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First summary of Cossidae of Sierra Leone (West Africa) (Lepidoptera: Cossidae)

R. V. Yakovlev, Gy. M. Laszlo & T. J. Witt†

Abstract

Present paper contains the list of Cossidae (Lepidoptera) collected in Sierra Leone. Sixteen species have been recorded, seven of them are found in the fauna of Sierra Leone for the first time: *Macrocoossus toliminus* (Druce, 1887), *Mirocoossus politzari* Yakovlev, 2011, *Assegaj clenchi* Yakovlev, 2006, *Aethalopteryx grandiplaga* (Gaede, 1930), *Tarsozeuzera livingstoni* Yakovlev, 2006, *Strigocossus elephas* Yakovlev, 2013, and *Holcoceroides ferrugineotincta* Strand, [1913].

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Cossidae, new records, Sierra Leona, Afrotropics.

Primer resumen de los Cossidae de Sierra Leona (Oeste de África) (Lepidoptera: Cossidae)

Resumen

El presente trabajo contiene una lista de Cossidae (Lepidoptera) colectados en Sierra Leona. Se han registrado dieciséis especies, siete de ellas se han encontrado, por primera vez, para la fauna de Sierra Leona: *Macrocoossus toliminus* (Druce, 1887), *Mirocoossus politzari* Yakovlev, 2011, *Assegaj clenchi* Yakovlev, 2006, *Aethalopteryx grandiplaga* (Gaede, 1930), *Tarsozeuzera livingstoni* Yakovlev, 2006, *Strigocossus elephas* Yakovlev, 2013 y *Holcoceroides ferrugineotincta* Strand, [1913].

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Cossidae, nuevos registros, Sierra Leona, Afrotropical.

Introduction

Carpenter-Moths (Lepidoptera, Cossidae) are a relatively large Heterocera family, comprising over 1200 valid species worldwide (VAN NIEUKERKEN *et al.*, 2011; YAKOVLEV, 2011). West Africa is one of the species diversity centres of Cossidae (YAKOVLEV, 2015) with high number of endemisms. Despite their generally large size and often conspicuous appearance, Cossidae of Africa are rather poorly studied, resulted in a fairly incomplete knowledge on their distribution. Relatively extensive faunistic overviews have only been published regarding the fauna of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Swaziland and the Republic of South Africa (YAKOVLEV & LENZ, 2013; YAKOVLEV & MURPHY, 2013; YAKOVLEV, 2014; YAKOVLEV & WITT, 2016; MEY, 2015, 2016, 2017).

On the Cossidae fauna of Sierra Leone, only rather sporadic information is available in low number of publications. From the territory of the country, *Phalaena (Noctua) crassa* Drury, 1782, *Zeuzera boisduvalii* Herrich-Schäffer, 1854, *Zeuzera auroguttata* Herrich-Schäffer, [1854], *Zeuzera moderata* Walker, 1856, *Duomitus lunifera* Hampson, 1910 and *Phragmataecia fuscifusa* Hampson, 1910 were described. Also, the following species were indicated as member of the fauna of Sierra Leone: *Pseudozeuzera biatra* (Hampson, 1910), *Eulophonotus elegans* (Aurivillius,

1910), *Eulophonotus armstrongi* (Hampson, 1915), *Eulophonotus myrmeleon* Felder, 1874, *Azygophleps inclusa* (Walker, 1856), *Alophonotus rauana* (Strand, 1909), and *Azygophleps pallens* (Herrich-Schäffer, [1854]) (SCHOORL, 1990; YAKOVLEV, 2011; YAKOVLEV & WITT, 2018a, b).

During the course of studying Afrotropical Cossidae, further new materials collected in Sierra Leone have been found in the collections of the Natural History Museum, London, UK; African Natural History Research Trust, Leominster, UK; Museum Witt, Munich, Germany; Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium and the private collection of Manfred Ströhle, Weiden, Germany. This article presents the first summary of Cossidae recorded from Sierra Leone to date.

Materials and methods

Images of adults were taken by the digital camera of Apple iPhone 7, illuminated in lightbox.

