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Aethes shakibai Huemer & Wieser, 2004 a new species of leafroller for the European fauna, with description of a new subspecies from Crimea and the coast of the Sea of Azov (Ukraine) (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae)

Yu. Budashkin & O. Bidzilya

Abstract

Aethes shakibai sivashella Budashkin & Bidzilya, ssp. n., is described based on 30 males and 3 females from the eastern Crimea and the coast of the Sea of Azov (Ukraine). The external appearance of the adult, genitalia of the new subspecies and its habitat are illustrated. Type material of the new subspecies is deposited in the collection of Karadagh Nature Reserve and the collection of the Zoological Museum of Kiev National Taras Shevchenko University.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Tortricidae, Tortricinae, Cochylini, new subspecies, Ukraine.

INTRODUCTION


A series of remarkable Aethes-species was collected in the eastern Crimea in 2006-2014. One male was collected close to the coast of the sea of Azov in 1999. According to the genitalia characters these specimens resemble Aethes shakibai Huemer & Wieser, 2004, recently described from northern Iran (HUemer & WIESER, 2004). Our specimens are similar extremally to the
nomintotypical subspecies, but the specimens of first generation differ in having a larger size and
darker forewing with weaker expressed silver markings. The male genitalia differ in the shape of
the triangle protrusion of the sacculus which is broader and shorter. Moreover the median part of
transtilla is longer, terminally narrower and more strongly forked.

These differences between A. shakibai from northern Iran and our specimens justify their
description as a new separate subspecies.

Aethes shakibai sivashella Budashkin & Bidzilya, ssp. n.

Type material. Holotype: ♂ Crimea, Yuzhnoye Prisivashje, okr. p. Lvovo, staryj zaliv
Zaporozhskaja obl., pos. Altagir, 6-VI-1999, leg. V. Getmanchuk; 8 ♂♂, Crimea, Kerchenskij
♂♂, Crimea, Yuzhnoye Prisivashje, okr. p. Lvovo, staryj zaliv Sivasha, zalivayemyj
solonchak, 25-V-2006, leg. Yu. Budashkin (gen. prep. 336/14 ♂♂, 337/14 ♀♀); 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, same
Yu. Budashkin; 1 ♂, Crimea, Severnoye Prisivashje, 5 km NEE p. Jasnopolskoye, bereg

Description: Adult (Figs. 1-3). Sexual dimorphism very slight. Wingspan 9.0-12.0 mm. Head
and thorax comparatively large, covered with grey-brown or brown scales, frons considerably
lighter, off-white or mottled with whitish; tegulae grey-brown to brown; labial palpus
comparatively short, segment 2 much longer than segment 3, wide, densely covered with very
long scales, upper side whitish, lateral side brown; segment 3 very short, concolorous with the
second segment. Scape grey-brown or brown, other antennal segments brown in female, with
light brown rings and densely ciliated in male. Forewing relatively short and narrow, apex
rounded, thornal angle indistinct, covered mainly with light grey-brown or light brown scales;
medial fascia dark, of average width, interrupted in medial cell; sub-apical fascia same as medial
fascia but more diffuse, sometimes reduced to dark wide spots on costal and dorsal margins;
sinuous, weakly shiny, whitish transversal lines and off-white suffusion expressed in distal half of
basal, in medial and in outer areas of forewing, but particularly strongly developed on and under
costal margin; cilia line brown or dark brown, cilia light brown mixed with dark brown in
specimens of the first generation and brown mixed with whitish brown in specimens of the
second generation. Hindwing and cilia dark brown.

Variation: The specimens of the second generation differ in smaller size (wingspan 9.0-10.0
mm), and brown rather than dark brown patterns of forewing (Fig. 3).

Male genitalia (Fig. 4): Tegumen trapezoidal, very broad. Socii long and slender. Median
part of transtilla relatively strong and wide, trapezoidal, terminal narrowing and forked. Valva
broad in basal part, very narrow beyond sacculus, slightly curved and narrowed apically. Distal
part of sacculus shaped like a small almost right triangle protrusion. Aedeagus moderately broad
and short, curved in middle almost at right angle. Cornutus missing.

Variation: There is a little variation in the shape of triangle protrusion of the sacculus.

Female genitalia (Fig. 5): Papillae anales membranous, moderately long and wide, densely
covered with relatively short setae. Posterior and anterior apophyses comparatively short and
thin. Ostium bursae broad, more or less narrow-ovate. Antrum broad, sub-quadrangular, its dorsal
wall nearly entirely covered with a strongly sclerotized quadrangular pattern. Postostial sterigma
short, tongue-shaped, with slender lateral branches. Ductus bursae short, membranous, expanding
proximally. Corpus bursae large, broadest postmedially, with weak postmedian fields of
sclerotization, rarely covered with microtrichia in proximal half.

Variation: Three examined females show little variability.

Diagnosis: The diagnosis of a new subspecies is based on comparison of original description
of *A. shakabai* with our material of the new subspecies from Crimea and the coast of the Sea of Azov. The specimens of the first generation of the new subspecies differ externally from *Aethes shakibai shakibai* in the larger size of adults, dark brown rather than brown forewing and the weakly expressed shiny markings. The specimens of the second generation of *A. sh. sivashella* are similar externally to the nominate subspecies but are smaller (9.0-10.0 mm in contrast to 9.9-10.6 mm). The male genitalia differ in the shape of triangle protrusion of the sacculus that is broader and shorter in the new subspecies. Moreover the median part of the transtilla is longer, narrower terminally and more strongly forked in the new subspecies. The female genitalia are indistinguishable from those of the nominate subspecies.

**Bionomy:** All specimens of the new subspecies have been collected in the Crimea in wet (sometimes pounding in winter time) salines. The habitats are strongly restricted with *Salicornia europaea* L. (Chenopodiaceae) community (Fig. 6). The last plant is most likely the host for the larvae of the new subspecies (Fig. 7). Adults fly in two generations: from second decade of May to mid June and again in August. The hibernating stage is unknown. Considerable long-term fluctuation of the species abundance has been observed: a large number of specimens were registered in 2006-2007, no specimens were observed in 2008-2013 in spite of the permanent collections in their habitats. The species appeared again in 2014 but was not abundant.

**Distribution:** Eastern Crimea and the coast of the Sea of Azov.

**Etymology:** Sivash, or “Dead Lake” covers a rather large part of the Crimean peninsula. The name of new subspecies reflects its distribution along the Sivash coast and areas covered with Sivash in former times.

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