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Elachista bassii Parenti, a new species of Elachistidae from Nepal and *Elachista crocogastra* Meyrick
in Madagascar (Lepidoptera: Elachistidae)

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***Elachista bassii* Parenti, a new species of Elachistidae
from Nepal and *Elachista crocogastra*
Meyrick in Madagascar
(Lepidoptera: Elachistidae)**

U. Parenti*

Summary

A new species of Elachistidae is described, *Elachista bassii*, from the North of Iran, while *Elachista crocogastra* Meyrick is the first member of this family recorded in Madagascar.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Elachistidae, *E. bassii*, new species, Iran, *E. crocogastra*, Madagascar.

***Elachista bassii* Parenti, nuova specie di Elachistidae del Nepal e *Elachista crocogastra*
Meyrick in Madagascar
(Lepidoptera: Elachistidae)**

Riassunto

Viene descritta una nuova specie di Elachistidae, *Elachista bassii*, del Nord dell'Iran mentre *Elachista crocogastra* Meyrick è il primo rappresentante della famiglia segnalato del Madagascar.

PAROLE CHIAVE: Lepidoptera, Elachistidae, *E. bassii*, nuova specie, Iran, *E. crocogastra*, Madagascar.

***Elachista bassii* Parenti, nueva especie de Elachistidae del Nepal y *Elachista crocogastra*
Meyrick en Madagascar
(Lepidoptera: Elachistidae)**

Resumen

Se describe una nueva especie de Elachistidae, *Elachista bassii*, del norte de Irán, mientras *Elachista crocogastra* Meyrick es el primer representante de esta familia señalado de Madagascar.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Elachistidae, *E. bassii*, nueva especie, Irán, *E. crocogastra*, Madagascar.

***Elachista bassii* Parenti, sp. n.**

Typical material: Holotypus ♂. "19-VIII-1983, N. Nepal: Langtang V[alley] Gosainkund, 4300 m" "G. Bassi" "U. Parenti Prep. gen. ♂ N° 11330 " (in collection U. Parenti, Italy). Paratypus: 1♂, same data as Holotype except "U. Parenti Prep. gen. ♂ N° 9790" (in collection G. Bassi, Italy).

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Morphological notes: It is a species (Fig. 1) of small sizes: alar expanse 5.0-5.5 mm. Labial palpi of a bronze colour like the head. Antennae of the same colour of the head and finely ciliate. Legs of a bronze colour on the lower side: tibiae and tarsal articles sprayed dorsally with silver white scales. Fore wing: one third of the wing, beneath the costa, is occupied by a yellowish white fascia from which a wide bronzy area starts. Ventral side of the wings brilliant grey.

Male genitalia (Fig. 3): Uncus lobes wide and spaced out with moderately long setae covering the three fourths of the surface. Gnathos oval elongated. In the valva, that curves in the middle of the dorsum, the concave cucullus line is obvious, ending distal with a stocky tooth blunted apically. Digitate processes short and stumpy. Juxta lobes forming altogether a wide fan; few short setae are present at the level of the short and thin crests on the apical margins. Vinculum with a short and not much sclerified medial ridge. Saccus short and thin. Aedeagus slightly curved, that after a first tract tapers uniformly to the end. Only one stocky cornutus is present.

Remarks: This species takes its name from Dr. Graziano Bassi, an expert microlepidopterologist and renowned specialist of Crambinae (Pyraloidea). Along with the two males, Bassi (pers. comm.) collected also two brachipterous females, that were unfortunately destroyed by parasites.

