

member with chromatic hindwings. It is suggested that the species in each of these pairs may share the same ecological niche, and may have arisen sympatrically.

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MELITAEA SAXATILIS MOD. "SASSANIDES" (NYMPHALIDAE) IN IRAN: CONFIRMATION OF AN OLD RECORD

On 5 July 1974 I took eight adult specimens of *Melitaea saxatilis* mod. "sasanides" (Higgins) in Alborz, Mount Damavand, northern Iran. The butterfly was restricted to the height of 4000 m, near the third mountaineer's shelter where a steep rock slope was covered by a few scattered species of Cruciferae, Labiatae and grasses. The adults were feeding on the few Labiatae flowers that existed. No early stages were found.

Higgins (1941) in his "An illustrated catalogue of the Palearctic *Melitaea*" (Trans. Roy. Ent. Soc. London 91: 175-365) mentioned that the only specimens he saw were amongst the ex. coll. Grum-Grshimaile collection at the British Museum. They were collected on 29 June 1894 and no additional record has ever been published. Personal contact with Dr. Higgins and the literature confirm this claim. Unfortunately, due to the change of the weather and the dangerous location of the butterfly habitat, I was not able to collect a sample of the vegetation or investigate farther.

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