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215-218 Scythris stalagmitella 14/6/10 16:27 Página 215

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Scythris stalagmitella Nupponen, sp. n., a new scythridid species from the southern Urals and Turkey (Lepidoptera: Scythrididae)

K. Nupponen

Abstract

Scythris stalagmitella Nupponen, sp. n. is described from the southern Ural region and Turkey. One male specimen was collected in Orenburg district, S Ural in September 2009. Three further specimens of the same species are known from old museum materials preserved in Copenhagen and Innsbruck. The external appearance of the moth and the male genitalia of the new species are illustrated.
KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Scythrididae, new species, southern Ural region, Turkey.

Scythris stalagmitella **Nupponen, sp. n., un nuevo scythrídido del sur de los Urales y Turquía (Lepidoptera: Scythrididae)**

Resumen

Se describe *Scythris stalagmitella* Nupponen, sp. n. del sur de la región de los Urales y de Turquía. Un espécimen macho fue capturado en el distrito de Orenburg, sur de los Urales en septiembre de 2009. Se conocen tres especímenes de la misma especie entre el material antiguo conservado en Copenhague y en Innsbruck. Se representa la morfología externa y la genitalia del macho de esta especie.
PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Scythrididae, nueva especie, sur de la región de los Urales, Turquía.

Introduction

The southern Ural region is rich in species of the family Scythrididae. To date, 39 species have been discovered in the region (NUPPONEN *et al*., 2000, NUPPONEN, 2005). During a collecting trip in Orenburg district in September 2009, I found a new scythridid species for the region. After returning home I dissected the specimen, and it was found to be undescribed. Later I discussed my discovery with Bengt Bengtsson, and he informed me about three further specimens of the same species he had found among undetermined museum materials in Copenhagen and Innsbruck. The new species is described below.

Scythris stalagmitella Nupponen, sp. n.

Type material. Holotype: ♂ (Fig. 1): Russia, S-Ural, 51º 15' N 59º 09' E, 220 m a.s.l., Orenburg district, Kumak river, 10-IX-2009, K. Nupponen leg. Genitalia slide: K. Nupponen prep. no. 1/27-XII-2009. In coll. T. & K. Nupponen. Paratypes 3 ♂♂: 1 ♂, Emba, Uralsk [Kazakstan]; Genitalia slide: BÅB 108X; in coll. ZMUC [Copenhagen]. 1 ♂, Asia min., Turcia, Karapinar, 995 m, 12-VI-1969, leg. G. Friedel; Genitalia slide: Jä 6533; in coll. Burmann [in Innsbruck]. 1 ♂, Asia min., Turcia, Tuz Gölü,

215-218 Scythris stalagmitella 14/6/10 16:27 Página 216

Nord Ufer, 1100 m, 9-VI-1969, leg. G. Friedel; Genitalia slide: Jä 6621; in coll. Burmann [in Innsbruck].

Diagnosis: Externally *S. stalagmitella* Nupponen, sp. n. resembles some eastern Palaearctic scythridids, e. g. those belonging to the genus *Bactrianoscythris* (see PASSERIN d'ENTRÉVES & ROGGERO, 2009), but differs from those by the smaller size of the moth. *S. stalagmitella* is readily separated from all known scythridids by the peculiar asymmetrical valvae in the male genitalia.

Description: Wingspan 14 mm. Head, antenna, collar, tegula and thorax brown, posterior margin of thorax with a few dirty white scales. Neck tuft white mixed with pale brown. Haustellum basally brown, otherwise white. Labial palp brown mixed with dirty white. Legs brown, more (femur) or less (tibia and tarsus) mixed with dirty white. Hindleg tibia with long hairscales. Abdomen fuscous or ochreous, ventrally ivory or with scattered dirty white and grey scales; anal tuft whitish. Forewing brown; broad white streak in fold from base to 0.6, cut by brown dash at 1/3; small and indistinct dark brown spot at 0.8 in midwing, surrounded by irregular dirty whitish patch; scattered pale scales exist over the wing, more densely in apical 1/3. Hindwing fuscous.

Male genitalia (Figs. 2-4): Uncus broad, subrectangular, posterolaterally with rounded bumps, posterior corners elongated. Distal arm of gnathos rather thorn-shaped, basal half of upper surface furrowed; distally tapered and bent, tip pointed. Aedeagus 1/3 x length of valva, strongly bent and evenly tapered to a blunt tip. Valvae asymmetrical, long and broad, slightly angulated at 0.4; subbasally broad subrectangular flaps, ending in a round bulge at 1/3 of valva; at 0.4 complex inwardly directed sclerotized and setose processes, that of left valva longer; at distal half of outer margin well separated extensions, those in right valva longer and located closer to each other; at distal half of right valva a longitudinal and basally elongated medial flap, distally united to inner margin of valva; distal 0.2 of outer margin with small irregular extensions. Sternum VIII subrectangular, twice wider than high; posterior margin concave, with wide and short flaps forming a posterior fold. Tergum VIII basically subpentagonal; anterior margin medially deeply incised, anterior corners rounded; posterolaterally two long and digitate parallel processes, and between them a triangular and pointed medioposterior extension.

