Revision of *Chlororithra* Butler, 1889 (Lepidoptera, Geometridae, Geometrinae)

HONGXIANG, HAN[1], HONGMEI, LI[2], DAYONG, XUE[3]*

Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100080 China. E-mail: [1]hanhx@ioz.ac.cn;
[2]lihm@ioz.ac.cn; [3]xuedy@ioz.ac.cn
*Corresponding author

Abstract

The genus *Chlororithra* Butler, 1889 is revised. Based on an examination of the syntypes of *C. missioniaria* Oberthür, we elevate that taxon to species status. Differences between *C. fea* Butler and *C. missioniaria* and variation within each species are discussed in detail and illustrated. A lectotype is designated for *C. fea*. Tribal placement of the genus is discussed.

Key words: Geometridae, Geometrinae, *Chlororithra*, new status, review

Introduction

Chlororithra, a small genus in Geometrinae, was described as monotypic by Butler (1889) based on *C. fea* from India. Oberthür (1916) described *C. fea missioniaria* as a variation of *fea* from Tsekou (Yunnan, China) based on specimens that exhibited two distinct forms: one with a black-brown apical patch on the underside of the hindwing and the other that lacked the patch. *C. missioniaria* was treated as a subspecies of *C. fea* by Prout (1933, 1935) and as synonym of *C. fea* by Scoble (1999). No further details have been published on the species, and the genitalia have not been illustrated, although Prout (1912) refered to the male genitalia of *C. fea*.

An examination of a long series of *Chlororithra* from different sources revealed that the male and female genitalia of *C. missioniaria* are quite distinct from those of *C. fea*, and it should be treated as a distinct species. The purposes of this paper are to provide details of the generic characters of *Chlororithra* for the first time; revise the taxonomic status of *C. missioniaria* and transfer seven paralectotypes of *C. missioniaria* to *C. fea*; describe differences between and variation within each species; provide illustrations of the genitalia for the first time; and provide illustrations of external features.