Zootaxa 2896: 46–52 (2011)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/
Copyright © 2011 · Magnolia Press

Correspondence

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

New Noctuidae species from China (Lepidoptera, Noctuoidea)

P. GYULAI[1], L. RONKAY[2] & A. SALDAITIS[3]
[1]*H-3530 Miskolc, Mélyvölgy 13/A, Hungary. E-mail: gyulainegarai.adrienne@upcmail.hu*
[2]*Department of Zoology, Hungarian Natural History Museum, H-1088 Budapest, Baross u. 13, Hungary. E-mail: laszlo.ronkay@gmail.com*
[3]*Nature Research Centre, Akademijos 2, LT-08412 Vilnius-21, Lithuania. E-mail: saldrasa@gmail.com*

Collecting expeditions to China's Sichuan, Gansu and Qinghai provinces were conducted by the third author, along with Alessandro and Irene Floriani, during June 2009, April 2010 and July 2010. Light trapping yielded numerous noctuid moths including four new species, described herein. These new taxa reflect the high diversity of some genera (*Hada*, Billberg, 1820 ; *Palaeamathes*, Boursin, 1954) in SW China, and the biogeographical connections of the Tibetan Plateau to Central Asia (*Lacanobia kitokia* **sp. n.**, *L. contrastata* (Bryk, 1942), *L. mongolica* Behounek, 1993, *L. kirghisa* Gyulai & Ronkay, 1998) and to the Himalayan Region (*Palaeamathes serrulata* **sp. n.** is close to *P. harpegnoma* (Hreblay & Ronkay, 1998). Acronyms for personal and institutional collections are as follows: AFM—Alessandro Floriani (Milan, Italy); ASV—Aidas Saldaitis (Vilnius, Lithuania); BJ—Janos Babics (Budapest, Hungary); DNK—Danny Nilsson (Kalvehave, Denmark); GRB—Gabor Ronkay (Budapest, Hungary); GBG/ZSM—Gottfried Behounek (Grafing, Germany) / Zoologische Staatssammlung, München (Germany); GYP—Peter Gyulai (Miskolc, Hungary); HHP – Henri Hoppe (Klein Pravtshagen, Germany); NRCV—Nature Research Centre (Vilnius, Lithuania); WSM—Wolfgang Speidel (München, Germany).

Cerastis aspira **Gyulai, Ronkay & Saldaitis, sp. n.**
(Figs. 1, 2, 9–11)

Type material. Holotype: Male, China, W. Sichuan, Kangding, near Zheduo Pass, 30°17.022'N, 101°50.256'E, 13. iv. 2010, 3230 m, leg. A. Saldaitis, coll. P. Gyulai, slide No. GYP2431m. Paratypes: 13 males, 5 females, with the same data. The paratypes are deposited in the collections of AFM, ASV, DNK, GBG/ZSM, GRB, HHP, NRCV and GYP. Slide Nos. GYP2403m, GYP2480f.

Diagnosis and description. Forewing lengths of 16–17 mm and 15mm for the male and female, respectively. The forewing differs from all other Palearctic congeners being the noctuid maculation lighter reddish-brown, than the ground color and forewing pattern differs by the lower parts of the orbicular and reniform stigmata confluent on the main vein forming a characteristic broad V. The forewing is more similar to four North American species (*C. cornuta* Grote, 1874, *C. robertsoni* Lafontaine & Crabo, 1997, *C. enigmatica* Lafontaine & Crabo, 1997, and *C. gloriosa* Lafontaine & Crabo, 1997) but can be distinguished by the shape of the crosslines. Compared to the Neartic taxa (Lafontaine, 1998) the male of the new taxon has narrower valvae terminally, a simple non-twisted vesica without subbasal cornutus, and a twin terminal cornutus. In the female genitalia the appendix bursae of *C. aspira* is simple (not coiled) and is considerably smaller than in the four Nearctic species; the shape and sclerotization of ostium bursae is different and the otherwise longer ductus bursae has different sclerotized parts. These genitalic differences also apply to the Palaearctic species, however similarities with *C. leucographa* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) including tubular, helicoidally twisted vesica and the lack of a subbasal cornutus indicate a possible grouping with that species. Recent faunistic lists still include *C. leucographa* in the genus *Cerastis* Ochsenheimer, 1816 but suggestions to put it into a distinct genus began with Heinemann (1859), who established the genus *Sora* for *Noctua leucographa*, suggested it was distinct. Subsequently, Tams (1939) stated the homonymy of *Sora* and gave the replacement name *Gypsitea* (see Nye, 1975), and both Beck (1992) and Fibiger (1997) considered the possibility of a new taxon. There are clear male genitalic differences between the two allied species: the vesica of the new taxon is not twisted and bears two much shorter and wider basally coincident terminal cornuti, the terminal part of the valva is elongated, the basal part of the harpe is broader, distally thorn-like and dorsally curved, the juxta is differently shaped, and the medial incision is broadly U-formed.

 Accepted by L. Gall: 22 Apr. 2011; published: 28 May 2011