

OBITUARY

ALEXANDRE CONSTANTINOVICH CHNÉOUR (SCHNEEUR) (1884–1977)

Alexandre Constantinovich Chnéour, a very enthusiastic avocational lepidopterist and herpetologist, was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 30 August 1884. When publishing in German in the 1930s, he used “Schneeur” for his surname. I was informed that his name is of German origin. Between 1934 and 1963 he published on the Macrolepidoptera of Tunisia, and he was especially interested in their zoogeography. He died in his 93rd year, on 16 September 1977, at the Laguna Honda Hospital, in San Francisco, California, after some years of declining health.

Alexandre Chnéour told me that he became interested in butterflies as a boy, and as a young man he travelled to Germany and Switzerland. In St. Petersburg he attended the private Gurevich Middle School and then applied and was accepted into the Mihailovsky Artillery School. Upon graduation, with the rank of lieutenant, he entered service as an officer of a horse artillery unit. During the First World War he distinguished himself and was awarded several battle decorations. In 1916 he was transferred to the Russian Air Force, completed a two month long course in the Kiev School for Observers, and started a brief career in aviation. He also attended wartime accelerated studies in the Academy of the General Staff, and graduated in February 1917.

During the Civil War in Russia between 1917 and 1922, he joined the ranks of the White Anti-Communist “Volunteer” Army, as opposed to the Red Communist Army, and he fought the Reds mostly in the Caucasus region. After the end of this struggle he was evacuated with others from Russia to the Gallipoli Camp in Turkey. He then moved to Bulgaria where he was a lecturer in the Officers Engineering School, lecturing to the still remaining organized Russian Army Units (in both this and in the former camp in Turkey).

Alexandre Chnéour then found refuge in Lyon, France. In 1929 he moved to Tunisia, which was then a French colony, as a member of the French Geographical Department, working as a draftsman for the Department of Roads and Bridges. He resided in Tunis until Tunisian independence in 1956 forced his move. He was admitted as an immigrant to the United States on 2 June 1956. He lived at first in the New York City area, and he studied at the American Museum of Natural History in 1961 verifying his Tunisian identifications. In 1963, Chnéour published in French a resumé of his Lepidoptera work in Tunisia, with the translated title of “Twenty-six years of work of a lepidopterist in Tunisia,” which covered the years from 1930 to 1956.

In 1934 Chnéour commenced publishing on the Tunisian lepidopteran fauna, beginning with six papers published in German in German journals under the name "Schneeur" (between 1934 to 1937), followed by fourteen papers in French (from 1942 to 1963) primarily in Tunisian journals. He was also very helpful to Soures in his study of the harmful Lepidoptera of Tunisia (Soures 1950), and is so acknowledged and the California Academy of Science's copy of the publication is dedicated "A M. Chneour, l'Eleve à son Maitre. l'auteur reconnaissant, Soures." Alexandre Chnéour was also interested in the herpetofauna of Tunisia and coauthored a study of "Les Serpents de Tunisie" (Chpakowsky & Chnéour 1954).

Rindge (1967:180) reported that Chénour's primary collection of Tunisian Macrolepidoptera, consisting of 806 specimens, including primary types of 11 taxa (four Pieridae, four Satyridae, one Noctuidae, and two Lasiocampidae), had been donated to the Lepidoptera collection of the American Museum of Natural History. In a summary article on his Lepidoptera studies in Tunisia, Chnéour (1963:109) reported 603 species of Macrolepidoptera in his collection, in contrast to only 93 taxa of Microlepidoptera. He stated that the low number of the latter was due to specialists who still had his specimens out on loan. These microlepidopterans probably must still exist in various collections in western Europe. Chnéour donated 415 specimens to the California Academy of Sciences, which were accessioned between 17 June 1964 and 20 May 1969, including at least five North African Satyridae, with one labeled as paratype of *Satyrus colombati stellifer* Chnéour.

Alexandre Chnéour's longest entomological association was with the Société entomologique de France, becoming a member in 1942. When in the United States, he became a member of the Lepidopterists' Society and is listed in the 1964 (Downey 1964:8) and 1967 (Downey 1967:9) membership lists.

In San Francisco, Alexandre Chnéour resided at 1830 Divisadero Street. In his latter 80s this gentleperson was viciously mugged while entering his apartment, and required hospitalization. His last years were spent as a resident of the Laguna Honda Home and Hospital. At the time of his death Alexandre Chnéour was survived by his sister-in-law Mrs. Tatiana Miller, who told me of his wish that I notify the Société entomologique de France of his death after that occurred. His third wife Elizabeth (née Tirnstein) died in San Francisco in 1971.