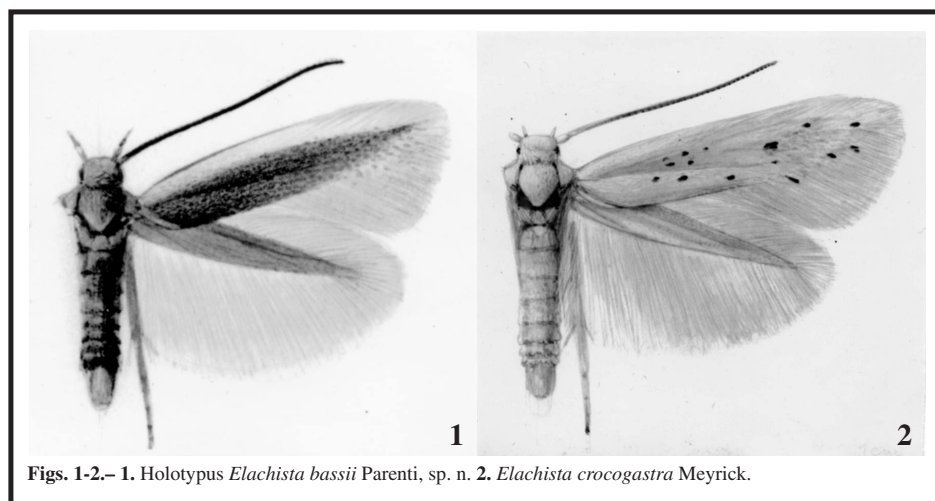
Elachista crocogastra Meyrick, 1908

Material: 1 ♂, "Madagascar: Ranohira, 10-VIII-1990, 1100 m, R. T. A. Schouten " "U. Parenti Prep. Gen. ♂ N° 12228" (Coll. U. Parenti).

Morphological notes. Alar expanse 6.5 mm (Fig. 2). Palpi, head, neck tuft, patagia, and thorax yellowish white. Antennae: scape, pecten, and pedicel yellowish white, flagellum light brown. Fore wing: on the yellowish white background single or groups of two-three scales are obvious, distal ends are of a dark brown colour. Hind wings white. Fore legs dark brown.

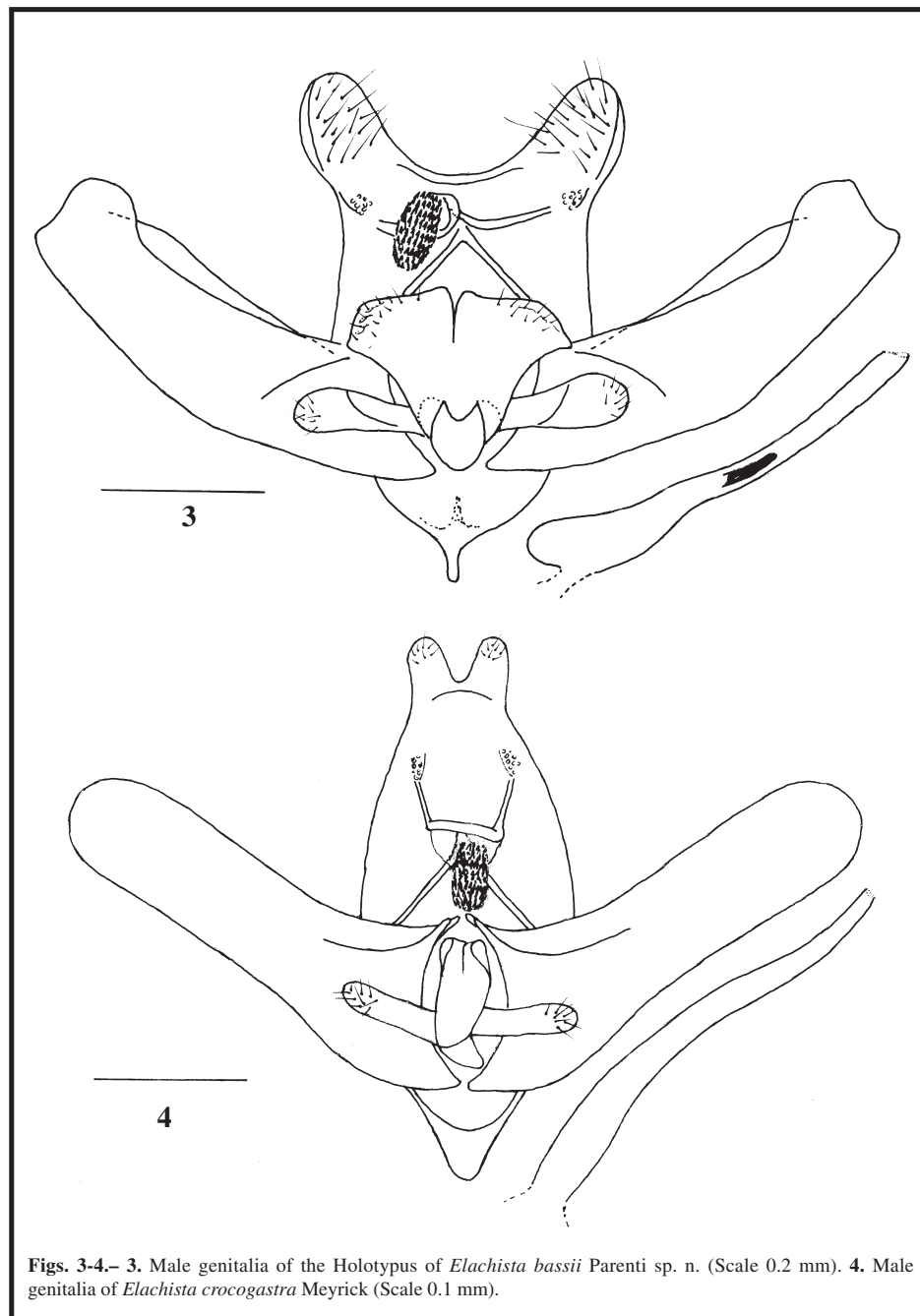
Male genitalia (Fig. 4). Uncus lobes obviously short if compared with the long and wide tegument. Valva narrow with parallel sides beyond the base, cucullus rounded. Juxta lobes apically rounded, not setose. Digitate processes thin, distally setose. Saccus rounded. Aedeagus slightly curved as long as the valva, without cornuti.

