uncus is small with a convex or truncate apex,
and a distinctly widened midportion (Figs. 1–6). Further study of the
wings of C. albaniana and C. lapponana, which exhibit similar and
consistent colors and patterns (Figs. 7-10), prompts the present review of their taxonomic status. The shade of color of the forewing varies slightly from specimen to specimen. The ground color of the forewing varies from beige to brownish yellow; the oblique faciae vary from reddish brown to dark brick brown. Most specimens from North America have paler hind wings; a few have the same color as those from northern Europe. The different shades of color likely represent individual variation. On the basis of the overall morphological similarity, it is concluded that *C. lapponana* and *C. albaniana* are conspecific; the name *C. albaniana* has priority. Consequently, *C. albaniana* represents the only *Choristoneura* species recorded across the Holarctic region.

*Choristoneura albaniana* (Walker)  
(Figs. 1-10)

*Dichelia Lapponana* (sic), Rebel 1901:85.  

The synonymy proposed is based on the examination of two males and one female of *C. lapponana* from the type locality (Karesuanto, Finland) and several specimens from nearby areas and the holotype of *C. albaniana* in The Natural History Museum, London, England, as well as a number of specimens of *C. albaniana* from various localities across North America. The holotype of *C. lapponana*, which was not examined in the present study, is in the Zoological Museum, University of Helsinki, Finland.
FIGS. 7–10. Wing patterns of *Choristoneura albaniana* from various localities in North America and Europe: 7, Churchill, Manitoba, Canada; 8, Anchorage, Alaska, USA; 9, Enontekio Karesuanto, Finland; 10, Kilpisjarvi, Finland.

FINLAND: Kilpisjarvi, 8.VII.1936 (Lankiala), 1 ♂ (1); Malla subalp., 2.VII.1936 (Lankiala), 1 ♀; Enontekiö Karesuando, 20.VI.1948 (O. Peltonen), 1 ♂ (1); Suecia to Jukkasjarvi, UTM 34W DA8930, 21.VI.1978 (Ingvar Svensson), 2 ♀♂, BMNH; Ytatuostari, 12.VI.1935 and VI.1937 (W. Hackman), 1 ♂ and 1 ♀, BMNH. All specimens in the Canadian National Collection of insects, Ottawa, except as indicated otherwise (BMNH = The British Museum of Natural History, now known as The Natural History Museum, London, England).

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