ARGYNNIS CHLORODIPPE VILLIERS & GUENÉE, 1835 (INSECTA, LEPIDOPTERA): PROPOSED SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1801

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In 1835 (Tab. syn. Lep. Europe: 56) Villiers and Guenée described, as a species occurring in Sicily, a variety of the well-known High Brown Fritillary Argynnis adippe Schiffermueller, 1775, and gave to it the name Argynnis chlorodippe. It was in fact the well-known form of A. adippe in which the silver markings of the undersides of the wings are replaced by buff, a form which had already been described by Ochsenheimer (1816, Schmett. Eur. 4: 118) as Argynnis cleodoxa.

2. In 1851 (Syst. Schmett. Europe 6: 5) Herrich-Schaeffer described the very different and distinct subspecies of Argynnis adippe that occurs in Spain, also under the name Argynnis chlorodippe, being apparently unaware of the existence of the name Argynnis chlorodippe Villiers and Guenée.

3. Consistently since 1851 the Spanish subspecies of A. adippe has always been known either as Argynnis adippe chlorodippe H.S. or as a distinct species as Argynnis chlorodippe H.S. to all students of the European Rhopalocera. I can find only one reference to Argynnis chlorodippe Villiers and Guenée, namely by W. F. Kirby who simply lists it in his Synonymic Catalogue of Diurnal Lepidoptera (1891: 158). I know of no case in which the name has been used in a taxonomic or faunistic paper dealing with the butterflies of any part of Europe or with Argynnis adippe in particular. Nevertheless it is a senior primary homonym of A. chlorodippe Herrich-Schaeffer.

4. Argynnis adippe is not a butterfly of any economic importance or great biological interest, yet it is one of the best known of European butterflies. It would seem a pity to allow a long forgotten senior homonym to supplant the very familiar name, chlorodippe H.S., of its most striking subspecies. Accordingly I invite the International Commission:

1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name chlorodippe Villiers and Guenée, 1835, as published in the binomen Argynnis chlorodippe, for the purposes of both the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy;

2) to place the specific name chlorodippe Herrich-Schaeffer, 1851, as published in the binomen Argynnis chlorodippe, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;

3) to place the specific name suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.