Abbreviations

ANHRT - African Natural History Research Trust, Leominster, UK

DMP - Ditsong National Museum of Natural History (formerly Transvaal Museum), Pretoria, South Africa

MNHN - Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris, France)

MNKB - Museum für Naturkunde, Leibniz Institut für Evolution und Biodiversitätsforschung (Berlin, Germany)

MSW - Collection of Manfred Ströhle, Weiden, Germany

MWM - Museum Witt, Munich, Germany

NHMUK (formerly BMNH) - The Natural History Museum (formerly British Museum of Natural History), London, UK

RMCA - Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium

List of species

Macrocoossus toliminus (Druce, 1887) (Fig. 1)

Cossus toliminus Druce, 1887: 684-685.

Type locality: Gambia.

Type material: Holotype in NHMUK, examined.

Material examined: 1 ♂, Sierra Leone, Tingi hills forest reserve, 800 m, Singi-Singi Mts., ca. 46 km NE Koido-Sefadu, near Bandaperei (KONO), N8° 57.083 / W10° 44.751, 11-15-IV-2010, leg. Rudloff (coll. MSW).

Distribution: From Ivory Coast to Malawi, Tanzania, Namibia, S. Africa (SCHOORL, 1990; VÁRI *et al.*, 2002). **New record for Sierra Leone.**

Mirocoossus politzari Yakovlev, 2011 (Fig. 2)

Mirocoossus politzari Yakovlev, 2011: 14.

Type locality: Togo, Aretouou.

Type material: Holotype in ZSM, examined.

Material examined: 1 ♂, Sierra Leone, Western area, Sussex S Freetown, 5 km E Sussex, 300 m, N 8° 20.964/W 13° 10.706, 10-11-IV-2010, leg. Rudloff (coll. MSW).

Distribution: Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria (YAKOVLEV, 2011). **New record for Sierra Leone.**

Assegaj clenchi Yakovlev, 2006 (Fig. 3)

Assegaj clenchi Yakovlev, 2006: 204.

Type locality: Congo, Cozala Nat. Park.

Type material: Holotype in MWM, examined.

Material examined: 1 ♂, Sierra Leone, Tingi hills forest reserve, 800 m, Singi-Singi Mts., ca. 46 km NE Koido-Sefadu, near Bandaperei (KONO), N8° 57.083/W10° 44.751, 11-15-IV-2010, leg. Rudloff (coll. MSW).

Distribution: Congo, Nigeria, Cameroon (YAKOVLEV, 2011). **New record for Sierra Leone.**

Aethalopteryx grandiplaga (Gaede, 1930) (Fig. 4)

Xyleutes grandiplaga Gaede, 1930: 547.

Type locality: Chad, Oubangui, Chari, Bangui [Central African Rep.].

Type material: Holotype in MNKB, examined.

Material examined: 1 ♂, NW Sierra-Leone, Kenema, I-1975, don A. Allaer (coll. RMCA).

Distribution: Central African Rep., Congo. **New record for Sierra Leone.**

Aethalopteryx squameus (Distant, 1902) (Fig. 5)

Duomitus squameus Distant, 1902: 213.

Type locality: Transvaal, Pretoria (S. Africa).

Type material: Cotypes in NHMUK and DMP, examined.

Material examined: 1 ♂, NW Sierra Leone, Kenema, I-1975, don A. Allaer (coll. RMCA).

Distribution: South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Malawi, Ghana, Angola, Tanzania, CAR (PINHEY, 1979; VÁRI *et al.*, 2002). **New record for Sierra Leone.**

Alophonotus rauana (Strand, 1909) (Fig. 6)

Chalcidica (Duomitus) rauana Strand, 1909: 130.

Type locality: D[deutsch] O[stafrika] Afrika, Kilimanjaro [Tanzania].

Type material: Holotype in MNKB, examined.

Material examined: 2 ♂♂, Sierra Leone, Goderich, Baoma, N8° 25' 41" / W 13° 15' 47", 12-XI-2014, R.W. Goff (ANHRT:2019.1) (coll. ANHRT).

Distribution: Angola, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, S. Africa, Ruanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Southern Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe (VÁRI *et al.*, 2002; YAKOVLEV & WITT, 2018a).