Female genitalia: Unknown.

Bionomy: Adults have been found in mid-June and mid-September, indicating that the species has two generations. The holotype was collected at a riverbank by artificial light at night. At the collecting site, there were rocky slopes and moist patches at riverside, surrounded by large lowland steppes (Fig. 5).

Distribution: Russia (S-Ural), NW-Kazakhstan (the river Emba), C Turkey.

Etymology: Lat. *stalagmites* = stalagmite. The species name alludes to the extensions at outer margins of the valvae, reminiscent of stalagmites. A stalagmite is a cylindrical mass of calcium carbonate projecting upwards from the floor of a limestone cave.

Remarks: *S. stalagmitella* Nupponen, sp. n. cannot be assigned to any known species-group.

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I thank Mr. Pavel Gorbunov (Ekaterinburg, Russia) and Dr. Vladimir Olschwang (Ekaterinburg, Russia) for organizing the trip to southern Urals; Mr. Bengt Bengtsson for allowing me to describe the species and information about the specimens in museum collections; Dr. Antonio Vives (Madrid, Spain) for the translation of the summary into Spanish; Mr. Timo Nupponen (Espoo, Finland) and Mrs. Elena Nupponen (Espoo, Finland) for help in preparing the trip to the Urals; Dr. Lauri Kaila (Helsinki, Finland), Mr. Kimmo Silvonen (Espoo, Finland) and Finnish Museum of Natural History, University of Helsinki for their help in processing the photographs; Faunatica Oy for supporting this work.

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215-218 Scythris stalagmitella 14/6/10 16:27 Página 217

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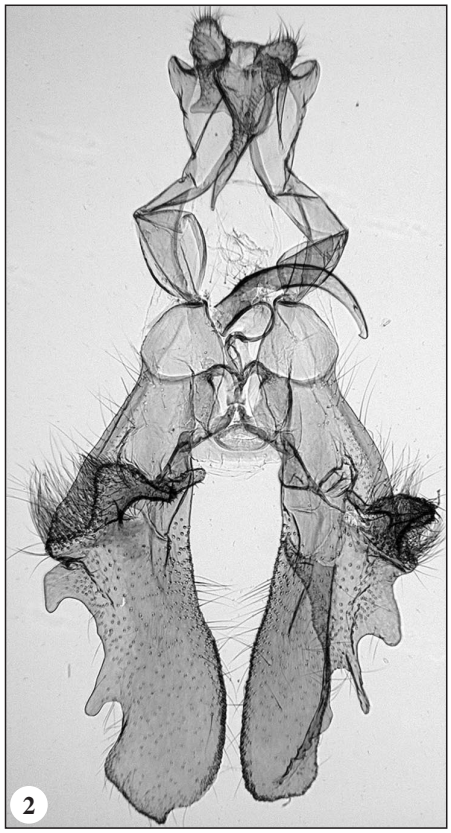
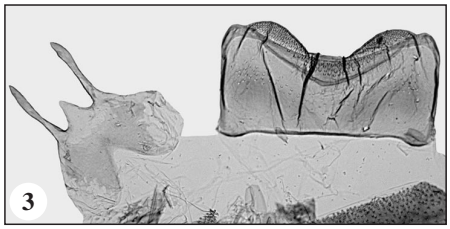
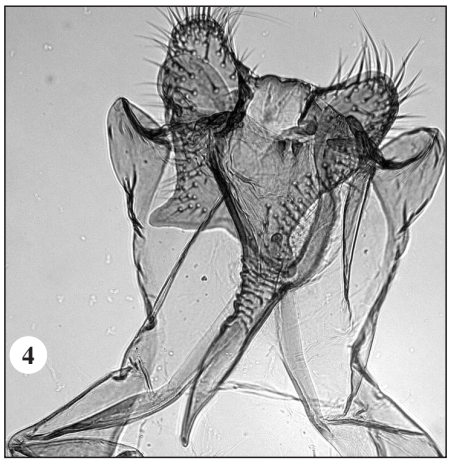
215-218 Scythris stalagmitella 14/6/10 16:27 Página 218







Figs. 1-5.– 1. Imago (male, holotype) of *Scythris stalagmitella* Nupponen, sp. n. **2.** Male genitalia of *Scythris stalagmitella* Nupponen, sp. n. (holotype; GP 1/27-XII-2009 KN). **3.** Tergum VIII (left) and sternum VIII (right) of *Scythris stalagmitella* Nupponen, sp. n. (holotype). **4.** The uncus-gnathos complex of *Scythris stalagmitella* Nupponen, sp. n. (holotype). **5.** Rocky slopes and steppes in the river Kumak, southern Urals, Russia. A habitat of *Scythris stalagmitella* Nupponen, sp. n.