Nupponen, K.
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(Lepidoptera: Scythrididae)
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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 scythridido 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 Copenhagen 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, 51° 15' N 59° 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 [Innsbruck]. 1 ♂, Asia min., Turcia, Tuz Gölü,
Diagnosis: Externally S. stalagmitella Nupponen, sp. n. resembles some eastern Palaearctic scythridids, e. g. those belonging to the genus Bactrianoscythris (see PASSERIN d’ENTREVES & 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. Abdomenfuscous 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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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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K. N.
Merenneidentie, 19 D
FIN-02320 Espoo
FINLANDIA / FINLAND
E-mail: Kari.Nupponen@kolumbus.fi

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