Paralophonotus auroguttatus (Herrich-Schäffer, [1854]) (Fig. 7)

Zeuzera auroguttata Herrich-Schäffer, [1854]: 58, [pl. 36], fig. 173.

Type locality: Sierra Leon. [Sierra Leone].

Type material: Syntype or holotype (HÄUSER *et al.*, 2003) in SMNS, figured.

Distribution: Ghana, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Congo, Angola (AURIVILLIUS, 1925; SCHOORL, 1990).

Azygophleps boisduvalli (Herrich-Schäffer, 1854) (Fig. 8)

Zeuzera boisduvalii Herrich-Schäffer, 1854: 58, Taf. 35: 167.

Type locality: Gatam (Sierra Leone).

Type material: Holotype in MNHN, examined.

Material examined: 8 ♂♂, Sierra Leone, Tingi hills forest reserve, 800 m, Singi-Singi Mts., ca. 46 km NE Koido-Sefadu, near Bandaperei (KONO), N8° 57.083/W10° 44.751, 11-15-IV-2010, leg. Rudloff (coll. MSW); 1 ♂, Sierra Leone, Loma Mountains, farmland/forest mosaic, 420 m, 11-15-VI-2016, N09° 07' 47" / W11° 05' 24", leg. Takano, Miles & Goff (ANHRT: 2017.18) (coll. ANHRT).

Distribution: Africa (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Cameroon, Nigeria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Congo, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Malawi, Côte d'Ivoire) (FLETCHER, 1968; SCHOORL, 1990; YAKOVLEV, 2011).

Azygophleps scalaris (Fabricius, 1775) (Fig. 9)

Phalaena (Hepialus) scalaris Fabricius, 1775: 590.

Type locality: China.

Type material: Probably lost (YAKOVLEV, 2011).

Material examined: 1 ♀, Sierra Leone, Kalainkay nr. Kamabai, Northern Prov., 80 m, 3-6-XI-2015, N09° 10' 52" / W11° 56' 44", R. Goff coll., leg. Smith, R. & Takano, H. (ANHRT: 2018.20); 3 ♂♂, Sierra Leone, Mansonia village at the foothills of Loma Mts., 420 m, 6-VI-2016, N09° 07' 47" / W11° 05' 06", leg. Takano, Miles & Goff (ANHRT: 2017.18); 1 ♂, Sierra Leone, Loma Mountains, farmland/forest mosaic, 420 m, 11-15-VI-2016, N09° 07' 47" / W11° 05' 24", leg. Takano, Miles & Goff (ANHRT: 2017.18) (coll. ANHRT).

Distribution: Pakistan, India, China, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Mauritania, Somali, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Congo, Kenya, Angola, Namibia, Tanzania, Sudan, Malawi (ARORA, 1976; SCHOORL, 1990; YAKOVLEV, 2011; YAKOVLEV & WITT, 2016B).

Pseudozeuzera biatra (Hampson, 1910) (Fig. 10)

Duomitus biatra Hampson, 1910: 131-132.

Type locality: S. Nigeria, Old Calabar [Calabar city].

Type material: Holotype, male in NHMUK, examined.

Material examined: 1 ♂, Sierra Leone, Western area, Sussex S Freetown, 5 km E Sussex, 300 m, N 8° 20.964/W 13° 10.706, 10-11-IV-2010, leg. Rudloff; 2 ♂♂, Sierra Leone, Tingi hills forest reserve, 800 m, Singi-Singi Mts., ca. 46 km NE Koido-Sefadu, near Bandaperei (KONO), N8° 57.083/W10° 44.751, 11-15-IV-2010, leg. Rudloff (coll. MSW).

Distribution: Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Cameroon, Togo, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon (SCHOORL, 1990; YAKOVLEV, 2011; YAKOVLEV & WITT, 2018 b).

Tarsozeuzera livingstoni Yakovlev, 2006 (Fig. 11)

Tarsozeuzera livingstoni Yakovlev, 2006: 211.

Type locality: Rep. Pop. Congo, Dimonica.

Type material: Holotype in MNHN, examined.

