



Zootaxa 3373: 1–82 (2012)  
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Monograph

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)

**ZOOTAXA**

ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

# ZOOTAXA

3373

## A taxonomic revision of the genus *Mesophleps* Hübner, 1825 (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae)

HOUHUN LI<sup>1</sup> & KLAUS SATTLER<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> College of Life Sciences, Nankai University, 94 Weijin Road, Tianjin 300071, P. R. China; E-mail: lihohun@nankai.edu.cn

<sup>2</sup> Department of Entomology, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK; E-mail: K.Sattler@nhm.ac.uk



Magnolia Press  
Auckland, New Zealand

Accepted by J.-F. Landry: 13 Apr. 2012; published: 4 Jul. 2012

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(*Zootaxa* 3373)

82 pp.; 30 cm.

4 Jul. 2012

ISBN 978-1-86977-941-2 (paperback)

ISBN 978-1-86977-942-9 (Online edition)

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 2012 BY

Magnolia Press

P.O. Box 41-383

Auckland 1346

New Zealand

e-mail: [zootaxa@mapress.com](mailto:zootaxa@mapress.com)

<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/>

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ISSN 1175-5326 (Print edition)

ISSN 1175-5334 (Online edition)

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## Abstract

The genus *Mesophleps* Hübner (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae) is revised; 54 available names (including one unjustified emendation), one junior primary homonym and one unavailable name were considered; type material of 44 previously described nominal species was examined. Nine new species are described: *M. acutunca* sp. nov., *M. bifidella* sp. nov., *M. unguella* sp. nov., *M. gigantella* sp. nov., *M. coffeae* sp. nov., *M. parvella* sp. nov., *M. aspina* sp. nov., *M. truncatella* sp. nov. and *M. undulatella* sp. nov. Two possibly new species are discussed but not formally named for lack of material. Twenty-five new combinations are introduced: *M. safranella* (Legrand, 1965) comb. nov., *M. epichorda* (Turner, 1919) comb. nov., *M. tabellata* (Meyrick, 1913) comb. nov., *M. crocina* (Meyrick, 1904) comb. nov., *M. ochracella* (Turati, 1926) comb. nov., *M. geodes* (Meyrick, 1929) comb. nov., *M. catericta* (Meyrick, 1927) comb. nov., *M. tephrastris* (Meyrick, 1904) comb. nov., *M. cynobathra* (Lower, 1898) comb. nov., *M. tetrachroa* (Lower, 1898) comb. nov., *M. ochroloma* (Lower, 1901) comb. nov., *M. trichombra* (Lower, 1898) comb. nov., *M. mylicotis* (Meyrick, 1904) comb. nov., *M. macrosemus* (Lower, 1900) comb. nov., *M. apentheta* (Turner, 1919) comb. nov., *M. meliphanes* (Lower, 1894) comb. nov., *M. chloranthes* (Lower, 1900) comb. nov., *M. centrothetis* (Meyrick, 1904) comb. nov., *M. chloristis* (Meyrick, 1904) comb. nov., *M. argonota* (Lower, 1901) comb. nov., *Megacraspedus arnaldi* (Turati & Krüger, 1936) comb. nov., *Aponoea cinerellus* (Turati, 1930) comb. nov., *Pycnobathra acromelas* (Turner, 1919) comb. nov., *Sarotorna mesoleuca* (Lower, 1900) comb. nov., *S. dentata* Meyrick, 1904, comb. nov. One species, *Nothris mesophracta* Turner, 1919, is removed from *Mesophleps* but no current genus is available. Fourteen new synonymies (one genus, 13 species-group taxa) are established: *Bucolarcha* Meyrick, 1929, syn. nov. of *Mesophleps* Hübner, [1825]; *Stiphrostola longinqua* Meyrick, 1923, syn. nov. and *Brachyacma trychota* Meyrick, 1929, syn. nov. of *M. ioloncha* (Meyrick, 1905); *Lipatia crotalariella* Busck, 1910, syn. nov. of *M. adustipennis* (Walsingham, 1897); *Brachyacma epichorda* Turner, 1919, syn. nov. of *M. epiochra* (Meyrick, 1886); *Mesophleps pudicellus* var. *apicellus* Caradja, 1920, syn. nov. and *Mesophleps silacellus* subsp. *calaritanus* Amsel, 1939, syn. nov. of *M. silacella* (Hübner, 1796); *Mesophleps lala* Agenjo, [1961], syn. nov. of *M. corsicella* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1856); *Crossobela barysphenata* Meyrick, 1923, syn. nov. of *M. trinotella* Herrich-Schäffer, 1856; *Mesophleps orientella* Nel & Nel, 2003, syn. n. and *Mesophleps gallicella* Varenne & Nel, 2011, syn. nov. of *M. ochracella* (Turati, 1926); *Nothris centrothetis* Meyrick, 1904, syn. nov. and *Nothris chloristis* Meyrick, 1904, syn. nov. of *M. chloranthes* (Lower, 1900); *Mesophleps cinerellus* Turati, 1930, syn. nov. of *Aponoea obtusipalpis* Walsingham, 1905. One genus and one species are recalled from synonymy: *Pycnobathra* Lower, 1901, gen. rev., and *M. ioloncha* (Meyrick, 1905) sp. rev. Lectotypes are designated, in accordance with the Code, article 74.7.3, for 14 species: *Gelechia palpigera* Walsingham, 1891; *Paraspistes ioloncha* Meyrick, 1905; *Lathontogenus adustipennis* Walsingham, 1897; *Brachyacma epichorda* Turner, 1919; *Nothris crocina* Meyrick, 1904; *Nothris ochracella* Turati, 1926; *Nothris tephrastris* Meyrick, 1904; *Ypsolophus ochroloma* Lower, 1901; *Ypsolophus macrosemus* Lower, 1900; *Nothris centrothetis* Meyrick, 1904; *Nothris chloristis* Meyrick, 1904; *Ypsolophus argonota* Lower, 1901; *Mesophleps arnaldi* Turati & Krüger, 1936, and *Mesophleps cinerellus* Turati, 1930. *Mesophleps* is a widely distributed Old World genus, except for one New World species, with seed-feeding larvae on Cupressaceae, Cistaceae, Cruciferae (Brassicaceae), Leguminosae (Fabaceae), Rubiaceae and doubtfully Dipterocarpaceae.

**Key words:** Lepidoptera, Gelechiidae, Anacamptinae, *Mesophleps*, revision, new species, combination, synonym, species group, host-plant, world distribution