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PUBLICATIONS ON LEPIDOPTERA BY ALEXANDRE CHNÉOUR (SCHNEEUR)

1934. Die Tagfalter von Mittel-Tunis. Entomol. Zeit. Frankfurt-M. 48:36–37, 41–46. ["Von A. Schneeur."] [*Papilio machaon chrysostoma* Chnéour, new form; *Euchloe belemia marmorata* Chnéour, new form; *Leucochloe daplidice hiberna* Chnéour, new form.]
- 1935a. Beschreibung einer neuen Aberration von *Satyrus abdelkader* Pier. Entomol. Zeit. Frankfurt-M. 48:190–191. ["Von A. Schneeur, Tunis."] [*Satyrus abdelkader marteni* Chnéour, new aberration.]
- 1935b. Eine neue Form von *Euchloë falloui* All. Entomol. Zeit. Frankfurt-M. 49:49. ["Von A. Schneeur, Tunis."] [*Euchloe falloui choumovitschi* Chnéour, new form.]
- 1936a. Einige Bemerkungen nebst Verbesserungen über das Werk Bodo v. Bodemeyers "Ueber meine entomologischen Reisen" und der merkwürdigen verbreitungsgrenze der Falter in Nord-Afrika. Entomol. Zeit. Frankfurt-M. 49:480–481. ["Von A. Schneeur, Tunis."]
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1939. Les macro-lépidoptères de Tunisie. Bull. Soc. Hist. Nat. l'Afrique du Nord 30:14–26.

- 1942a. Contribution à l'étude des macrolépidoptères de Tunisie. Bull. Soc. Hist. Nat. l'Afrique du Nord 33:43–58. [*Satyrus colombati stellifer* Chnéour, new aberration; *Satyrus statilinus Chpakowskyi* Chnéour, new subspecies; *Lasiocampa trifolii Lutzernowi* Chnéour, new aberration.]
- 1942b. Une nouvelle hétérocère trouvée en Tunisie: *Simyra Chpakowskyi* nov. spec. (Lep. Noctuidae). Bull. Soc. Hist. Nat. l'Afrique du Nord 33:86–87. [*Simyra Chpakowskyi* Chnéour, new species.]
1948. Contribution à l'étude des macrolépidoptères de Tunisie. Bull. Soc. Hist. Nat. l'Afrique du Nord (1947) 38:18–31. [*Euchloe faloui Elisabethae* Chnéour, new variety; *Euchloe faloui nigromarginata* Chnéour, new form; *Gonopteryx Cleopatra bicolorata* Chnéour (authorship attributed to Sourès), new variety.]
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- 1950b. [Description of *Lasiocampa trifolii Chpakowskyi* Chnéour, new subspecies.], pp. 150–151, In Soures, B., Contribution à l'étude des Lépidoptères de la Tunisie. Biologie des espèces nuisibles ou susceptibles de le devenir. Ann. Ser. Bot. Agr. Tunisie (1948), 21. [*Lasiocampa trifolii Chpakowskyi* Chnéour, new subspecies.]
1952. Contribution à l'étude des macrolépidoptères de Tunisie. Bull. Soc. Hist. Nat. l'Afrique du Nord (1950) 41:41–47. [*Pieris rapae minor Nana* Chnéour, new variety; *Satyrus sylvicola Cordieri* Chnéour, new variety [should have been *cordierae* since it was named after “Mlle Cordier, Docteur de l'Institut Arloing de Tunis”]; *Erias insulana Bedei* Chnéour, new variety.]
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SOME PATRONYMS HONORING ALEXANDRE CHNÉOUR

Capitalization of new taxa is given as originally proposed, with the type locality at the end of each citation.

- Cerostoma Chnéourellum* Lucas, 1943:146. Tunisia: Maknassy.
- Chloridea peltigera Chnéouri* Soures, 1950:132. Tunisia.
- Crambus Chnéouri* Lucas, 1942:122. Tunisia: Protoille et Sbeitla.
- Moenas chnéouri* Rungs, 1951:99–101. Tunisia: Sbeitla.
- Mymecozela Chnéouri* Lucas, 1942:126. Tunisia: Sbeitla.
- Tephros chnéourella* Lucas, 1946:97. Tunisia: Nefta.
- Tineola chnéourella* Lucas, 1951:143. Tunisia: Maknassy.

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