Material examined: 1 ♂, Sierra Leone, Tingi hills forest reserve, 800 m, Singi-Singi Mts., ca. 46 km NE Koido-Sefadu, near Bandaperei (KONO), N8° 57.083/W10° 44.751, 11-15-IV-2010, leg. Rudloff (coll. MSW).

Distribution: Congo, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia (YAKOVLEV, 2011; YAKOVLEV & MURPHY, 2013; YAKOVLEV, SOKOLOVA & WITT, 2018).
New record for Sierra Leone.

Strigocossus moderata (Walker, 1856) (Fig. 12)

Zeuzera moderata Walker, 1856: 1533.

Type locality: Sierra Leone.

Type material: Holotype in NHMUK, examined.

Material examined: 3 ♂♂, Sierra Leone, Tingi hills forest reserve, 800 m, Singi-Singi Mts., ca. 46 km NE Koido-Sefadu, near Bandaperei (KONO), N8° 57.083/W10° 44.751, 11-15-IV-2010, leg. Rudloff (coll. MSW).

Distribution: South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Cameroun, Gabon (PINHEY, 1979; VÁRI *et al.*, 2002; YAKOVLEV, 2011; YAKOVLEV & MURPHY, 2013).

Strigocossus elephas Yakovlev, 2013 (Fig. 13)

Strigocossus elephas Yakovlev, 2013: 381.

Type locality: Ouganda [Uganda], Gulu distr., Ajulu.

Type material: Holotype in coll. MWM, examined.

Material examined: 2 ♂♂, NW Sierra Leone, Kenema, 9-10-1974, don Allaer (coll. RMCA).

Distribution: Uganda, Malawi, Swaziland, Republic of South Africa (YAKOVLEV & MURPHY, 2013). **New record for Sierra Leone.**

Strigocossus crassa (Drury, 1782) (Fig. 14)

Phalaena (Noctua) crassa Drury, 1782: Pl. 2: fig. 1.

Type locality: Sierra Leon [Sierra Leone].

Type material: It is lost.

Material examined: 2 ♂♂, Sierra Leone, Tingi hills forest reserve, 800 m, Singi-Singi Mts., ca. 46 km NE Koido-Sefadu, near Bandaperei (KONO), N8° 57.083/W10° 44.751, 11-15-IV-2010, leg. Rudloff (coll. MSW).

Distribution: From Central to Southern Africa.

Phragmataecia fuscifusa Hampson, 1910 (Fig. 15)

Phragmataecia fuscifusa Hampson, 1910: 128.

Type locality: Sierra Leone.

Type material: Cotypes in NHMUK.

Material examined: two cotypes, 1 ♂ and 1 ♀ (coll. NHMUK).

Distribution: Sierra Leone, Nigeria.

Holcoceroides ferrugineotincta Strand, [1913] (Fig. 16)

Holcoceroides ferrugineotincta Strand, [1913]: 36.

Type locality: Nkolentangan [Equatorial Guinea].

Type material: Holotype in MNKB, examined.

Material examined: 1 ♂, Sierra Leone, Goderich, Baoma, N8° 25' 41" / W13° 15' 47", 24-X-2014, R.W. Goff (ANHRT: 2019.1) (coll. ANHRT).

Distribution: Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, SW Sudan, Burundi (YAKOVLEV, 2011).

New record for Sierra Leone.

