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Monocerotesa galloi Gianti, sp. n., a new species from China (Lepidoptera: Geometridae)

M. Gianti

Abstract

A new species belonging to the genus *Monocerotesa* Wehrli, 1937 from China is described. Illustrations of adult male and genitalia are provided.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Geometridae, *Monocerotesa*, new species, China.

Monocerotesa galloi Gianti, sp. n., una nuova specie della Cina
(Lepidoptera: Geometridae)

Riassunto

Viene descritta una nuova specie di *Monocerotesa* Wehrli, 1937 della Cina sulla base di un esemplare di sesso maschile e se ne illustra sia l'habitus dell'adulto, sia l'apparato copulatore.

PAROLE CHIAVE: Lepidoptera, Geometridae, *Monocerotesa*, specie nuova, Cina.

Monocerotesa galloi Gianti, sp. n., una nueva especie de China
(Lepidoptera: Geometridae)

Resumen

Se describe una nueva especie del género *Monocerotesa* Wehrli, 1937 de China. Se presentan ilustraciones del adulto y de la genitalia del macho.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Geometridae, *Monocerotesa*, nueva especie, China.

Introduction

Recent material collected in Sichuan Province, Western China, by a scientific expedition of Italian lepidopterists has given me the opportunity to find out and describe a new species belonging to the genus *Monocerotesa* Wehrli, 1937. This genus includes more than twenty species (SCOBLE 1999, SATO 2007, SATO & WANG 2007), and its centre of diversity is in the Oriental Region. A single male specimen of the new taxon has been collected, and is preserved in the author's collection.

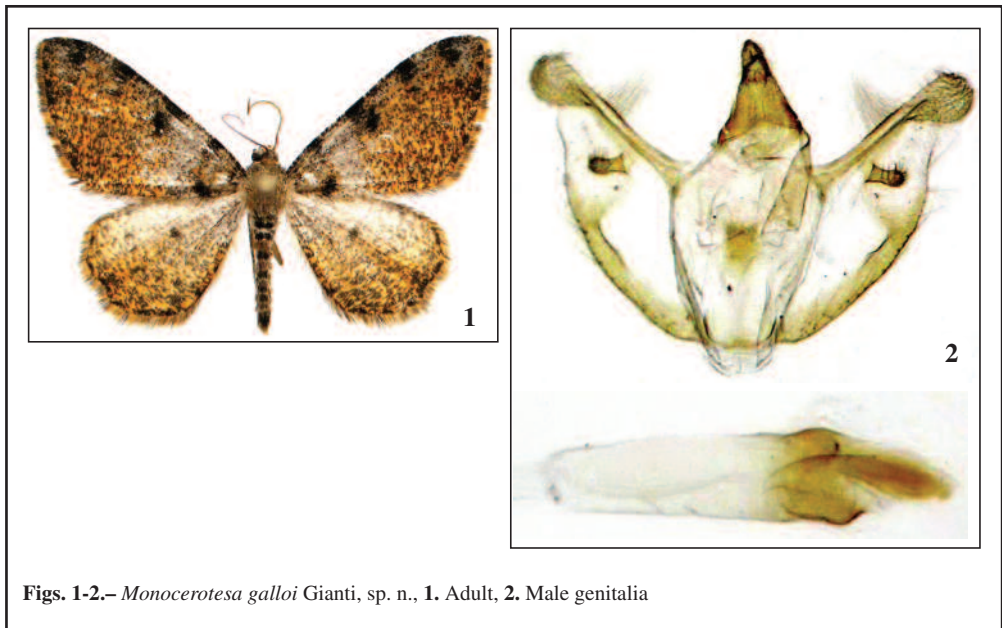
Monocerotesa galloi Gianti, sp. n. (Fig. 1)

Holotype ♂: China, N Sichuan, Road Jiuzhaigou-Songpan (Rd n. 301) milestones 99-110, m 2900-3100, 5-VII-2012, E. Gallo leg.; prep. gen. MGH 518 (in the author's collection).

Description

Forewing length 13 mm, wingspan 25 mm. Palpi predominantly ochreous with black scales, frons mainly black with few ochreous scales, vertex frontally black, posteriorly ochreous-grey. Thorax and tegulae covered with long scales, dark brown at base and grey at tip, giving a brownish effect in normal inspection. Legs mostly black with few grey scales, banded grey at edge of each tarsomere. Abdomen ochreous-brown clearly ringed with black at caudal end of each segment. Forewing ground colour more orange-brown than ochreous-yellow as in many other *Monocerotesa* species, covered with scaly striae of black scales, basal third clearly grey. Costa with four relatively large, almost evenly spaced black spots, posterior margin with another black spot present, approximately at one fourth of its length measured from wing base. Cellular spot large, almost touching second costal spot. Hindwing ground colour as in forewing, but with anterior half whitish-grey and basal third grey as in forewing. Black cellular dot much smaller than in forewing. Both wings with very small and noticeably uniform black irroration. Margin and fringes chequered brown and orange.

Male genitalia (Fig. 2): Total length 1.8 mm, Uncus short, triangular. Valva with well developed costal process, distally dilated roundly, covered at tip with setae. A nipple-shaped process arising from interior of the costa, at mid length. Ventral margin of valva smooth without any spur (cf. *Monocerotesa strigata* Warren, 1893). Saccus short, weakly sclerotized. Aedeagus straight, sclerotized at the tip, about 1.2 mm long.



Figs. 1-2.– *Monocerotesa galloi* Gianti, sp. n., 1. Adult, 2. Male genitalia

Distribution: Western China, Sichuan, only the holotype specimen known.

Derivatio nominis: The new species is named after its discoverer, Dr. Enrico Gallo, dearest friend and my former teacher in entomology

Diagnosis

This new species appears readily distinguishable from all other representatives of the genus *Monocerotesa*, particularly in the shape of the wings, ground colour and maculation. The genitalia are

distinctive, and rather simple compared with the congeners. *Monocerotesa strigata* Warren, 1893 has similarly pointed forewings, but clearly differs in other characters.

Acknowledgements

Besides my gratitude to the collector of the new taxon, special thanks are due to Prof. Costantino Della Bruna and Dr Alessandro Floriani for their courtesy in collecting Geometridae to submit to my attention. Sincere thanks are paid to Dr Antonio Vives for his precious support and for translating the abstract to Spanish.

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