



Article

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:C3C0D537-CABE-41F6-89E4-B84B9A03E5A2

A new genus and species of the tribe Apameini from the Russian Far East (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae: Xyleninae)

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Abstract

A new genus *Minigrapta* **gen. n.** (type-species *Xanthograpta basinigra* Sugi, 1982) and new species *Minigrapta minimoides* **sp. n.** of the tribe Apameini are described from the Primorye territory, Russia. The species described as *Xanthograpta basinigra* Sugi, 1982 is transferred from Acontiinae (sensu auctorum) to the subfamily Xyleninae, tribe Apameini; the new combination *Minigrapta basinigra* Sugi, 1982 **comb. n.** is proposed. The adults and genitalia are illustrated for these and allied species.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Xyleninae, Apameini, new genus, new species, East Palaearctic, Primorye territory

Introduction

The Apameini is one of the largest tribes in the subfamily Xyleninae (Noctuidae) and includes about 800 species worldwide (Zilli *et al.* 2005). The tribe is distributed mainly in the Northern Hemisphere, but some taxa are also recorded from the mountainous areas of the Oriental and African tropical regions. The tribe is most diverse in open steppe, forest-steppe and mountain habitats in the southern part of the temperate zone. The larvae of a majority of the species are stem-borers on herbaceous plants, mainly Poaceae; as such, most species are associated with open habitats dominated by Poaceae. The tribe includes many economically important species as pests of agriculture, technical and pasture crops, and several adventive species in North America.

The most distinctive morphological character of the Apameini is the structure of the female ovipositor, which is heavily sclerotised, flattened dorso-ventrally, having variously modified sclerotised rod-like structures between ovipositor lobes (papillae anales) (Goldstein and Fibiger in Zilli *et al.*, 2005). These structures are probably an adaptation for ovipositing inside tissues of Poaceae grasses and other monocotyledonous plants. In the male genitalia the harpe (ampulla) is short and weak compared with those in other tribes of Xyleninae, often vestigial or completely reduced; the digitus is well developed, prominent, free or fused with the valva, pointed distally; the cucullus is more or less trigonal, often with a distinct neck, and a corona.

The western Palaearctic (European) fauna of Apameini was recently reviewed by Zilli *et al.* (2005), and a check list of known genera was presented by Goldstein and Fibiger (in Zilli *et al.* 2005). Palaearctic taxa of the *Apamea* genus group were revised by Zilli *et al.* (2009), and those of the Nearctic fauna by Mikkola *et al.* (2009). Some of the smaller eastern Palaearctic genera of Apameini are not yet revised. The present article contains descriptions of the new genus of Apameini, in which a new species is described from the Primorye territory, Russia, and also accommodates a species removed from *Xanthograpta* Hampson, 1910 described in Erastrinae [sic!] sensu Hampson 1910 (Acontiinae *sensu auctorum*).