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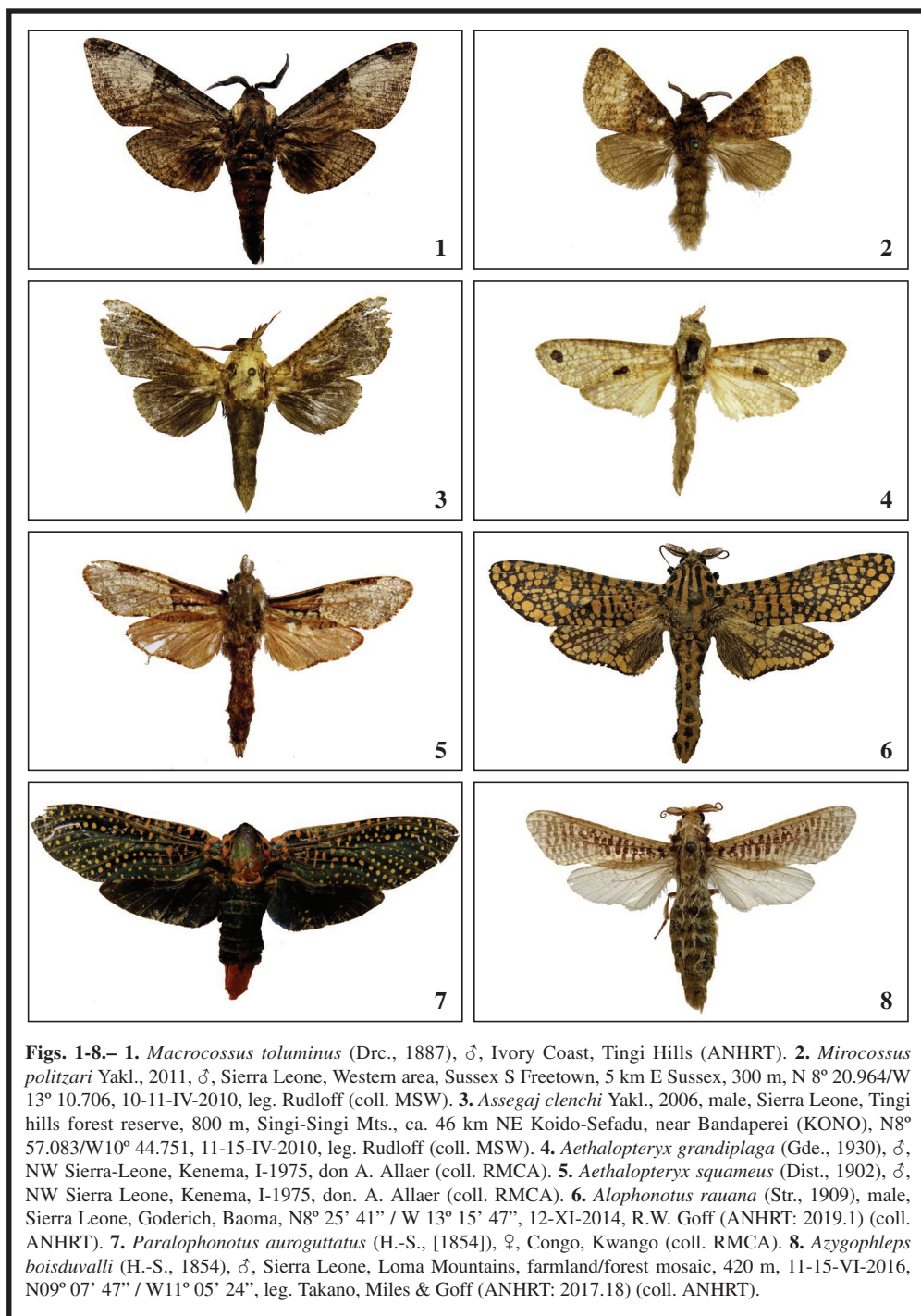
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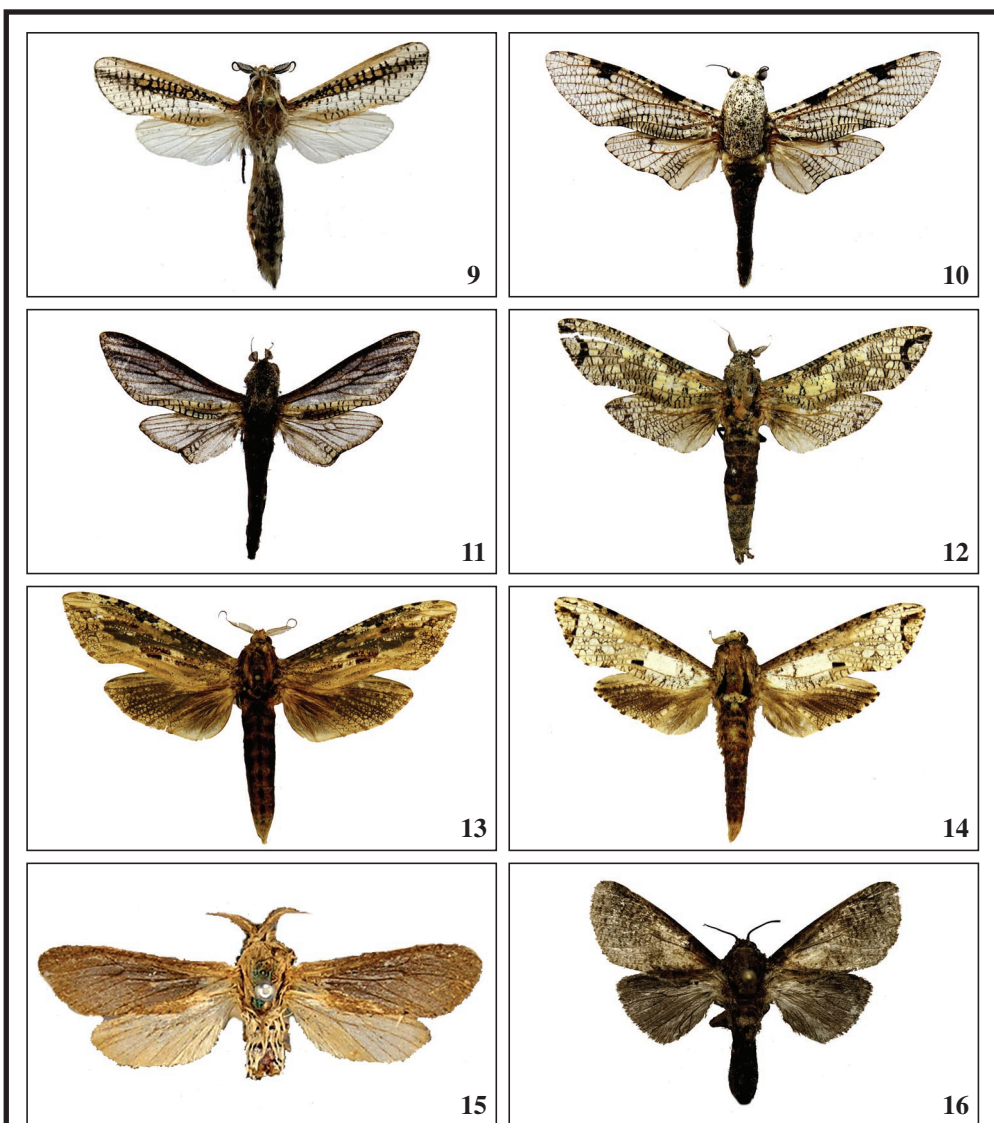
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Figs. 9-16.— **9.** *Azygophleps scalaris* (F., 1775), ♂, Sierra Leone, Loma Mountains, farmland/forest mosaic, 420 m, 11-15-VI-2016, N09° 07' 47" / W11° 05' 24", leg. Takano, Miles & Goff (ANHRT: 2017.18) (coll. ANHRT). **10.** *Pseudozeuzera biatra* (Hamps., 1910), ♂, Sierra Leone, Western area, Sussex S Freetown, 5 km E Sussex, 300 m, N 8° 20.964/W 13° 10.706, 10-11-IV-2010, leg. Rudloff (coll. MSW). **11.** *Tarsozeuzera livingstoni* Yakl., 2006, ♂, Sierra Leone, Tingi hills forest reserve, 800 m, Singi-Singi Mts., ca. 46 km NE Koido-Sefadu, near Bandaperei (KONO), N8° 57.083/W10° 44.751, 11-15-IV-2010, leg. Rudloff (coll. MSW). **12.** *Strigocossus moderata* (Wlk., 1856), Angola (coll. MWM). **13.** *Strigocossus elephas* Yakl., 2013, Angola (coll. MWM). **14.** *Strigocossus crassa* (Dry., 1782), Angola (coll. MWM). **15.** *Phragmataecia fuscifusa* Hamps., 1910, male, cotype (coll. NHMUK). **16.** *Holcoceroides ferrugineotincta* Str., [1913], ♂, Ivory Coast, Tai NP (coll. ANHRT).