Remarks. The identification of the specimen from Ranohira as well as *E. crocogastra* is based on the comparison of a male of the Transvaal Museum of Natural History (Pretoria) labelled as follows: "Pretoria 9-10-12, A. J. T. Janse" "ex collection C. Akerman acquisition May 1976" "*Elachista crocogastra* Meyr. A. J. T. Janse det." "Prep. gen. ♂ N° 13248 U. Parenti".



Figs. 1-2.- 1. Holotypus *Elachista bassii* Parenti, sp. n. 2. *Elachista crocogastra* Meyrick.

ELACHISTA BASSII PARENTI, A NEW SPECIES OF ELACHISTIDAE FROM NEPAL



U. PARENTI

In the short, but exhaustive original description of *crocogastra* Meyrick also writes: “♂. 6-7 mm. Head, palpi, antennae, and thorax ochreous-whitish....Fore wings lanceolate ochreous-whitish....Hind wings and cilia ochreous-whitish. Transvaal, Pretoria district, in August, December to February, and April (Janse); six specimens”.

Concerning its facies the specimen from Ranohira is in general accordance with the male of the Transvaal Museum. the only difference consists in the presence on the fore wings of scales with the distal end dark brown, reminding those present in *E. triseriatella* Stainton as depicted by TRAUGOTT-OLSEN (1988). Also the genitalia of the two males do not show meaningful differences and remind as a whole those of the members of the *triseriatella* group.

As it seems, *crocogastra* is the first elachistid moth to be recorded in Madagascar. Already in 1994 Dr. P. Viette of the Museum of Paris - certainly the greatest specialist of microlepidoptera of that island - wrote me “Il n'existe pas, à mon humble connaissance, d'Elachistidae décrit de Madagascar”. No remark concerning this family is given neither in the recent publication of the natural history of Madagascar (LEES & MINET, 2004).

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